

THE KNIGHTLY PRESS

Silver Creek High School
1 Dickinson Street
Silver Creek, NY 14136
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A group of seniors and teachers pose for Country vs Country Club Day



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Knightly Press

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Artist of the Issue

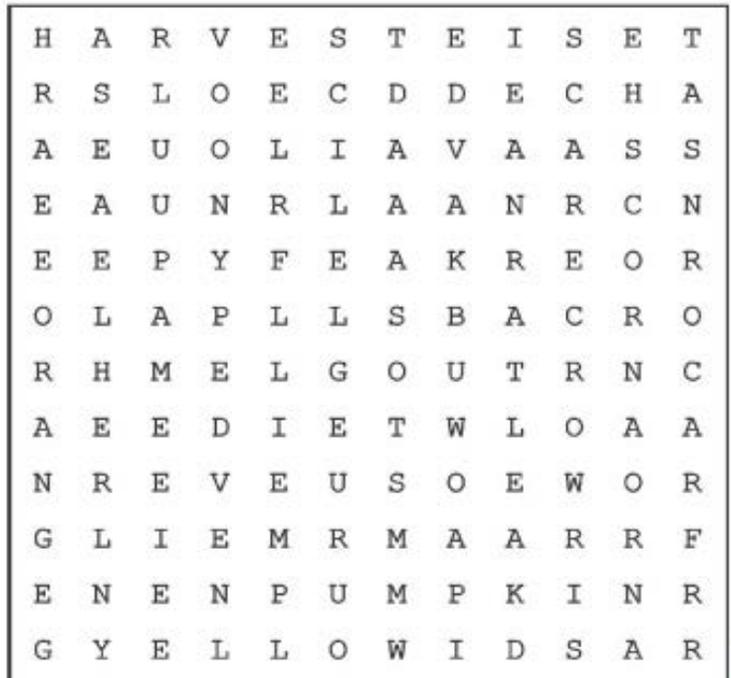
Onyx Wolverton



Featured artist: Ella VanRensselaer
 Ella is a senior in Independent Art and has been doing art for many years. Pictured above is one of her portfolio pieces, a colored pencil drawing of her friend's 2004 Subaru. She chose colored pencils as her medium to challenge herself since that's where she saw she needed improvement in her art skills.

FUN FALL WORD SEARCH

Find each of the fall words hidden below.



WORDS TO FIND:

pumpkin	harvest
yellow	apples
scarecrow	hayride
autumn	red
leaves	Thanksgiving
sunflower	football
acorns	orange
corn	



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Music Through The Decades

Kylie Procknal

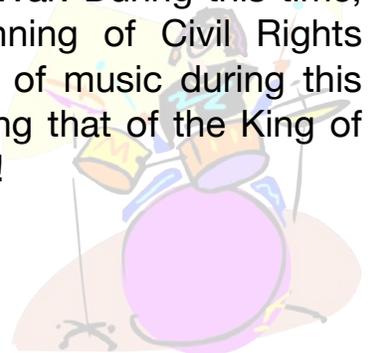
Believe it or not, music has been around for over 400,000 years. Music comes in many forms, from vocals to instrumental, each with their own sound and melody. Although music isn't a recent discovery, many genres of music are, with hundreds of unique styles. Music is a form of entertainment that brings people together, brings about comfort, and a way to pass the time. Music, especially in the last few decades, has gained mass popularity. Influencing generations and creating everlasting memories.

The **1920s** is when the radio was invented. Radios made listening to music and radio shows easier across the country and available to all families. The major music that kept the country going during this time was Jazz, Blues, Traveling Dance Bands, and Ragtime. Most of these genres were influenced or created by African Americans. Some of the most famous artists of the time period were Duke Wellington, Louis Armstrong, and Mamie Smith.

The **1930s** was the time when the economy was at the all-time low, referred to as The Great Depression. The music trends of the this time period include the increase of traditional Pop as well as increased popularity of Jazz sub-genres, such as Swing and Big Bands. Blues and country music also saw an increase in popularity. Some of the most well known artists of this decade were Cab Calloway, Ella Fitzgerald, and Billie Holiday.

The **1940s** were a time in history in which America was deeply entangled in the Second World War. America became a major industrial production center for wartime products, which boosted the country out the depression. The music of time was similar to that of 1930s, but with an increase of American patriotism styled songs and new influence of Latin music. There was increased music production for the soldiers coming home and their families. Popular artists of the time were Frank Sinatra, Carmen Miranda, and Bing Crosby & Andrews Sisters.

The **1950s** were an influential time period in which war tension was still flaming. This lead America and Russia to compete in an arms race known as the Cold War. During this time, there was also an increase in social changes through the beginning of Civil Rights movements and the introduction of color television. The major form of music during this decade was the new creation of Rock 'n' Roll. The most famous being that of the King of Rock, Elvis Presley, as well as Chuck Berry. Watch out for the greasers!



Music Through The Decades

Continued From Page 4

The **1960s** were a time of peace, love, and spiritual awakening. This decade was brimming with experimentation, from clothing style to music. During this time there was a great struggle between commercialism and revolutionaries. Music of this time period included a continuation of Rock 'n' Roll, but with the addition of sub-genres such as Psychedelic, Blue-Rock, and Progressive. Many of the artists from this period, The Beatles, Rolling Stones, The Beach Boys, and James Brown, to name a few, went down in history and are still popular today. Peace out!

The **1970s** were the time of relaxation in America history after the years of hippie love. This decade combined the 60's craziness and happiness into a form of relaxation music. Dance clubs gained popularity. This also led to another increase in musical styles and genres. The major new types of music were Disco, Punk Rock/New Wave, and Funk & Soul. Some of the best known bands of this decade were The Bee Gees, ABBA, The Village People, Elton John, Marvin Gaye, and Queen.

The **1980s** were when Ronald Regan became the 40th President of the United States, and the years when Apple released its first computer, the Macintosh. This is when American television created a music program tv show by the name of MTV, where music artists and bands could have their songs showcased, or even interviewed. The music of this time period included the likes of newly mainstreamed HipHop, New Wave, Pop, and Hair Bands. One of the most famous artist from this time, still popular after his death, is the King of Pop, Michael Jackson. Some of the other famous artists from the 80's include Bruce Springsteen, The Cure, and Guns N' Roses.

The **1990s** is when America goes to war with Iraq, the internet is born, and the Cold War ends. The major music genres of this time period were Pop, Rap, Techno, and Alternative Music. During this decade, Rock influenced new sub-genres, Grunge and Alternative Rock. Popular Artists/Bands included MC Hammer, Pearl Jam, Nirvana, Backstreet Boys, and N'SYNC. This decade was also marked by a rise in artists dying from drug overdoses, suicides, or murders. The 90's is also marked as the decade where one-hit wonder became common.

The **2000s** began with the 9/11 attacks on the Twin Towers, causing lot of pain and devastation. This time also marked the American people electing Barack Obama as the first Black President of the United States. Many popular songs from this time period had sexual and/or violent influence within their themes. The popular music genres during this decade were that of HipHop, Rap, and Mainstream Pop. Some of the most well known artists that are still very popular today are Alicia Keys, Cold Play, Carrie Underwood, Eminem, Pink, and The Red Hot Chili Peppers.

