



Adviser Note: Due to the closure of school buildings, Knight Life will not be able to produce its traditional newspaper. Instead, the staff will be posting stories on a range of topics, including highlighting our athletes, seniors, and people in the school and the community who have made a difference during the COVID-19 pandemic. They plan to share ideas for things to do while confined to your home such as good books to read, videos to watch, and exercise workouts available online at no cost.

They also plan to write "Stay Positive" stories. For example, the waterways in Venice have cleared because no boats are clogging the waterways; the smog in New Jersey has eased because there are fewer cars on the roads polluting the air; the price of gas has plummeted; and people who are doing the right thing in Old Bridge.

Remote learning: Self-discipline, time management top list of ways to succeed

BY ERIN HELLHAKE

News Editor

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, students nationwide have been forced to accustom themselves to attending school from home, or by way of remote learning.

While this comes with an array of challenges to overcome, practicing self-discipline and time management are reliable ways to make the process easier. Creating a regimented schedule that caters to one's specific needs will assist in the organization of learning from home.

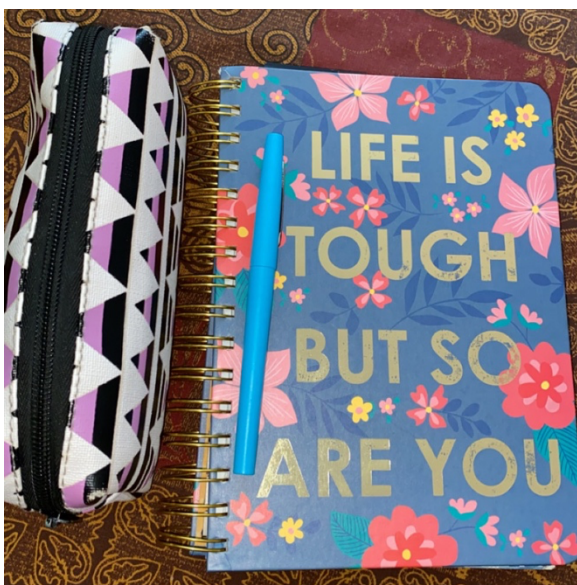
"I had a lot of trouble adjusting to online learning," said Nicole Bahshiyants, junior. "I worked on practicing a daily schedule that really helped me feel like I was on top of my schoolwork."

Many Old Bridge students have admitted to feeling like there is room for improvement in practicing self-discipline. This is key when your education is reliant on your own motivation. Some say it is easier to nap during classes, to walk away from one's computer in the middle of a lecture, or simply ignore it altogether.

"I'd accidentally sleep through classes sometimes," said Bahshiyants. "After it started to badly affect my schoolwork, I knew I needed to change something."

Keeping a planner, or just taking daily organized notes, has proven to be beneficial among some students.

"It is so easy to lose track of what is due and what you still have time to complete," said Sal Acquaviva, junior. "I found myself getting overwhelmed because everything felt so disorganized. Some teachers assign things in Posts, some assign things in Assignments, and sometimes it is a mixture of both. It felt impossible to stay on top of it."



"I ordered a planner online, though a physical planner isn't required to help with organization," said Angelo Vitale, sophomore. "I had no idea that being able to see everything laid out like that would help me so much with getting stuff done."

Another thing that has been reported to help students is pairing up with a peer from each class, or specifically classes that might be troublesome, so students will be able to help one another

It has also been recommended by a few psychiatrists not to do schoolwork from one's room or bed, that way one will only associate his or her bed with sleeping. This can prove to be better for sleep, a crucial part of being able to focus throughout the day.

Something that may help is focusing on one class at a time. During a class, if one is unsure of what he needs to complete, perusing conversations in Posts and viewing the Assignments tab in Teams one class at a time may make it easier to take clear and concise notes of anything that still needs to get done.

Besides parents, many of which have returned to work, there is no one really pushing students to complete their work on time or at all. Therefore, learning how to self-motivate and stick to a schedule are imperative for success during this time.

OBHS set to open Nov. 9 with 33 percent hybrid plan

BY LINDSEY WILKINSON

Staff Writer

As Middlesex County students make their way back into school buildings, many people in the area are unsure of how to approach the rest of the year what with cases in the US surpassing the eight million mark.

