MEGAPHONE

Cathedral High School
Volume 100 Issue 3
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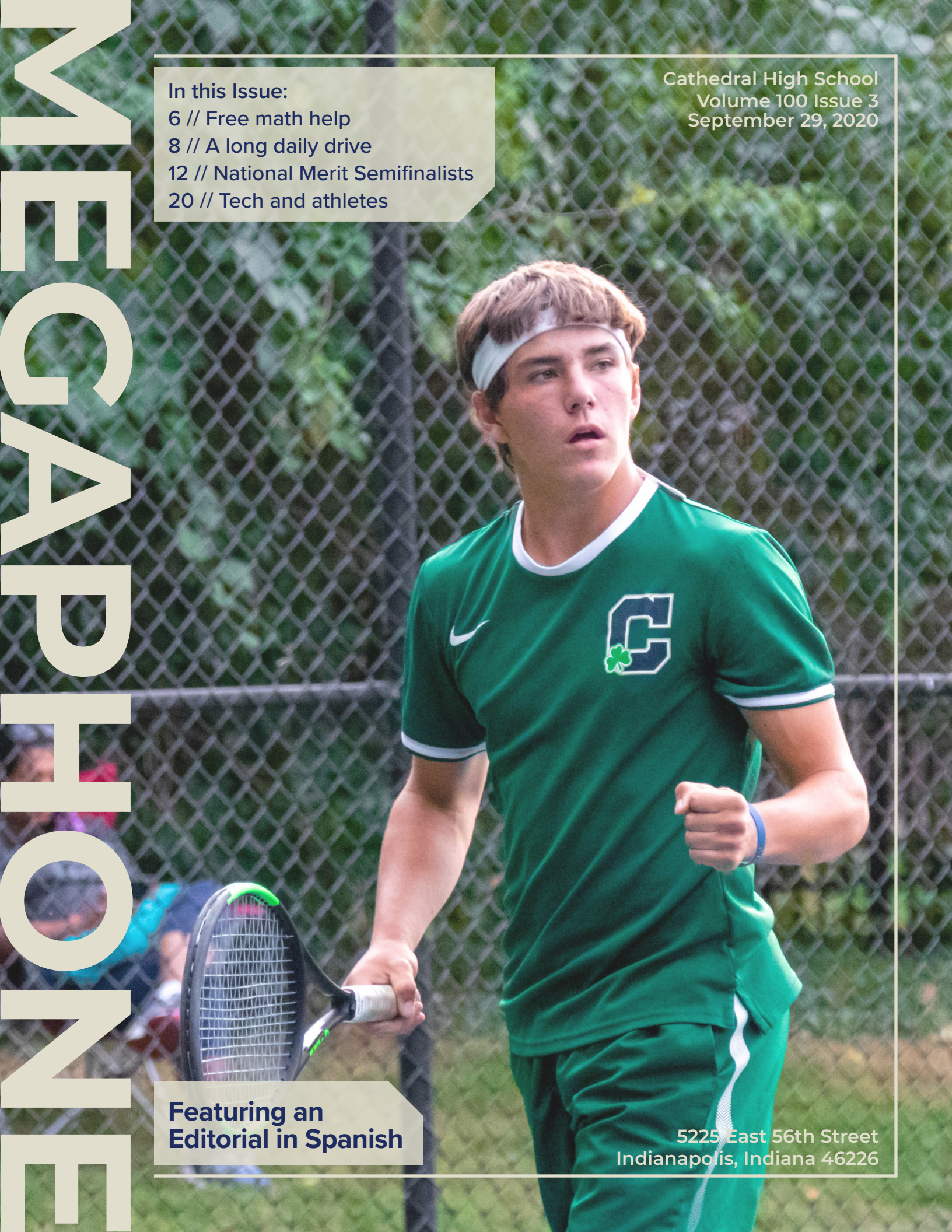

Featuring an Editorial in Spanish

5225 East 56th Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46226

MEGAPHONE

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On the front cover

Senior Andrew Davey celebrates a point during a tennis match against Hamilton Southeastern High School,

Photo by Ethan Marasco.