Essential Worker Interview

Gabby Purdy

As we all know, the Coronavirus has resulted in people losing their jobs, being unable to work due to medical reasons, and working in terrible conditions in order to get a paycheck to support their families. I interviewed Kimberlie Burlison who works at SUNY Fredonia College as a member of the cleaning staff. She works in Hendrix Hall, which just happens to be the building they use to house the COVID-19 positive students and the quarantined students who may have the virus. I asked her a few questions about her experience there and how they are dealing with pandemic-related issues.

To begin, I asked her, “What are some things you have to wear to clean the COVID building?” She answered with, “I have to wear a N95 face mask, a face shield, a long jumpsuit/hazmat suit, and long gloves just to go into their rooms.” Then I asked a follow up question, “Do you feel as though the materials you are given to wear are safe and effective?” She replied, “Yes, I have been doing this since August and I have not gotten sick. My coworker has also not gotten sick, so I feel as though with us taking the right precautions we are keeping ourselves safe.” While talking about how she feels safe, I added a question, “Have you ever had a COVID scare since working there?” Her answer was a blunt and honest “yes” One thing a lot of people are wondering is what has the college done differently since the start of COVID-19? SUNY Fredonia has made it mandatory to wear masks indoors and outdoors due to the great amount of students and staff members. They also have become more strict about keeping personal items in dorm rooms and bags. Students and staff are required to get tested every two weeks in case of any new COVID-19 cases on campus.

When interviewing Kimberlie, she included her daily routine in her response. She starts off her day with getting a list of rooms to clean and other random jobs to be done. She usually has up to fifteen rooms a day, including bathrooms. Due to a shortage of staff (only seventeen people), she had to pick up overtime. She is now working twelve hour shifts and doing more than twenty-five rooms a day, with the help of only one other person. Kimberlie also added that she would want the college to improve the amount of help, but due to these crazy and unexpected circumstances they have little to no choice in the matter. Even though this year has been a little scary and surprising to all of us, we still are working hard to gain control of this virus. I hope that this has given you a better understanding of what people go through when dealing with this virus. I am very thankful that Kimberlie Burlison and every other working person is staying as safe as they can be.



Remote Learning

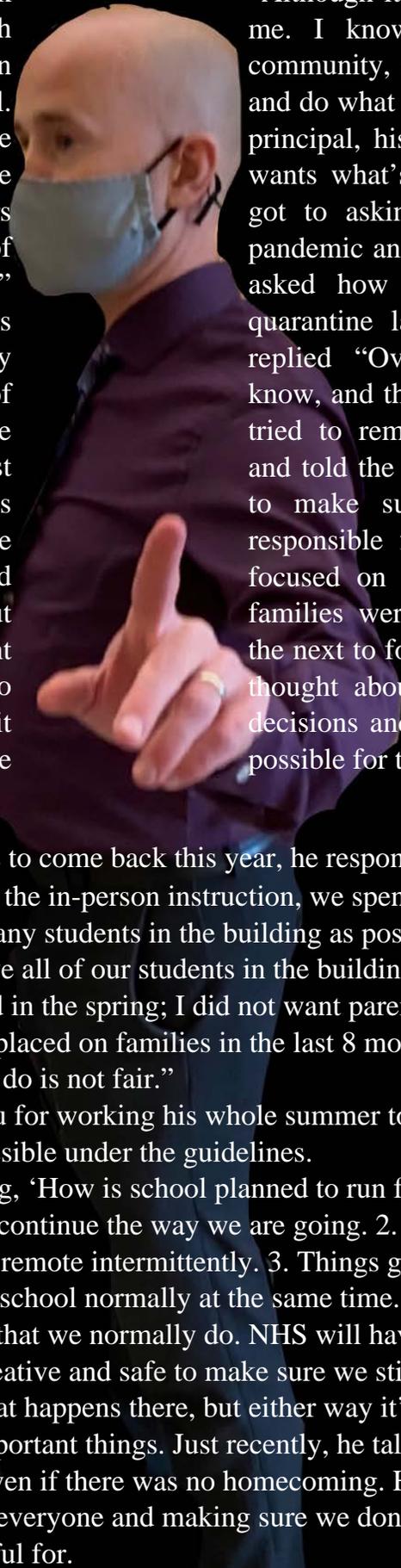
Owen Hastings

Due to the onset of the Coronavirus pandemic, schools across the country closed in the spring. Now this fall with cases lowering, schools are reopening across the nation in various ways. Here at Silver Creek the majority of the students are learning with a hybrid model, although some students are still completely remote. Remote learning has its own advantages and disadvantages. Sisters, Emily and Gabby Purdy, are currently remote learners, since their mother works with COVID-19 patients, and they do not want to risk bringing the virus to the school should they become infected. But learning remotely isn't exactly easy for them. The Purdy sisters, along with many other remoter learners, struggle with challenges such as WiFi connectivity issues, a communication divide, and having to constantly come pick up and drop off materials at the school. When asked about whether they would prefer to be hybrid learners, Gabby explained she would, as she feels she is missing out on her senior year. Her sister, Emily, agreed, adding that learning can be more difficult at home, since there is less hands-on opportunities to make learning more interesting, and communication is a lot harder through technology. Middle school student Cole Hastings had the opportunity to experience both full virtual and hybrid learning, since he recently switched to the hybrid model. Cole explained that he chose to start full virtual because he thought it would be easier and less stressful, but ended up switching to a hybrid model. He explained communication between the teachers played a major factor in his decision to switch. He also added wearing a mask to school was not as bad as he thought it would be, and didn't interfere with his learning. Although all three students would prefer a hybrid model over full virtual, they did mention that learning at their own pace and having more flexibility in their day was a nice perk of being online. While this year hasn't gone the way anyone would have expected, everyone is still trying to make the best of it; even the students you don't see every day at school.

Check-In with Our High School Principal Mr. Buczkowski

Bailey Watroba

Mr. Buczkowski has been a part of Silver Creek faculty since 2001. He started here as a high school Social Studies teacher for 15 years, and in 2016 he decided to apply to be the principal. When asked why he wanted to be principal, he replied, "I wanted to have a bigger impact in the school and I was tired of other administrators coming to Silver Creek, staying for a couple of years, padding their resume, then leaving." While working here since 2001, I am sure he's seen administrators do that a lot. He is really passionate about making an impact on the kids of our high school. When asked what his favorite part of our school and its community, his first response was that working with the students is easily the best part of his job, but seeing that the teachers care about the students is also a good part of it. Many of you might not know this, but our principal grew up in Silver Creek! He went to this same high school and probably went to school with most of our parents too. When it came to answering what his favorite part of the community is, he said



"Although it's changed, it's still home to me. I know a lot of people in the community, and I try to do right by them and do what is best for their kids." To our principal, his job isn't just a job and he wants what's best for everyone. Next, I got to asking about school during the pandemic and what he had to deal with. I asked how he ran the school during quarantine last March to June, and he replied "Over zoom." Very funny, I know, and then he went on to say, "I just tried to remain somewhat level headed and told the teachers to do their best and to make sure that parents were not responsible for teaching their kids. We focused on making sure kids and their families were okay." This response and the next to follow mention the parents; he thought about them a lot when making decisions and tried to make it as easy as possible for them.