Worries about staff and student safety prevent the district from returning to school buildings full-time, but Old Bridge is offering a way for education to resume in-person via the 33 percent hybrid plan, which allows small groups of students at a time to be physically in class. By Nov. 9, every student who opted to return to the school will have an opportunity to return to OBHS.

While safety precautions are being put in place, people are still wary about catching the Coronavirus.

“I’m excited to go back to school, but scared, because everyone in my house except me is at risk,” said Neeti Naik, freshman. She said she is concerned for the safety of her brother, parents, and grandmother, as they are either within the age bracket of being especially susceptible to the virus or have underlying medical conditions.

Families throughout New Jersey share Naik’s concern, as, according to The New York Times on Oct. 19, an average of about 69 cases are reported in Middlesex County each day.



Despite the many warnings from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, some people still choose not to wear face masks in public spaces, putting themselves and those around them at risk of catching COVID-19. These anti-maskers even encourage others not to wear them, protesting through stores and calling masks oppressive.

“If you’re an anti-masker, you could have already gotten [the virus] yourself,” said Toni Naduri, freshman. “And if you do get it and you’re asymptomatic, you could be spreading it to other people without knowing, which isn’t safe. It takes a while for the symptoms to start showing, too, so I think that if people refuse to wear a mask, they shouldn’t be in school.”

The Old Bridge school district plans to enforce the wearing of masks, along with other suggestions from the CDC, like taking the temperatures of whoever enters a school building and the frequent cleaning of classrooms. Still, there are concerns about safety, along with how the school day will function.

Once students return to the physical buildings, many aspects of the average school day, like chatting with classmates and sitting closely at lunch together, will be different due to safety precautions like social distancing. So, to compensate, club meetings will be held virtually over Microsoft Teams or Zoom. Some feel that talking to teachers and classmates over a virtual meeting is different than doing it in person.



“I wish I could be in school; things would be so much better, like talking about things in class, doing different activities, and the fun stuff, like football games,” said Amy Waldman, global studies teacher. She said she avoids public places when she can, opting to only visit her parents and go to the grocery store when needed.

She said she hopes that things will return to normal soon but does not think people will resume to their everyday lives until a vaccine is released and has had time to circulate through the country.

School year starts with remote learning for all students

BY MATTHEW MANGAM

Sports Editor

The start of the 2020-2021 school year has begun in a way never experienced before due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While students have not been able to return to school for in person instruction, they have received their education through remote learning up until Nov. 9

For classes, teachers have hosted meetings via Microsoft Teams for students to join and interact. Joining the meeting on time and staying for the whole duration is a part of the attendance for students. Teachers can post assignments and share their screens to explain and demonstrate things to students. HP streams are available for students and families at the high school if they are needed.



According to the Old Bridge High School Remote Learning Plan for Staff Student, and Families, the schedule for remote learning is just like last years, with A days and B days alternating every other day. A days are periods one, two, three, and four/five, while B days are periods six/seven/eight, nine/ten, eleven and twelve.

Each class is 70 minutes long, with a lunch break at 12:05 p.m. to 12:55 p.m. The first class of the day starts at 8:25 a.m. and the last class ends at 2:05 p.m.

“I don’t mind remote learning as it is lessons we would have in school,” said Steven Grillo, junior. “I adapted to virtual learning by understanding more on the technological aspect so I could be at the pace I was in school. I do prefer in school over virtual just because you can see your friends more and it’s easier to learn in a physical classroom.”

“I like remote learning for the most part because I don’t have to get up as early, and I wouldn’t like wearing a mask in school,” said Kaitlyn Kearney, junior. “Remote learning is annoying though sometimes because of technology issues and staring at a computer all day gives me a headache.”

Because of the changes to learning this school year, the grading policy has been altered. Projects and major assessments make up 40 percent of a course grade while minor assessments are 30 percent, and participation and attendance are also 30 percent

After Nov. 9, students will return to school for one day a week if they picked the hybrid plan. Each student is assigned a cohort numbered one to three depending on his or her last name. Cohort one students will go to school on Monday, cohort two will go on Wednesday, and cohort three students will go on Friday. These days will be half days, and everyone will be required to wear masks. Tuesdays and Thursdays will be remote learning days for students and staff and will be used as cleaning days for the school.



“I’m not a fan of remote learning, but it’s the best option right now,” said Aman Gaudani, junior. “I don’t think there are any advantages of remote learning, but it is harder to help students and easier for students to get bored. I think in-person learning is easier because it’s easier to get help from teachers, and we’ve been used to it for the last 14 years.”