On the back cover

The undefeated and Class 5A top-ranked Irish varsity football team hosts Cincinnati (Ohio) Elder on Oct. 2 at Arlington. The team defeated another Ohio opponent, LaSalle, 37-28 on Sept. 25. Elder enters the game with three wins on the season and two losses, including a one-point overtime loss to LaSalle.

Photo by Ethan Marasco.

MEGAPHONE STAFF

CO-EDITORS-IN-CHIEF
Ava Amos
Ashlynn Bakemeyer

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Jameson Browne

SPORTS EDITOR
Jake Langdon

GRAPHIC DESIGNER
Ethan Marasco

WEB EDITOR
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Zoey Johnston
Luke Hern
Julia Hurley
Emma Kress
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Madison Spiegel
Avery Stuckey

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Callie Helm
Maggie Johnson
Jessica Quadrini
Avery Rowe
Grace Straley

MODERATOR
Mr. Tony Willis

PRINCIPAL
Mrs. Julie Barthel

PRESIDENT
Dr. Rob Bridges

CONTACT US

TWITTER
@IrishMegaphone
WEBSITE
irishmegaphone.com

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Here to help

National Honor Society moderator notes adjustments to service requirements for its members, reiterates the importance of character and leadership as well.

BY TORY BASILE

Current members of the National Honor Society are wrestling with an entirely novel obstacle: Covid-19 and how guidelines on social distancing and other health concerns will affect their ability to earn required service hours.

The National Honor Society was founded in 1921 to encourage leadership and volunteering in students across the country. This school's chapter typically requires its members to complete acts of service for their school community in order to earn a total of 10 points.

Senior and NHS member Madison Ackley, said, "During a time when events are constantly being canceled, I worry that I will not be able to get enough points. I worry that cancellations will cost me my role in the National Honor Society."

Ackley noted that, given her mother is an essential worker, she is nervous about the risk that NHS events and other necessary service opportunities pose by potentially exposing her family to the virus, despite all their diligence to isolate whenever possible.

Mrs. Lisa Ford, longtime math teacher and NHS moderator, detailed the minor changes expected for NHS this year, and emphasized that seniors should still expect plenty of opportunities to safely meet all of their requirements.

Ultimately, Ford notes that the "biggest change is that we don't do resource tutoring anymore because of the Learning Commons." The Learning Commons is a math-based tutoring program located in Loretto Hall. In years past, NHS students were expected to earn tutoring hours in both semesters, but Ford said that, given the elimination of resource tutoring, that may need to change. Rather than tutoring opportunities every resource period, members are limited to working through the Learning Commons, the Writing Center or being available before school.

Other than potential changes to tutoring requirements, expectations will remain largely the same this year. However, Ford made sure to comment that, in the event that "we would go all virtual, then things might change, because our service is to the school and if school isn't happening then we can't help."

Certain events at which the NHS typically serves, such as the annual Open House, are going virtual as well. It's likely that members will have to adapt to different methods of online volunteering. For example, some NHS members will be creating virtual welcome videos for the upcoming Evening of Excellence celebration Oct. 1.

For Ford, NHS is more than simply another accolade to adorn students' college resumes. If the NHS did not serve the school in the many ways that it does, "some of those things wouldn't get done," she said.

She wants people to focus on the fact that the NHS is first and foremost "a service organization. I think that's what people sometimes forget. Scholarship is part of it, but we're an organization that also features character, leadership and service. Those are the components that make our kids stand out and really make our membership meaningful."

Last year as part of its community service, members of the National Honor Society visited the Irish Blessings daycare rooms in Cunningham. Due to Covid-19 concerns, activities such as this during the current school year will not be possible. **Cathedran file photo.**

Check it out

Sr. Stewart's history classes meet in the library while other teachers are relocated to the WAC and SLC during Covid-19 and construction.

BY AVERY STUCKEY

With Covid-19 and construction on the Hill, several teachers have had to relocate from their original classrooms to nontraditional spaces. Those spaces include the Shiel Student Life Center, the Welch Activity Center and the library, where Sr. Mary Ann Stewart is teaching her classes.

Sr. Stewart said, "All of my classes are in the library this year."