When asked how he prepared the school for kids to come back this year, he responded with: "Once the governor told us in July to prepare for the in-person instruction, we spent the rest of July and all of August planning. My goal was to get as many students in the building as possible. We had certain guidelines to follow and that's why we can't have all of our students in the building at the same time. But ultimately I wanted the same thing as we did in the spring; I did not want parents to be responsible for teaching their kids. There was a lot of stress placed on families in the last 8 months and parents having to try and do what teachers are trained to do is not fair." I think Mr. Buczkowski deserves a big thank you for working his whole summer to make sure we were able to come back the safest and most effective way possible under the guidelines. Lastly, I asked, "I'm sure you were all wondering, 'How is school planned to run for the rest of the year?'" He says one of three things will happen: 1. We will continue the way we are going. 2. The COVID numbers get worse and it becomes choppy, then we'll go full remote intermittently. 3. Things go ridiculously well. If COVID disappears, everyone will come back to school normally at the same time. He also said, "Either way I'm trying to make sure that we get to do things that we normally do. NHS will have two ceremonies. We won't be able to have dances but we will need to be creative and safe to make sure we still hold the big senior events." Everything depends on COVID and what happens there, but either way it's good to know he's still trying to make high schoolers experience the important things. Just recently, he talked to the student body about a spirit week and made sure we had one even if there was no homecoming. He's doing the best he can to make school during the pandemic enjoyable for everyone and making sure we don't miss too much in our high school experience, which we should all be grateful for.

Welcome Miss. Sanford

Ella VanRensselaer

Miss Sanford is Silver Creek High School's new band director and teacher. She previously worked in Silver Creek Elementary as the band director. She attended Lockport High School in Niagara County, and later went to SUNY Fredonia after she graduated from Lockport. She started as a percussionist in fourth grade at her elementary school, then picked up the flute and bassoon in middle school. She went back and stuck with percussion in high school for her auditions to get into college. She wants to better herself in string instruments, like guitar and violin, and she plays the ukulele a bit. Miss Sanford's middle school band director had a major impact on her life. She constantly pushed her to do her best and was always there for her.



She was not only a great teacher for Miss Sanford, but she was also a role model. Her teacher influenced her to want to go into a career that involved music and teaching. When she went to college she had to get her teaching certification, while also attending weekly lessons, practicing four hours a day, and four years into college she had to put on a full 30-40 minute solo recital. Coming out of college she originally thought she wanted to get as far away from home as possible, but later realized how much she wanted to be home around her family. She appreciates being able to go out and explore, but is also happy to return back home. Miss Sanford aspires to make a wonderful community for musicians, especially in the school district. She is so grateful to have the opportunity to work with so many different age groups and students in this school where she can see everyone's different skills and watch them grow as musicians.

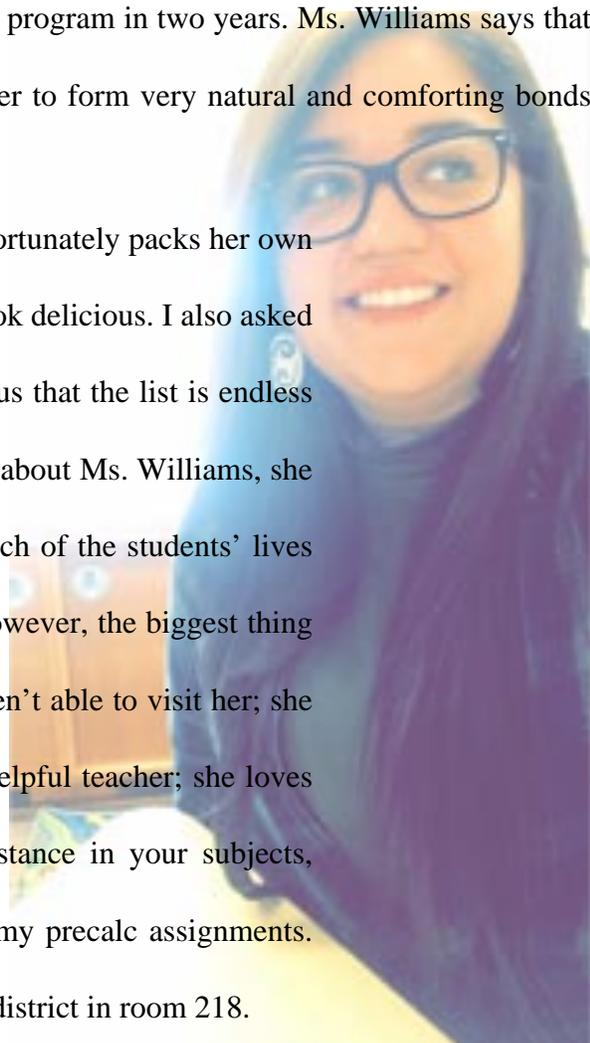
New Teacher Interview with Ms. Williams

Danaceus Maybee

Meet the incredible Ms. Williams who is recently new to our school here at Silver Creek. She is part of the My Brother's Keeper Grant as an AIS Math/Family Liaison teacher who specializes in the math field. Last year, she student taught with Mrs. Randolph as well as Ms. Zells. In those classes, Ms. Williams was an amazing help to those in need of assistance. Ms. Williams' full name is Mary B. Williams, she is 25 years young, and she is not currently married, but she is in a loving relationship with her boyfriend. Ms. Williams loves her job as well as those she works with here at Silver Creek. Ms. Williams actually attended school here at Silver Creek starting in her fourth grade year; she graduated in the class of 2014. She says working at her alma mater has allowed her to expand her connections and resources as a new teacher. Ms. Williams attended college for a total of five years because she switched majors from Accounting to Adolescent Education: Mathematics in her third year of college. Ms. Williams is so happy that she switched majors to do something she loves; although, she does not recommend doing a four year program in two years. Ms. Williams says that being able to student teach with Mrs. Randolph and Ms. Zells allowed her to form very natural and comforting bonds and relationships with all students and not just Indigenous students.

I did ask Ms. Williams what her favorite school lunch meal is, but she unfortunately packs her own lunch, but says the student's lunches who attend lunch in her classroom look delicious. I also asked Ms. Williams to share who her favorite coworkers are, but she informed us that the list is endless and that everyone here is so kind and welcoming. To conclude this article about Ms. Williams, she wants to share her favorite part about her job which is being a part of each of the students' lives and being the teacher or advocate that she would have benefited from. However, the biggest thing she dislikes about her job is when students are absent from school and aren't able to visit her; she says it makes her day go by slowly. Ms. Williams is a loving and very helpful teacher; she loves meeting new students and is a great help if you were in need of assistance in your subjects, especially math. I know that Ms. Williams helped me tremendously on my precalc assignments.