Thousands of colleges switch to test optional for admission process

BY LEXI SOLIMAN

Features Editor

Applying to college is an annual senior struggle that has only become more difficult for the Class of 2021.

This year thousands of universities have announced they will go “test optional” for the admission process for the Class of 2021.

Usually standardized test scores are major requirements for college applications. Test optional or test blind means that students who were not able to take these exams will not be at any disadvantage and will be considered equally during the admissions selection.

OBHS College Counselor Laura Laubach recommended students visit www.fairtest.org for a list of colleges with test optional/blind policies in place to affirm that they will not penalize students for the absence of a standardized test score.

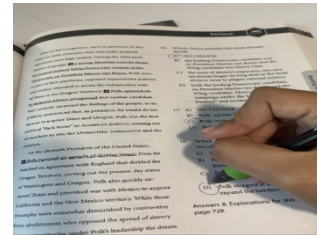


Those who have taken tests and received scores can still submit them with their application for another point of academic achievement, but no merit scholarships will be given on that basis.

“I think that’s a good thing, but that means that extracurriculars and activities outside of school will be much more important,” said senior Nirupa Shiwcharan.

With junior year cut short, the important spring season of standardized testing was lost. March, May, June, and August SAT exams were all cancelled. Old Bridge High School was one of the few schools in New Jersey that hosted the September and October SAT dates, the first ones held since Dec. 2019.

“I think one good thing to come from COVID-19 is that many schools will see that they still enrolled many strong applicants without test scores,” said Laubach. “Most counselors are happy with this decision as a test score does not give a full picture on an applicant”.



All New Jersey colleges are now test optional for the fall application cycle. All Ivy League schools have also gone test optional for the first time.

Logan Powell, the dean of admissions at Brown University, stated on the university’s website that “Extraordinary times call for extraordinary responses...we hope that adjusting our policies brings clarity and peace of mind to prospective applicants.”

With campuses closed, students are unable to visit many universities, which is a major part in choosing which one to attend. Virtual tour videos and live question forums have now replaced traditional visits but are still not the same as physical walkthroughs.

Advanced Placement exams still took place last May for students across the country. Colleges are still going to give credit for those who took the exams. However, the exams were altered to be taken from home with shorter times and no multiple-choice questions.

This format was not ideal as some students ran into issues submitting their responses. However, others found it less stressful, and in turn, felt there was a better outcome.

“I definitely felt more comfortable taking them from home and that they were shorter,” said senior Avery Cangro.

Governor makes Juneteenth new state holiday in Garden State

BY JOSH GATSON

Sports Editor

During a recent Instagram live ceremony, Governor Phil Murphy signed into law a bill making Juneteenth a new state holiday in the Garden State. This makes New Jersey the sixth state to make this an official holiday.

Juneteenth is the day commemorating the end of slavery in the United States. It is celebrated on the third Friday in June.

“Juneteenth means a lot because it celebrates the freedom of our ancestors,” said Nyla Carey, junior.



“The black community has been through a lot and having a day of pride where they are recognized is a big deal,” said Blessing Dike, junior.

To some, this event was a breath of fresh air from the recent events surrounding racism in the United States.

“I feel the recent events revealed how racist many people in America are and how the media objectifies it,” said Jimmy Williams, senior.

“The fact that there are people dying in this country every day for no reason, and there are people trying to justify their deaths with any little thing they could find blows my mind,” said Carey.

The recent events, which have been going on here for the past year, also gave students a chance to reflect on times when they have experienced racism in their lives.

“I’ve experienced racism many times through my life, but one time that has stuck with me specifically was when I was in second grade,” said Dike. “At the time, I was confused and slightly hurt because no one had ever said these things to me, especially to my face.”

Dike said that it is going to take a lot more than a state holiday before issues revolving around racism can be resolved.

“But making Juneteenth an official holiday is a good step in that direction,” said Dike.