While there are some downsides to her teaching location, Sr. Stewart said, "We have a nice view on the back and we can watch the construction from the front doors of the library."

Although this change seemed significant, Sr. Stewart said she thinks having her classes meet in the library has not affected her students negatively. "I don't think it's a whole lot different, except it is much healthier for them," Sr. Stewart said.

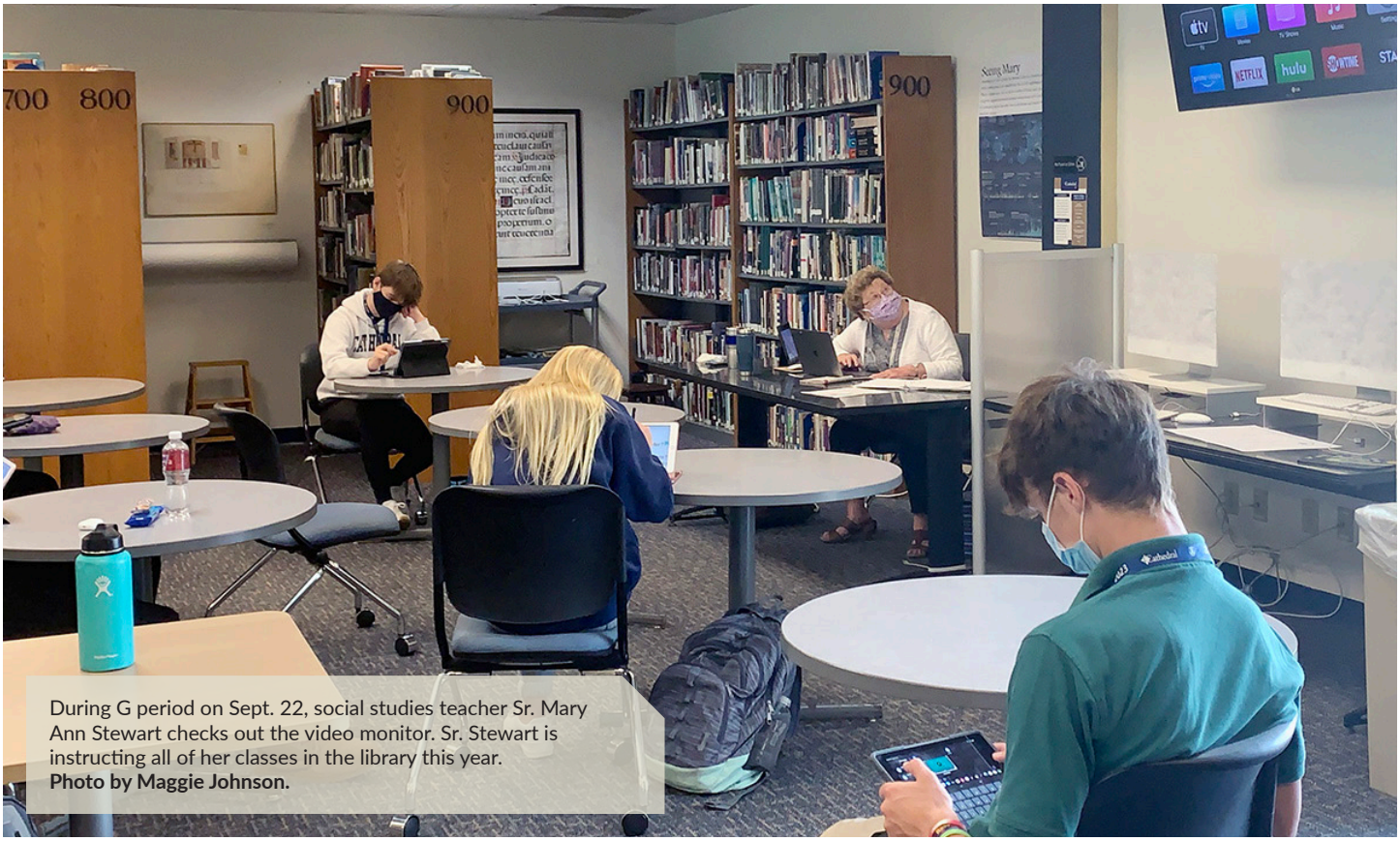
This change hasn't just been a big adjustment for the students but also for her. She continues to look at the space she was given and be thankful for it. "I don't think it's affected me negatively in any way," Sr. Stewart said.