Feel free to stop by and say "hi" to give her a nice welcome to our school district in room 218.



XC 2020

Ethan Cross

COVID-19 has effected all aspects of our daily lives. One of the major questions going into this school year was, will sports be able to resume for the fall season, and if so how will COVID-19 impact them? Although some sports were not given the clear to resume practices and games, the Silver Creek Cross Country team was lucky to be allowed to have a season. There were many obstacles, however everyone is very grateful to be able to compete despite the trying times. Head coach and county chairman Michael Janisch, along with assistant coaches Ray Graf and Amy Seiders, put in countless hours of work to make this season happen. In practices, everyone had to be socially distanced and wear masks while not running. All the meets were cut down to just 3-4 teams to reduce contact and make it easier to socially distance. Nothing was certain this year, and the athletes knew that at any point the rest of the season could have been canceled. They made sure to make every meet count, and to cherish every moment.



The team also saw a few new faces, as the boys Varsity Soccer Team was cut this year due to low numbers. Soccer players Joseph Bowers, Cade Neubauer, and Alex Procknal all joined the team. Although we hope the boys team can resume next year, we were lucky to have these amazing athletes on our team. There were doubts about whether the season would be completed, and the sectional race had to be changed many times. The location, dates, and times were all changed, and in the days leading up to the race it was announced that no spectators would be allowed. But luckily, the team was able to get in the final race of the season. Both the boys and girls teams finished strong, with a 3rd place team finish for the girls, and senior Juliana Flick was able to capture second place in the C2 sectional race. Given the circumstances, the season was a massive success, due to the cooperation and perseverance of the runners, coaches, and everyone else involved.

YAC and Unified Sports

Ellie Decker

Not long ago, the special education students at Silver Creek were isolated from the rest of the school. Largely ignored, they spend most of their time alone in their classrooms. But new organizations in our school, YAC and Unified Sports, are beginning to bridge the gap between general and special education students. YAC, short for Youth Advisory Committee, is a club of youth leaders with and without intellectual disabilities who strategize and plan activities to promote inclusion, respect, and acceptance. It is partnered with the Special Olympics. A major role of YAC is to promote Unified Sports. Last year, Silver Creek established their first Unified team, consisting of students from both general and special education working together as teammates/partners. The athletes competed in bowling matches and won the Section 6 Unified Bowling Championship. This program had positive impacts on all students involved. It is unknown if Unified Sports will resume this winter due to coronavirus restrictions, but YAC continues to work towards inclusion and fundraising. Several members of YAC are participating in the Special Olympics Polar Plunge on December 5 to raise money for Special Olympics New York. YAC is already planning several future events, including the second annual inclusion spirit week and a community walk. YAC's long term goal is to help Silver Creek become a Unified Champion School, receiving national banner recognition. Becoming a Champion School is the highest achievement for a Unified School, requiring many standards to be achieved. The many standards are based upon the three main components of YAC: Unified Sports, inclusive youth leadership, and whole school engagement. YAC meets 1-2 times a month to plan events. Meetings are currently both in person and virtual, usually on Wednesdays from 2:30-3:00. If you are interested in spreading inclusion and acceptance by becoming a member of YAC, Unified Sports, or both, email Mrs. Decker or stop by room 217 to speak in person.



2020 Girls Varsity Soccer

Cindy Schwab

It's that time of year again; colors of the trees start to change, the weather turns cooler, the field lines are freshly painted, and the nets are set up. The Lady Knights soccer team has endured another long season, dedicating themselves to their teammates, and the love of the sport. Although the season came later this year due to COVID-19, they came back to play under Coach Rice. Several new protocols were put into place for this season, including wearing masks when gathered together as a team, and temperature checks before practices and games. Their team consisted of 19 players, with 3 of them joining from Forestville. The players competed with teams in Section 6, Class C: Westfield, Chautauqua Lake, North Collins, Maple Grove, and Frewsburg.



The team also faced two non league opponents: Eden and Akron. At the end of the season, they finished with a rough record of 1-10 -1. Even though they didn't achieve the record they wanted, they were still thankful to enjoy memorable moments such as senior night, late night bus rides, and playing their favorite game, power and finesse. The team will be sad to see their seven seniors (Carly Barrett, Alina Beadle, Michelle Bullard, Katie Castiglia, Katelyn Killock, Kylie Procknel, and Cindy Schwab) finish their last season. The girls are excited for the what the next year will hold, and are hoping to see some new faces come out and join the team next season!



Varsity Football

Henry Hogg

Varsity football season was postponed until March, but that is not stopping the players from staying involved in their sport. Every week players and coaches have been traveling to Dunkirk to scrimmage games before the season.



Players are not allowed to touch others and have to wear masks while playing, but the players are making the most of it. The whole team has been involved in this new process and everyone is keeping their heads up excited for the upcoming season. Some standout performances have come from Matt Woleban and Hunter Prinzbach. Although the players and coaches are making the best of the situation they are in, it's still not the same feeling as a normal fall season would be. Without sports like football and soccer the school is missing some of it's most exciting aspects. While waiting for the actual season to start, players will keep practicing and getting better before their first practice. Players like Sam Braidich and Hunter Larson have led the team encouraging players to stay in good spirits awaiting their next season.

Showing our BKP!

Amanda Roth

Although there was no homecoming football game or dance, our school still managed to put on a successful Spirit Week this year! Students were able to show off their BKP spirit October 26th-October 30th. Senior class co-president Emma Romanik took it upon herself to plan out the days for our week of BKP. She wanted the students at SCCS to enjoy their school experience, since the pandemic took away so many other school activities. The days for spirit week included Monday as Color Day, Tuesday as Tacky Tourist Day, Wednesday as Holiday Day, Thursday as Country vs. Country Club, and Friday of course was Black Knight Pride! Despite this years unusual set of circumstances, the student body and staff at Silver Creek High School came together to celebrate what it means to be a Black Knight. Mrs. Laurenzi-Timmerman stated, "It's fun to wear something different from what you would normally wear, and it is nice to have spirit week as a school unifier." Tabitha Shevlin, a junior here at SCCS said, "My favorite parts of spirit week are being able to dress up, have fun with everyone, and take pictures." Everyone had fun and were grateful to have the opportunity to enjoy spirit week, especially this year's seniors. Senior Vice President Hunter Prinzbach says, "Spirit week is fun because you get to dress up, my favorite day was Country Thursday. I loved wearing my cowboy boots." Emma Romanik went around delivering the senior crowns to the class of 2021 throughout the week. This tradition at SCCS is something all seniors look forward to! Emma stated, "I loved how we still had spirit, even though there was no homecoming. The crowns are a symbol to the seniors, and spirit week represents how we are united as a class and school. I also wanted to make sure everyone was involved and included." Spirit week was much needed and it was great to see everyone come together to have some fun! BKP!

Pictures of Spirit Week will be on page 24

Pumpkin Pie Recipe

By Shannon Bordenkircher

With Thanksgiving just around the corner, it's good to know a few recipes to spice up your holiday feast. One famous dessert that is most commonly made during this time of year is some good old-fashion Pumpkin Pie. For this recipe, we are going to be making our pie from scratch. Your ingredients can be found at Tops; however, if you are having trouble finding a few items you could always go to Walmart.