Photos Courtesy of
Kyra Doffont

Teens react positively after learning TikTok will not be banned in the US

BY LEXI SOLIMAN

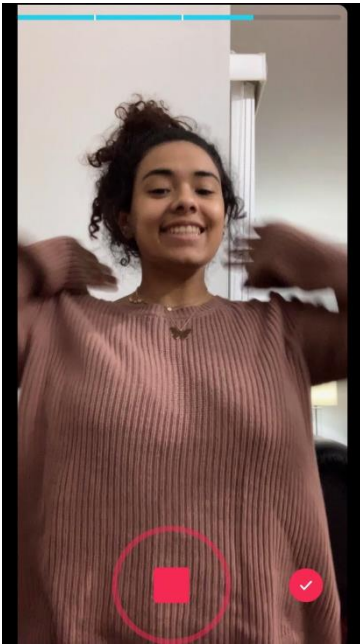
Feature Editor

The popular video sharing application, TikTok, has made headlines after controversies arose surrounding the app's security and information privacy.

The Chinese owned app was reported to be recording location and personal information.

President Donald Trump threatened to ban the app's availability in the United States unless it was bought out by a private American company.

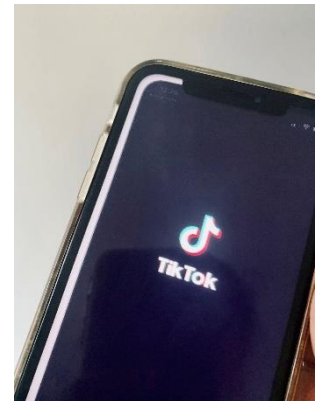
"I've heard TikTok collects personal information. I know this could make it unsafe, and banning it may not be a bad idea," said junior Lauren Rosenberg. "But I would still be very disappointed if it did go."



Following weeks of negotiations, the application will be available to users in the United States. California-based technology company, Oracle, has become the company's secure cloud information provider. It will hold a 12.5 percent stake in the newly branded "Tik Tok Global" while Walmart will have a 7.5 percent stake. ByteDance, the current company with majority ownership, will retain 80 percent.

By providing a safe US-owned cloud location, all personal information will be monitored and held by Oracle.

Companies such as Microsoft were lined up to place their bids as TikTok became the most downloaded app of all time with more than 2 billion downloads worldwide and 800 million active users. Its universal appeal as a platform for all things from entertainment to education continues to draw an unprecedented population.



Known for its almost addictive 15-second video model, some students would not mind if the app was banned since it has become so much a part of their lives.

Senior Aidan Miotto said, "It wouldn't be the worst thing if it was banned because I spend too much time on TikTok."

Junior Emily Barge agreed saying she spends at least an hour on it every night.

While the Coronavirus outbreak put thousands of businesses in jeopardy, TikTok saw a record-breaking number of downloads in the first quarter of 2020 with 315 million installs. It became a source of community and connectivity that people needed during lockdown orders.

"TikTok can be a really positive platform especially since the pandemic," said Barge. "That's where I spend a lot of my time now. I would really be upset if it was banned."



Some good things occur amid Covid-19 pandemic

BY CASEE SANSEVERE

Editor-in-Chief

No one was expecting not to return for the remainder of the school year, when students were told in mid-March to take the final two days of school off because of the dangers of the COVID19 virus.

Fast forward to October 2020, and after eight months of limited contact with friends and family and taking courses online, people have been forcefully given the opportunity to sit back and think about everything that has been going on in the world around them.

Although it has been a very stressful or upsetting time period for many, there is always a light at the end of the tunnel and a way to find out how to better appreciate the lives we have been given.

As time went by, restaurants, gyms, and malls were slowly allowed to reopen. A major point in many seniors' lives was the reopening of the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Teens were able get their drivers' tests done and were finally able to get their licenses.

"I'm so glad I was able to get my license this month," said senior Taylor Obdyke. "With restaurants opening up, I can now take myself out to get takeout, or drive myself around to get some fresh air."

Obdyke said she has been patiently waiting for her test since March, when the state began to close facilities, and she said she now is waiting for the state to slowly open more up places, like movie theaters and bowling alleys.

During the shutdown, musicians and literary geniuses' have also been able to find new ways to launch more books and albums, even if they do not hold signings or launches.

Artists like Bryson Tiller and 21 Savage both came out with highly anticipated albums at the end of September and in the beginning of October; authors like Sarah J. Maas and Marissa Meyer released publishing dates for stories they have been working on.



"Honestly, being in quarantine has given me so much more time to read. I've been able read books that have just been sitting on my shelves for ages, and now that I can order them online, I can complete old series or start new ones," said senior Dhara Patel. "I'm glad the book community has been able to hold onto this and keep staying strong though it all."