This change has also resulted in positive results in Covid-19 cases among the students. By spreading out students and moving classrooms around, Sr. Stewart said she thinks it has decreased the risk of students getting exposed. "I think it would've been difficult to put all my students in one classroom," said Sr. Stewart.

The library is different from typical classrooms in Kelly and Loretto Hall. The library gave Sr. Stewart more opportunities to branch out on how she teaches, since she was limited on supplies she could bring to her new teaching space. "It's just different. I don't have the same physical resources," Sr. Stewart said.

Although Covid-19 continues to affect every aspect of life on the Hill, it's not the main reason classes have had to relocate. The construction has played a role in the moving of her classroom. "The construction is part of the reason we are in here," Sr. Stewart said. Because of the construction of the Innovation Center, several math classrooms are not available this year, causing teachers to have to move to classrooms other than their own, and this affected instructors and their room assignments.

Sr. Stewart said, "I think it was a good decision to move the students here."



During G period on Sept. 22, social studies teacher Sr. Mary Ann Stewart checks out the video monitor. Sr. Stewart is instructing all of her classes in the library this year.
Photo by Maggie Johnson.

Math help

In a room on the first floor of Loretto Hall, Learning Commons now offers free math tutoring for students by students.

BY WILL MAYER

Free math tutoring is now offered by Crossroads Education in Room 2210, which is now referred to as the Learning Commons.

Mr. Parker Leisure from Crossroads Education serves as the director of the Learning Center. Crossroads Education is a part of several high schools around the Indianapolis area, including Vanguard Collegiate, Ignite Achievement Academy and Paramount School of Excellence. Learning Centers have also been part of both Crispus Attucks and Shortridge high schools.

This year, the administration decided it was time to have Leisure and his team become a part of the school, so the Learning Commons now occupies Room 2210, and the Learning Resource Center, which had been located in that room, was moved upstairs to Room 2314, in what had been a faculty workroom.

The Learning Commons is open from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. during the school day. Anyone can come in as long as they have a pass from a teacher, preferably during their resource period. Students can become a tutor as long as they successfully completed Algebra I. Tutors also earn community service hours for their work.

Leisure and Crossroads Education anticipate hearing from school administrators about the possibility of becoming instructional partners with the school. "Cathedral had always been on our radar. After we left Shortridge in January of this year, we were looking for a new place to stay," Leisure said.

With the impact of Covid-19 it was uncertain that face-to-face tutoring may be the best route when it comes to learning. There were many questions to be answered. Luckily, Leisure had those answers to how the coronavirus would impact the Learning Commons. "We had to make some accommodations. We have been keeping six feet away from each other and trying to only come close when it is needed."

Within the last two weeks, new furniture was set up in the room, providing a space that is less like a traditional classroom and more like one in which tutoring, with the appropriate safeguards and social distancing, can take place.

"We also have a virtual tutoring app called Nexus which we are working on getting up and running and we plan to have tutors available online," Leisure said.

Leisure says he really has no idea why a math tutoring center would be placed in Loretto Hall, a building primarily used for English classes. He said, "I guess it was just one of the bigger rooms that was open and ready for use."

Mr. Parker Leisure

Birthday: June 14
Degrees: IUPUI, BS in motorsports engineering with a minor in mathematics
Why Cathedral: Our company, Crossroads Education, is partnering with Cathedral High School for the Learning Commons
Favorite food: Fried chicken
Favorite movie: "Avengers Endgame"
On your Spotify playlist: Shinedown, Hillsong, Elevation

She's back

Dubbink laments missing the first few days of her senior year once she is released from quarantine after a diagnosis of Covid-19.

BY ELLIE MOORES

Senior Lauren Dubbink was looking forward to starting her senior year after participating in the long held tradition of covering the Hill with toilet paper. But after only one day at school, Dubbink was informed that she had been exposed to Covid-19. This meant that she would have to quarantine for the next two weeks, missing out on her first days as a senior.