Please note that you will need a blender or food processor for this recipe.

For the Pumpkin:

- 1 sugar pumpkin
- Canola oil (to oil the pumpkin)

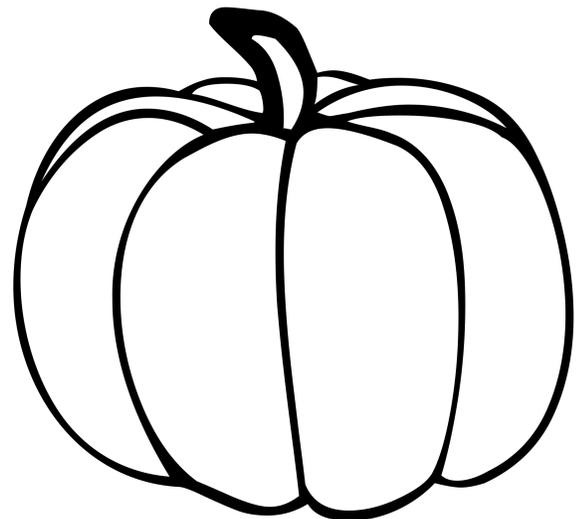
For the Crust:

- 2 cups of all-purpose flour
- $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon of salt
- $\frac{2}{3}$ cup (or 11 teaspoons) of cold, unsalted butter

This is the most time consuming part of the recipe. If you do not want to make the crust yourself, you can buy a premade crust from Tops.

For the Filling:

- A 14-ounce can of sweetened condensed milk
- 3 large eggs
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of whipping cream (can also be used as a topping)
- 2 tablespoons of cornstarch
- 2 tablespoons of molasses
- 2 tablespoons of canola oil
- 1 tablespoon of ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon of ground ginger



Pumpkin Pie Recipe

continued from page 14

1. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees Fahrenheit. Remove the stem and scrape the insides as if you were carving a pumpkin. Cut the pumpkin in half and place the halves cut-side down on a baking sheet lined with aluminum foil. Rub canola oil on the skin and bake for about 1 hour, then let it cool.
2. While you have your pumpkin in the oven, it's time to work on the crust. Get a large bowl and combine the salt and flour. Then, add the butter and work the dough with a fork until it is crumbly. Stir in 4 or 5 tablespoons of cold water until the dough is moistened. Cut the dough in half and shape it into a ball. You can wrap one of the balls of dough up and save them for another use.
3. Use a rolling pin to roll out the ball of dough on a floured surface to a 12-inch round. Then, move the dough to a 9-inch glass pie dish. Pierce the crust dough all over with a fork and then let it chill in the refrigerator for 15 minutes. Afterwards, line the crust with foil and fill the space with either dried beans, rice, or pie weights and bake for 12 minutes with the oven still at 375. Once the crust has been baked, remove the foil and its contents and reduce the temperature to 350 degrees Fahrenheit.
4. For the pie filling: Once your pumpkin has cooled down, scoop out the pulp and purée it in a food processor (or blender) until it is smooth. *Note that if your pumpkin is still hot, it will be difficult to process.* Then add the eggs, cream, canola oil, ginger, salt, molasses, cornstarch, and condensed milk and mix them thoroughly.
5. Finally, pour the filling into the crust and bake in the oven at 350 degrees Fahrenheit for 1 hour. If your pie inflates while in the oven, you may have added too much filling. This will not affect the quality in any way, however the presentation may not be the best. Afterwards, let the pie cool for 30 minutes and enjoy!

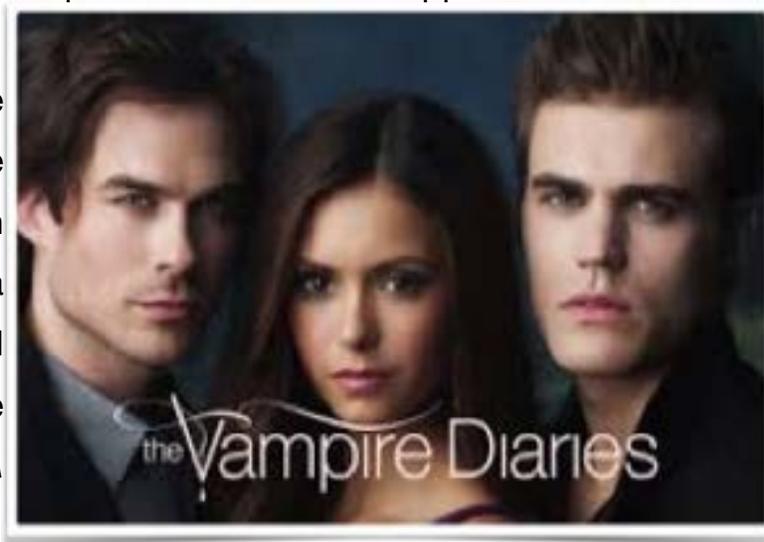


A Show you Must Watch: The Vampire Diaries

Morgan Lewis

Netflix offers hundreds of great TV shows and movies all the time. One day, I stumbled upon this show called the Vampire Diaries and contemplated watching it. At first I thought it looked uninteresting and that I would never be interested in such a show, but after running out of shows to watch I decided to watch it. At first I was not a fan of the show, but I decided to stick with it and I'm glad I did. This show shortly became my all time favorite show. The reason I would recommend this show and why I love it so much is because most shows have meaning behind them. This sounds like a no brainer that shows have meaning behind them, but a lot of the time most don't notice. This show represents love and the things you do for the ones you love and the sacrifices made for family and to keep them safe. This show evolves throughout the seasons and shows the characters grow to become family after all they have been through. As the series continues, you get to see how the characters change as people throughout the seasons too. Some of the characters I used to hate in the beginning, but at the end I ended up loving them because they grew into characters I liked. With the epic love stories that happen in this show it has made me quite the hopeless romantic.