As students, being separated from friends and having those new high school memories halted, has not made for the start of a fun year. The same can be said for teachers. After transitioning from in-person instruction to online assignments, teachers agreed it was difficult learning the names of their students via screen time; they too struggled with the start of the school year. But they overcame the challenges and found good things to focus on as well as ways to inspire teens to do the same.

"2020 taught me to focus on what's important and to remain positive," said English teacher Katherine Farino, who starts the day asking her class to find something positive about the day. "Finding excitement in the smallest moments, like the tree frog sunning itself on my banister, really helps."

A scary question: whether to Trick or Treat during the Covid-19 Pandemic BY FATIMA SYED

Business Editor

Covid-19 has taken multiple privileges from Old Bridge High School students, including parties, jobs, and attending school in person. Now it is time for the spooky season and Halloween will not be one of the casualties.

Rules and regulations will be initiated this year that ordinarily would not have been in place if it were a traditional Halloween.

New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy opted to let Halloween continue.



While the concerns surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic persist, it may cause less door-to-door activities and fewer parties, but youngsters will be able to experience a different sort of trick or treating.

“I personally don’t think it’s really a high chance you could get Covid-19 if you just protect yourself and wear a mask so you should just enjoy the holiday of Halloween to the fullest,” said Nicole Foye, sophomore.

Some students are planning on enjoying Halloween the “normal” way, but others are still worrisome. These students are planning to celebrate Halloween in their own ways, either at home with a small gathering, or virtually.

“I am worried people with Covid-19 are going to spread the virus to children, who may be asymptomatic, who will then infect older people in their homes,” said Jaya Singh, junior.

Some people plan to celebrate utilizing a drive thru trick-or-treating process while others plan to enjoy Halloween by themselves with their own bags of candy.

“I’m not going trick or treating this year. I will celebrate Halloween by buying candy from the store,” said Samreen Ijaz, sophomore.

While sophomore Reese SanAgustin typically stays home and hangs out with friends, she said this holiday is for younger children to have fun.

“I’m most likely just spending Halloween at my friend’s house,” said Sean Chan, senior.

While Ijaz said trick or treating is not worth the risk of getting infected, she is still upset she will not be able to experience Halloween on Oct. 31

“Taking into consideration the health and safety of others, it’s not worth going trick or treating this year,” said Chan.



Knight Life editor suggests stepping outside of mainstream music

BY CASEE SANSEVERE

Editor-in-Chief

As time evolves, so does the metaphorical magic of sound. More creativity brews, and artists are able to give the world a sample of their sounds.

Over time, sub genres are created to stem off the mainstream ones, like folk, indie rock, and contemporary R&B. Sub genres are filled with artists that deserve as much love as the favorite mainstream ones.

Andrew John Hozier-Bryne, professionally known as Hozier, is an Irish musician who got his start in Bray, Ireland. Known for his song produced in 2013, “Take Me To Church”, he has also produced many albums, like his self titled “Hozier, Nina Cried Power” and most recent project, “Wasteland, Baby!” from 2019.

Diving into his debut album Hozier, fans were treated with what he would consistently produce: very raw, down-to-earth, and mellow tones with heart-felt lyrics. Songs “Cherry Wine”, “Angel of Small Death and the Codeine Scene,” and my personal favorite “From Eden” take the listener on journeys of love and loss, and push a higher respect for the precious memories life has to offer.

The 1975, started in Wimslow, Cheshire, and produced its first self-titled album in 2013, and quickly took fame among indie-rock/alternative rock fans. Their most popular album, “I Like It When You Sleep, for You Are So Beautiful Yet So Unaware of It”, features 17 songs, all covering a variety of different tunes.

Lead singer Matt Healy has always been able to weave raw and intriguing lyrics into the upbeat or soft sound his band mates created, like the song “Paris”, which covers old memories of a beautiful relationship gone sour, and “If I Believe You”, a song that discusses trust issues coming out of a rough end.

A personally treasured song, “Don’t Worry”, is from the band’s recent release, “Notes on a Conditional Form”. Although shorter than the group’s average song, it is still just as easy to get lost in it. The lyrics cover the idea that the lost can always be found if one just steps back.

Garage-rock band Arctic Monkeys began in 2002, and continued to produce music up to 2018, with album “Tranquility Base Hotel & Casino”. Recently, the social media app TikTok took hold of the song, “Do I Wanna Know”, and created 30-second covers of the iconic bass riff.