It was a regular Friday of babysitting for Dubbink when her mother called to inform her of her exposure to the virus. "I was immediately worried because my dad is in a high risk category and obviously I didn't want to infect the kids I was with," Dubbink said. She also attended TP night along with the rest of the Senior Class, which concerned her.

No one wants to start off their senior year isolated from their friends and teachers, but Dubbink understood that it was a necessary precaution. "I was definitely angry but at least I knew there was a reason. Obviously it was important that I quarantine," she said.

But Dubbink found that she liked virtual learning this year better than she did the previous year. Last year, students and teachers logged onto Zoom from their beds and living rooms. But this year the online students participate in class as they would on any other day, just from a remote location. "It's kind of like you're more in class because there are still people participating more than if you're all on Zoom."

Although virtual learning has improved since last year, Dubbink explained that she still faced some obstacles. Up until recently, the school required online students to use a program called Edustream to attend classes. Many students, including Dubbink, struggled to get the application to work. Frequently, classmates had to FaceTime her so she wouldn't miss out on class. On top of the technology, Dubbink also mentioned that not all teachers knew how to utilize the platforms that allowed her to attend class. Both students and teachers have had to adjust to new apps and software to accommodate online learning.

While Dubbink was grateful that she did not have to be completely absent from class, she said she felt as if she was missing out. Not getting to talk with her classmates and teachers was difficult. Dubbink said that "even on a Zoom, you're not participating and raising your hand."

Not only did Dubbink have to miss out on school, but also social activities. While quarantined, Dubbink couldn't attend cross-country practice or go to the football games with her friends. Human interaction was limited to her family.
After missing out on the beginning of her senior year, Dubbink said she was "so excited to finally get to go back." However, she did not have the chance to become acquainted with the changes to the schedule and other aspects of school life, so returning to school presented some challenges. "I didn't know which way the hallways went and we were like a week and a half into school," she said. Along with the new hallway system, Dubbink also said she was not used to not having flex in the schedule.

But despite having to adjust to the new changes, Dubbink said she has enjoyed being back at school and is excited to catch up with her teachers and classmates.

Senior Lauren Dubbink says she is glad to be back on the Hill after she missed the few first days of school. **Photo submitted.**

A long, strange trip

For one junior, a daily 100-mile round drive is well worth the time in order for him and his sister to be a part of the Irish family on the Hill.

BY NICK BOZZELLI-LEVINE

The morning routine is something so ingrained in most students on the Hill that it often feels like clockwork. Waking up early, getting ready for the day and hopping in the car or bus can become an automatic process that students do without even thinking.

Some may enjoy the reliability of the regimen where others may complain about waking up early and driving to school for what can feel like an entire hour. For junior Octavio (Tavo) Arce, who lives in Columbus, Indiana, it really does take an hour.

Arce travels a total of more than 100 miles round trip to the Hill from his hometown of Columbus. A vital factor in Arce's daily journey is, like for many students, keeping a strict schedule. "I get up every day at 5:23. Sometimes a little before, sometimes a little bit after," Arce said. As it takes him about an hour to commute on an average day, this consistency keeps him on time and prepared for the day ahead.

In the winter, however, he has to get up even earlier.

In the colder months, Arce and his family have to roll out of bed sooner to allow more time for travel. "During the winter I have to get up at 5 or before; otherwise, we'd probably be late," Arce said. "If it's snowing we'd have to clear all the snow off the car and wait for the motor to heat up properly and then we'd still have to go slower because of the ice on the roads."

The drive isn't all bad, though.