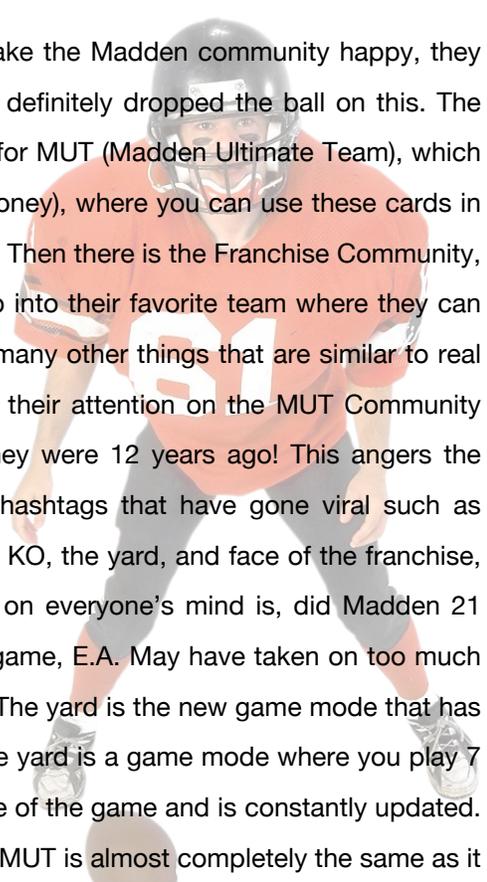
The way love is portrayed in this show has made my expectations unbelievably high. That is the reason I fell in love with this show not to mention the cast is eye candy too, so that's always a perk. There are a lot of common actors and actresses in this show that you might recognize like Nina Dobrev, shown in *Perks of Being A Wallflower*, or Ian Somerhalder, also being an



actor in the show *Lost*. I personally don't think the show would have been as good if it weren't for the actors and actresses, and it's a big reason why I kept watching. This show has easily become my favorite and I've watched it seven times because it's become a comfort show. Along with the Vampire Diaries they have a brother show called *The Originals*, which is also one of my favorites. It's almost as good as *The Vampire Diaries*, but not quite. Regardless they are both amazing shows. Ultimately if you are ever scrolling through the long list of Netflix shows and are stumped on what to watch, *The Vampire Diaries* is a great show to pick. There are eight seasons of this show, so you will have eight long seasons to fall in love with.

Madden 21 Review

Hunter Prinzbach



Madden 21 was a game that was coming off the blunder of Madden 20. In order to make the Madden community happy, they were going to have to make a product that was polished and played well. E.A. sports definitely dropped the ball on this. The Madden community has been in an odd place. You have the people that play the game for MUT (Madden Ultimate Team), which is basically a card collecting game that involves major gambling (sometimes with real money), where you can use these cards in an online match to play against other players for more in-game currency and other items. Then there is the Franchise Community, where people will simulate real life football to predict outcomes of games, or even jump into their favorite team where they can lead them to the playoffs and the Super Bowl. They can make trades, cut players, and many other things that are similar to real life football. What has made people mad is E.A. has seemed to overwhelmingly focus their attention on the MUT Community leaving the Franchise side of the game in the dust, seemingly even worse off than they were 12 years ago! This angers the franchise community, and we have seen of recent their call for a better game with hashtags that have gone viral such as #fixmaddenfranchise. E.A. has also added some other notable modes such as superstar KO, the yard, and face of the franchise, which are new modes that got a lot of attention this year. The real question that sits on everyone's mind is, did Madden 21 improve on Madden 20 and make Madden popular again? While trying to improve their game, E.A. May have taken on too much producing a less than thrilling experience with too many options and not enough appeal. The yard is the new game mode that has been publicized before the release of Madden and has gotten quite a bit of attention. The yard is a game mode where you play 7 on 7 football with only a center. This game mode was highly publicized before the release of the game and is constantly updated. Many people actually took very kindly to this new mode and think it is a fun arcade mode. MUT is almost completely the same as it was in previous years. Not much was added to the mode, but it is always updated and they keep adding new players and new cards each year. Although, people in the MUT community keep comparing on the actual gameplay of the game rather than the mode itself, saying that the gameplay needs work and is way to animation driven rather than actually having any skill, people can just abuse the problems with the game to win. Franchise mode is as barebones as it can be, and it seems like they put no effort into this game mode as it doesn't make them as much money as other game modes where you can put real money into the game to get in-game items that will help you play better and improve your team. The problem with Madden franchise is it is exactly the same as it was last year; they did nothing to build on the improvements in Madden 20 and completely threw the Madden Franchise Community under the bus, people were really upset with Madden franchise this year and thought that it was a far cry from what it could be. The gameplay is the worst part about Madden this year; they have done virtually nothing to change it and it is very predictable. The game is very animation based, meaning there is a coin flip, and that's what happens rather than having player skill be the most important and influential part of the game. This angers fans as they have been asking for less animations and more realistic physics. E.A. did virtually nothing to update the gameplay of Madden. Graphics wise, it's the same book. They are just as good as they were in Madden 20 and you almost can't even tell the difference between Madden 20 and 21 when you just first look at them. Overall, I do not recommend Madden 21. I actually think it took a step back from the improvements that Madden 20 made. I liked what Madden 20 was adding and actually thought that was the most improvement they had made in a while. Madden 21 was the complete inverse to this and actually took steps back in improvement, they truly just pumped out the same game to cash in on \$60 a game, and frankly, it worked. This is a problem and the only solution is to simply not buy or play the game, so, overall, do not buy madden 21 and refrain from supporting E.A. sports.

Damien's Animal Showdown

Damien Evans

From Reptilian Rumbles to Mammalian Matchups, this is Damien's Animal Showdown! For this quarter's animal showdown, we will be squaring off a giraffe and a rhino! In a much more... hypothetical sense. I will be doing a review of each animal, giving them a rating in how well adapted they are, their usefulness, and a rating on looks/cool factor.

We will start with the giraffe; the tallest land mammal and hailing from the plains of sub-Saharan Africa, they are very well adapted for their environment and have adaptations we humans could only dream of. For starters, they only need 30 minutes of sleep per day, often in increments as short as 5 minutes. If I could get by on only 30 minutes of sleep, I might actually have time to get all my homework done! Not only do they need almost no sleep, but they can get by on much less water needing to drink only once every few days. This is because they get most of the water they need from the food they eat. Speaking of the food they eat, that is their most obvious and probably coolest adaptation they have is their long necks. Their neck allows them to eat the leaves of trees no other animal can, providing them with a fairly consistent source of food. Although their necks are cool adaptations, the length of their necks can be a problem with blood circulation which is accounted for by a number of adaptations. The most important of these is the heart, where the muscle walls are very thick and beat 150-190 bpm, which provides a blood pressure twice that of humans! This also means the walls of the blood vessels are a lot thicker. The biggest problem they have is when they lean down to drink. To get down to the water they have to spread their front legs apart, which leaves them in a compromised position, and having their head at the water leaves them open to attacks from crocodiles. Their only other natural predator is the lion, and of course most of them die because of people. I'd say that overall these are very well adapted and interesting creatures, and I had a lot of fun researching them.

Now we will take a look at their usefulness. It may seem at first that giraffes would make excellent pack animals, since they don't need a lot of sleep, are pretty fast, and can go a while without water. The problem is that to get that water they need to eat, and since they eat pretty slowly they have to eat all day, and besides they can eat up to 75 lbs per day! Their anatomy also makes them difficult to ride, and their powerful kicks and skittish nature makes them difficult to domesticate. We run into the same problem trying to use them as a work animal, there are very few documented cases of people even riding them. There have not even been any scientific discoveries we have made by looking at giraffes, so I'm going to say that they are not very useful.

Finally, there is the cool factor. They are truly incredible and well adapted creatures, and I would say they are pretty exceptional. I do think that they are a little bit overused as examples of animals in children's books and such, and that takes away from the idea of how unique they actually are, but in researching them and going to a zoo and just looking up at their majesty, they are truly very appealing.