Post-punk and indie rock band, The Smiths, are often attached to the 1984 hit, “This Charming Man”. As a older band made for another generation, teens today may not know about the hidden gems in this album “The Queen Is Dead”, my personal favorite “Asleep”, or self-titled album “The Smiths”, with songs “Hand in Glove”, “The Boy With the Throne in His Side”, and “What Difference Does It Make”.



Disney adds older animated movies to streaming service

BY CASEE SANSEVERE

Editor-in-Chief

Launched in 2019, the Disney+ streaming service allowed users to watch many of its own shows and movies for \$6.99 per month. It started off slow, with the classic Star Wars series and the older Marvel movies like Iron Man.

The company has slowly updated what people can watch, which has given consumers a vast selection of genres, fandoms, and series.

Released Sept. 4, the live action remake of the classic *Mulan* aired on the premium edition of service, starring Liu Yifei as *Mulan*, and Yoson An as *Chen Honghui*, the new love interest.

While people have enjoyed the live action version, the classic animated *Mulan*, which has been on Disney+ since the launch, has always been a fan favorite, as she is a powerful female icon and has a stunning soundtrack.

“I’m pretty disappointed they took out her side kick *Mushu*,” said Old Bridge alumnus *Sebastian Tehlikian*. “*Eddie Murphy* made such a great fit for the part, and he truly carried the movie. *Mushu* is for sure my favorite side protagonist. A live action without *Li Shang* [the animated love interest of *Mulan*] just doesn’t feel the same, either.”

The 1992 animated film, *Aladdin*, is also known for its legendary soundtrack, with its popular song “*One Jump Ahead*”, and the powerful outline of reality.

Freshman *Charli Tucker* said she considers *Aladdin* to be her favorite Disney film because “there’s really a chance for anyone to get to the top, whether it’s a high or slim chance.”

Disney, who has been known for trying to be culturally aware, also has produced the cartoon *Lilo and Stitch*; the film features a little koala-inspired creature, *Stitch*, who captured hearts everywhere.



“*Stich* is adorable. There’s nothing denying that. But the references to Hawaiian culture and the soundtrack are definitely what carries it to the list of my top five favorites,” said junior *Zach Messina*.

Younger generations might think of the more well-known animations, like *Aladdin*, the *Frozen* duology, and *Moana*. However, there are other hidden gems within the Disney franchise, including *Fantasia*, *The Hunch Back of Norte Dame*, *The Lady and The Tramp* and *Aristocats*.

English teacher and huge Disney fan, *Jessica Tosonotti*, grew up watching the animated classics, and took hold of side kick *Tinker Bell* from *Peter Pan* and *Princess Belle* from *Beauty and The Beast*.

“Growing up, I have always felt a strong connection to *Belle*, since she’s a brunette bookworm like me. The story is a classic, and the songs are just timeless,” she said. “I absolutely believe Disney made the right move by adding the classics to the streaming service. Those are the movies that started it all, and those are the ones that should be celebrated and remembered.”

Sports off to late start, limited tickets available for home football games

BY MATTHEW MANGAM

Sports Editor

Varsity sports including boys' and girls' soccer and football have gotten off to a late start this fall, due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Football started Sept. 11, with the team's first game on Oct. 2 against Monroe Township. The Knights kicked off the season with a 21-14 win.

Boys' and girls' soccer started on Sept. 14, with each team playing its first game against East Brunswick on Oct. 1. The boys lost 3-1 and the girls were defeated 1-0.

According to Dan DiMino, director of athletics and supervisor of health and physical education, all spectators attending sporting events must wear face coverings and follow social distancing guidelines. The concession stand will remain closed and only two people are allowed in the bathroom at a time.



bathroom at a time.

For football games, there will be no admission fees and away teams will receive 150 tickets for visitors. Players and coaches will each receive two tickets per game for a 500-person limit at the games. Administrators, staff, board members, and township officials can contact DiMino to be placed on an approved list to enter games.

"I am very excited to get the athletes back on the field," said DiMino. The NJSIAA, our administration,

our coaches, and athletic trainers put together a plan that is safe for all athletes and spectators."

Other fall sports, like boys' and girls' cross country and field hockey also started on Sept. 14. Cross country challenged Metuchen on Oct. 1 and field hockey faced East Brunswick on the same day. Cross country finished first over Metuchen and field hockey lost to the Bears 2-1. The Varsity Girls' Tennis team started practicing on Sept. 14 and opened its season with a 4-1 loss against East Brunswick on Oct. 2.