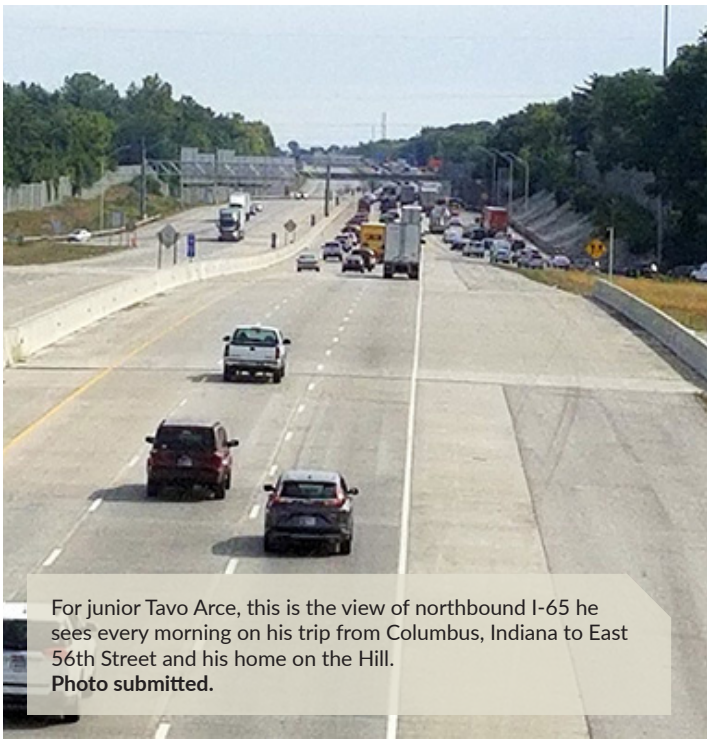
Driven by their dad, Arce and his sister, senior Ana Cristina Arce-Ramirez, use their time productively. Arce said he finds the drive useful for completing homework that doesn't require an internet connection. "It's a good way to finish an assignment or catch up on your sleep," Arce said.

Students don't decide to go to a high school 50 miles away for no reason.

Arce and his family were not originally considering coming to the Hill for high school. "My parents tried to find a good private school for my sister to go to and they found Cathedral," Arce said. "They had my sister shadow to see how it is and she loved it."

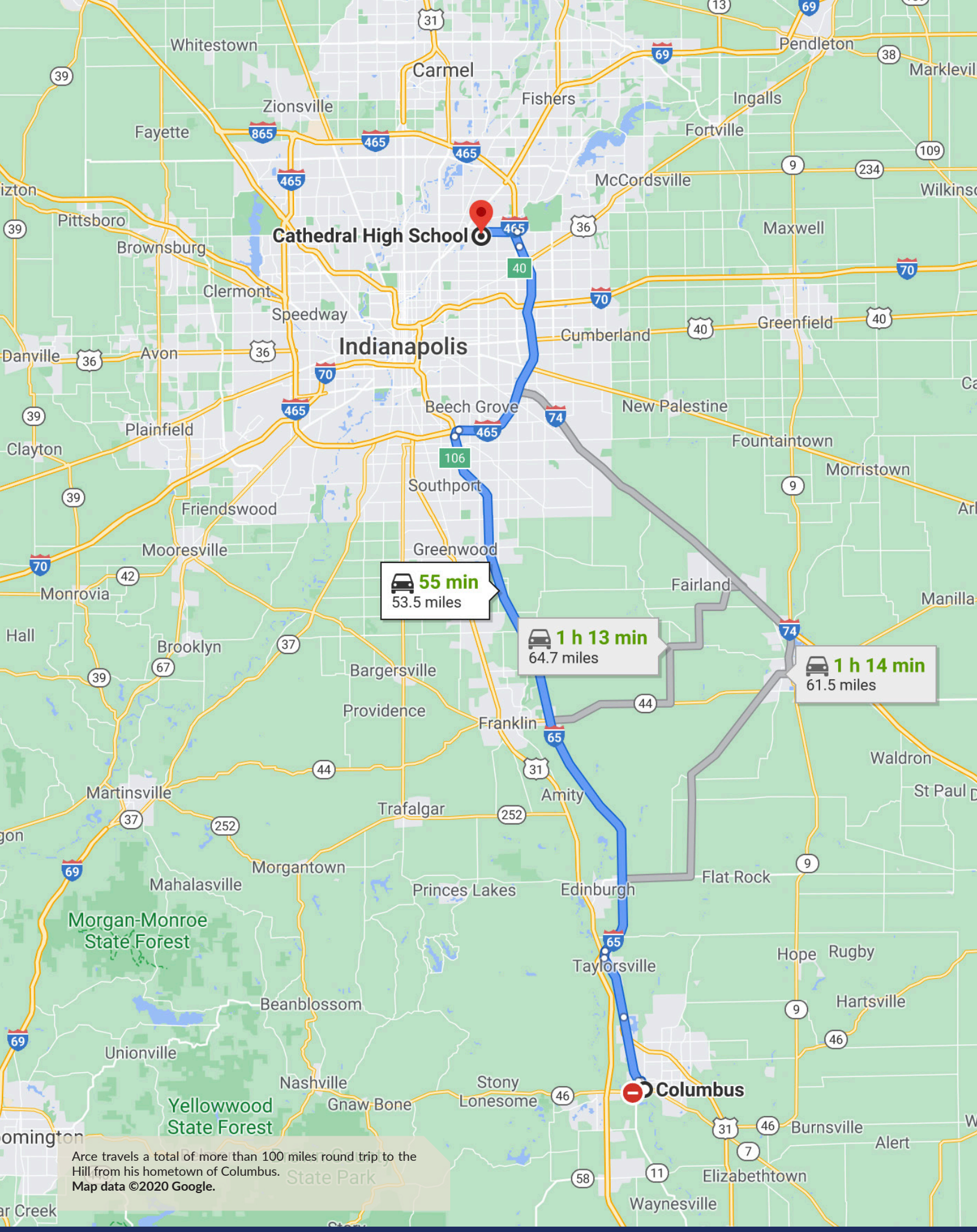
After Arce shadowed himself, the choice seemed pretty clear to him and his family. "When it was my turn to start high school, they already knew how good Cathedral was, so they had me go there," Arce said.