Now that we have looked at the giraffe, let's look at the contestant in the other corner, the rhinoceros. We will do this in the same fashion as we did with the giraffe, first going through the adaptations, then usefulness, and then their cool factor. I have high hopes for the rhino, but I do not think it can stack up to the giraffe.

Damien's Animal Showdown

Continued from page 18

There are not many rhino adaptations that a person could look at a rhino and say, "it looks like this because of this," except the horn which is used to fend off predators. Most people probably do not know that rhinos also use their horns to dig for water and break down branches. The other noticeable thing about rhinos is that their skin forms folds around their hips and shoulders, and this is because of its thickness. Their skin is two- inches thick, which along with their size and horn makes them a tank in the animal kingdom. Their only natural predator is the lion, and even it only goes after rhinos under a year old. Over that age they are all but bulletproof, which is unfortunate since poaching is the reason most rhinos are killed. They are killed for their horn, which people buy to use in traditional Asian medicine (supposedly a fever reducer, not an aphrodisiac as some sources claim). It has no real health benefits being mostly made out of keratin, the stuff out fingernails and hair is made out of, with a harder core made out of calcium deposits and melanin. This structure allows the horn to be sharpened like a pencil against the ground or vegetation.

Now that we have looked at the few but impressive adaptations that rhinos have, we will move on to their usefulness. I was originally going to start this section saying that rhinos are distantly related to horses and cows, which we can use, but so are giraffes so that point is moot. That being said we can actually ride rhinos and people actually do, something we can not really say about giraffes. There are ancient depictions of people riding rhinos into battle, but they could be depicting a myth and not something that happened. If we were going to use them as pack animals, their anatomy lends themselves to this more than that of giraffes, as does their demeanor towards people when in captivity. They are still dangerous animals, and we have not domesticated them ever like we did horses so they not super useful, but still better than giraffes.

And lastly, their cool factor. The main predator for both rhinos and giraffes is humans, but since the giraffe can get killed by a crocodile while it's in the compromised position it has to be in to drink, I'm going to use that against it in coolness since the rhino has no such weakness. The vision of a rhino being used to charge into battle is one of supreme coolness, and no such image exists for the giraffe.

Now the moment we've all been waiting for, the winner of this quarter's animal showdown is... drumroll please... the rhino! Even though the giraffe has some very cool adaptations, the rhino had the cool factor and usefulness to pull it through to the win.

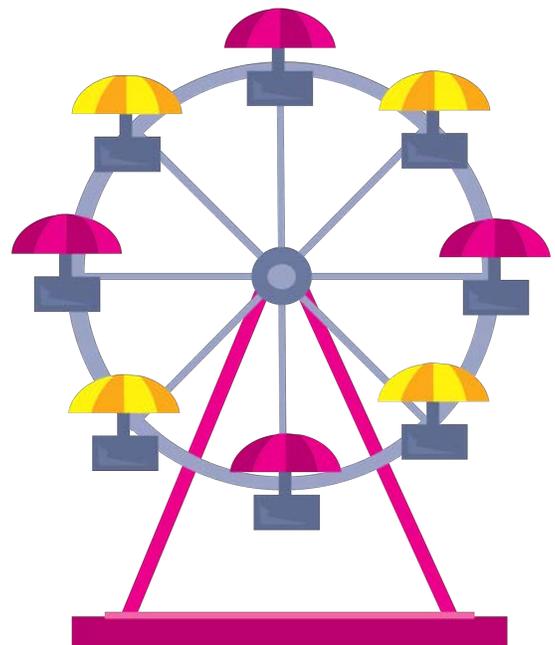
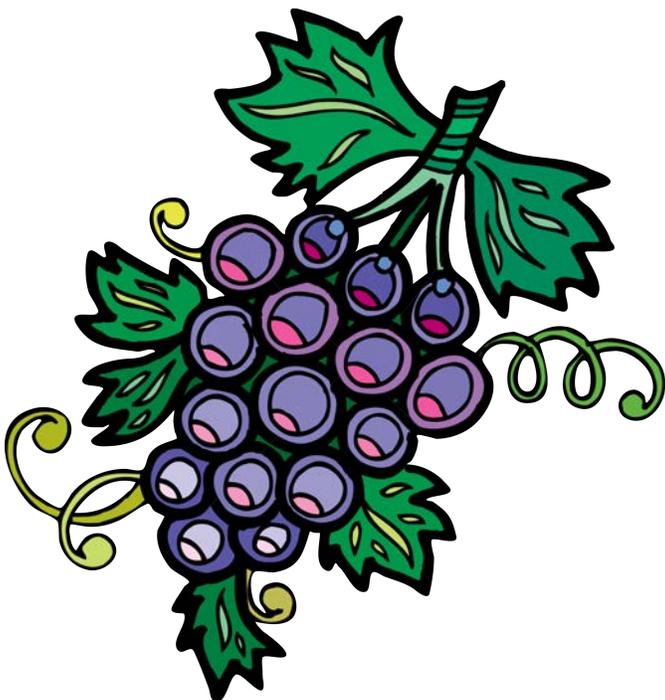


Baby Rhino from Dortmund zoo. Picture from dw. com

The Festival That was No More

Adriana Rosati

The beloved Grape Festival that has been around for 50 plus years in the town of Silver Creek has been cancelled this year due to the global pandemic. It's an event that everyone looks forward to. The festival normally takes place about a week or so into the school year, giving students a fun event to unwind at after the initial stress of back to school. The Grape Fest is usually a three day event filled with rides, food, drinks, vendors and more. However, this year is very different. There was no rides, no food, no drinks, nothing. Not only did the pandemic take away part of the school year last year, some sports, and made this school year very unusual, but it has now taken away a beloved festival. Other festivals in our area have been cancelled as well. The Farm Festival in Fredonia was cancelled and also a festival in Forestville was cancelled. Even though these events might seem insignificant, they are vital to the small towns they occur in. For some people it was a way to make money and bring in new customers for small businesses. Some trucks that normally would've been at the festival are now setting up at gas stations and other places alongside the main roads in attempt get new customers. The Grape Festival was also good for new businesses opening up because it allowed for them to get their name out their. Many organizations would join in on the Grape Festivals annual parade. The fire department, marching bands, dance studios, karate studios, and last year Silver Creek's very own high school cheerleaders marched in the parade. At the end of the parade the groups stop in front of judges and perform. The parade was a good way for these organizations to also get new business just like the food trucks and vendors. The Grape Festival is a good way to raise money for booster clubs as well. Last year the Silver Creek cheerleaders set up a face painting table at the festival to raise some money. It's clear that the cancelation of the Grape Festival has had negative impacts on many, but there is still hope that next year it will resume.