"I am excited for our student-athletes to return to play after spending so many months in isolation," said head football Coach Anthony Lanzafama. "I feel the precautions we are taking are safe. Mr. DiMino has demonstrated outstanding



leadership for our athletics program to make sure we are keeping student safety as our number one priority. Mr. (Steven) Laregina, our head athletic trainer, has worked extremely hard to make sure we are following safety protocols and procedures to keep our athletes' safe. The only thing I feel we need to do is to remind our student-athletes to continue to wash their hands, wear masks, social distance, and be smart and safe."

"I think that this is all really crazy, and I wouldn't have expected it three months ago," said Samar Raju, who competes in soccer. "The players are just focused on playing and we've got to keep the regulations in mind. I am focused on playing hard and well this season should we continue to progress with it. We have to focus on the factors that we control and everything else is in the hands of the school and government."

NJSIAA limits number of spectators at games, competitions due to Pandemic **BY CHRISTOPHER HULSART**

Staff Writer



With the football season in full stride in a campaign that is no doubt already unprecedented, one of the cornerstones of Friday night lights might be absent.

With new rules from the NJSIAA that limit the number of people who can attend the games besides the players, cheerleaders, trainers, coaches and other personnel, the games will look much different from years' past.

The NJSIAA, which governs high school sports in New Jersey, has limited the number of spectators to 500 for a game or competition.

For the first time in recent memory, sports teams will be without the overwhelming support of the Knights of the Silver Bleachers, regarded as one of the loudest and overall best student sections in the state. For years, it has been a tradition to gather at the football games, especially for the Pink Out or homecoming.

Players have been trying to adjust and treat this season like they would any other. Players are reacting to the new environment in different ways.

Vincent Melito, who is a senior defensive tackle, said, "It won't be the same without be able to look into the crowd and seeing everyone support you. I will miss feeding off the crowd's energy whenever I was feeling tired or the game got close."

John Denardo, a senior defensive back, has a different approach to the game. He said he feels that peace and quiet could benefit him and the team.

"I am already in the zone with the crowd in a frenzy, so less noise should only benefit me," said Denardo.

The consensus from the student body, however, is that meeting on Friday evenings in the bleachers for home games will be greatly missed.

Max Heller, a senior and one of the leaders of the student section said if there is any way he can get tickets, he will do so.

"I wouldn't miss it for the world," he said.

Photo Courtesy of Adrian Cline

Knights kick off football season with wins against East Brunswick, Monroe BY JOSH GATSON

Sports Editor

The Old Bridge Knights Varsity Football team gained victories in their first two games of the season against Monroe and East Brunswick high schools. The Knights defeated Monroe 21-14 and East Brunswick 35-20.



Stand out Lawrence Hunter led the Knights to a win in the game against the Bears when he rushed for 162 yards and earned a touchdown on 26 carries.

While the team, coached by Anthony Lanzafama, started practice early in the school year, most plays felt it was great to be back on the field.

“It feels great to be back in the season now,” said Hunter, a junior running back. “It makes me feel grateful to play

because I love this sport, and this will be my ninth year playing it.”

Starting practice during a pandemic came with some complications, including precautions that players and coaches needed to abide by while practicing. In addition, the season was delayed by a month and the crowds are limited to 500 people.

“I mean, it has been tough, but we have a great athletic director, and a great trainer who checks our temperature every day and makes sure we have a mask on every practice,” said Chae Hogan, junior guard and linebacker.

“(Athletic Director Daniel) Mr. DiMino has demonstrated outstanding leadership for our athletics program to make sure we are keeping safety as our number one priority,” said Lanzafama. “Mr. (Steven) Laregina, our head athletic trainer, has worked extremely hard to make sure we are following all safety protocols and procedures to keep our athletes safe.”

The East Brunswick Bears set the Knights back in the first half of their game, with a score of 0-13 for the first and most of the second quarter. But the Knights came back right before the end of the second quarter with a touchdown by linebacker Ethan Myers.

The players kept this pace in the third quarter with another touchdown by defensive back Davion Fields.

“The way we stayed solid the whole way throughout the game and didn’t get frustrated made it a good game for us,” said Corrie Johnson, junior football player.

“We have a group that doesn’t quit and shows a lot of resiliency,” said Lanzafama.



Photos Courtesy of Adrian Cline