“Teacher of the Month” Voting Procedures

Keith Seneca

Through the trying times that is the pandemic, in person contact is limited due to the safety guidelines for COVID-19. This means that discussion between coworkers and friends is now being conducted digitally. This also includes that individual involvement in projects will also be conducted digitally. Which brings us to conduct the “Teacher of the Month” poll virtually through some type of poll service. A question that is of main concern is how to bring rewards to people who voted. This can be tackled by observing and following the proper safety protocols of Coronavirus and by sanitizing the prizes for the students. The first suggestion of the poll service is through a website called “strawpoll.com.” This service platform will be used by students to vote for a teacher with anonymous voting and easy-access results in real time. A possible second type of voting system may be done with social media through the collaboration of students’ accounts that focuses on the poll. Though the prizes would have to be considered and decided by students and administrators, the rewards will be properly cleansed by the necessary sanitation products. The question also rises that if the teacher should be decided then they will need to be accommodated as well, this will also be decided by students. This process will be considered by students who will decide on the appropriate precautions for the conduction of the poll.



Bias Views in Schools

Austin Manning

Who Is Affected by the Election?

Even as COVID-19 rages on, our political system continues to do its job. With the election over finally and a winner declared, our government teachers can put away their red white and blue balloons for another four years. However, this brings up the question: are our social studies teachers the only ones who are affected by the election? I set out to interview a variety of teachers from our school.

Bias in the Classroom

Teachers are trusted by parents and students to stay unbiased while they teach. I set out to ask teachers how important staying unbiased in the classroom is. One teacher pointed out that staying unbiased is important because of all the different opinions students bring into the classroom. Miss Foley states, “My goal is to help students form their own opinions, and my job, I feel, is to just give them the facts. Give them two sides to every story so they can form their own opinions.” A teacher who would prefer to stay anonymous responded to the question with, “My job as a teacher is to help students form their own opinions and to research for themselves.” All of the teachers I talked to, specifically ones teaching social studies and science, believe it is important to be able to teach their students to form their own opinions and do their research.

Struggles of Staying Unbiased During the Recent Election

I went out and asked teachers if they believe it is harder to stay unbiased during the recent election between President Trump and Vice President Biden. The teachers gave a range of answers, from an astounding yes to not noticing a change at all. Miss Foley responded with, “Yeah, in the beginning of the school year it was hard because the political climate is not pretty right now in the country. I could definitely sense some divisiveness between students in the classroom and it took me a while to get used to that”. On the other side of the spectrum, Mrs. Smith responded with, “I don’t, I see science as a really good vehicle for just looking at information. When we actually teach science we talk about biases. So as a science teacher I find it easier to stay unbiased and to not put my or anyone else’s particular views into an issue.”

How What They Teach Might Influence Students’ Future Votes

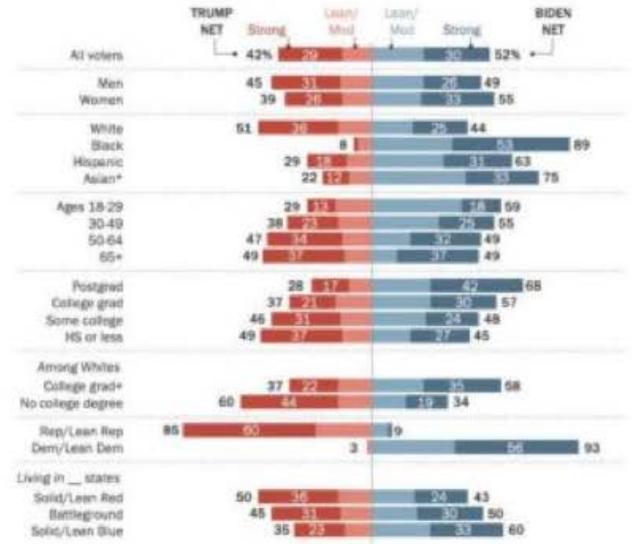
All any teacher wants is to have a lasting impact on a student's life. One of the ways they might do that is teaching us to stay informed, or reminding us about just how vast this world is. Some teachers even go out of their way to have conversations with students about their future and give their students life advice. Whether it’s part of the curriculum or not, our teachers try and leave an impression. When asked the question provided above, Mrs. Kardashian responded with, “I think 100% yes, social studies can because when you study the past you learn so much more for the future.” An anonymous teacher stated, “In my classroom, my goal is to show my students there is more to the world than just the small town of Silver Creek”

Conclusion

Teachers will always try to be unbiased, and these interviews show how much our teachers care about our futures. Talking about politics has been polarizing for many recently. Some teachers, when approached, declined my interview but were happy to talk about politics with me privately. Most of these teachers are untenured and scared about losing their jobs or not saying the right thing. When we see teachers being unbiased for so long, it’s sometimes weird to think about how they have their own political views. Teachers can also teach us the importance of being unbiased. They show us how to look at both sides and make a decision for ourselves, which is something I think we can all learn from.

Presidential Election 2020

	Biden	Trump
Abortion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~"Do everything" to end abortion restrictions and mandates by states. ~States can't refuse Planned Parenthood funding ~Codify Roe V. Wade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~"Pro-life" with exceptions for rape, incest and saving the parent's life ~exclude clinics where "abortion is a method of family planning" from funding
Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~Act against fossil fuel companies ~Rejoin Paris climate agreement ~Invest \$2 trillion in sustainable infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~During pandemic allowed companies to face fewer penalties for pollution ~Withdrew U.S. from Paris Climate Agreement
Criminal justice reform and Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~Eliminate the death penalty ~End federal use of private prisons ~invest \$1 billion per year in juvenile justice system reforms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~Fully fund and hire more law enforcement officers ~End cashless bail ~Bring violent extremists, like Antifa, to justice



*Asian adults were interviewed in English only.

Candidates	Electoral Votes	Vote %	Vote Count
Joe Biden	264	50.5%	73,708,884
Donald Trump	214	47.8%	69,772,211



	Biden	Trump
Taxes and economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~Raise corporate tax rate ~Repeal "Right to Work" laws ~Tax credits to low income families for child care ~Invest money in American made products 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~Cut taxes to boost take home pay and keep jobs in America ~Create tax credits for companies to bring jobs back from China ~Create more jobs
COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~Create mobile testing sites and drive thru facilities ~Track COVID data and supplies ~Develop and Distribute a vaccine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~Develop and distribute a vaccine in 2020 ~Refill stockpiles in preparation for future events ~Make critical medicines and supplies for healthcare workers
Guns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~Ban and buy back assault weapons ~Require all gun sales to have background checks ~Fund evidence based interventions in homicide heavy cities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~Push to arm teachers in schools (with training) ~Stand by 2nd amendment ~Remove guns from dangerous individuals, not all Americas ~against increasing background checks

Education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~Add more health professionals ~Increase disabled student support ~Provide 2 years of tuition free community college ~Establish universal pre-k
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~Provide school choice ~Teach American exceptionalism ~Push for schools to reopen

Immigration
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~Reinstate DACA ~Help Central America develop security and economic programs ~End family separation ~Create citizenship paths for agricultural workers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~End companies from hiring immigrants for lower pay ~Exclude undocumented immigrants from welfare, health care and free tuition benefits ~Zero tolerance policy

Health Care
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~Provide public health care option ~End surprise billing ~Allow consumers to buy drugs from other countries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~Cut costs of prescription drugs ~Lower health care premiums ~End surprise billing ~Protect Social Security and Medicare



B K P 2020