To some, commuting an hour to high school every day might seem a bit absurd, if not just plain crazy. For Arce, it's just another day. In keeping a positive attitude and a productive spirit, Arce manages to do what many would consider impossible. His dedication may make others think again before they complain about their morning routine.



For junior Tavo Arce, this is the view of northbound I-65 he sees every morning on his trip from Columbus, Indiana to East 56th Street and his home on the Hill.
Photo submitted.

While it was safe for him to do so — we hope — Tavo Arce snapped a selfie during one of his recent morning commutes to school.
Photo submitted.



Arce travels a total of more than 100 miles round trip to the Hill from his hometown of Columbus.
Map data ©2020 Google.

Away from the Hill

Veteran English teacher shares her experiences of what it is like to teach from home and to provide her students with quality instruction.

BY CAROLINE SCHILLING

Some teachers did not feel safe coming to school this quarter and decided to teach from home. This arrangement has brought challenges, but also benefits.

English teacher Mrs. Melinda Bundy Hon. '94 chose to stay at home for the first quarter and said she hopes to come back for the second quarter. Her reasoning to stay home is because she is in the high risk group and her room would be too cramped.

Bundy taught for one semester at Crawfordsville High School, then began her Cathedral teaching career during the 1974-75 school year, when the school was located at 14th and Meridian streets, and has been a member of the Irish family ever since. In all those years, when last spring marked the first time she has used technology to teach from home.

She noted that when she first started teaching, showing a movie in class or typing on an electric typewriter might have been considered high tech. Bundy said she feels comfortable teaching from home, because she had time at the end of last year to hone her skills. Additionally, the school's technology staff worked with her to ensure her internet and wi-fi connections would work each school day.

Bundy said, "Although I don't have any extenuating health concerns, it's better for me to stay here at home because my room in Loretto Hall is small and too crowded and there was no way for me to socially distance from my students." She is using what she learned from the spring eLearning to help her now.

English teacher Mrs. Melinda Bundy took a break from teaching at home to take a selfie.
Photo submitted.

She is planning to stay home for one quarter, but will see how Covid-19 concerns have changed closer to the second quarter. "I'm hoping just for the first quarter. A lot of it depends on the statistics in Indiana if everything is starting to go down yet or not," Bundy said.

With this change, she needed an adult to stay in the room to make sure that class was going to plan and to ensure that there were no technology difficulties. "There are two different ladies, (Ms.) Amy Weber '93, and the other lady is (Mrs.) Megan Schmidt. They sit down and come up with a schedule for the week and tell me who is going to be there which day," Bundy said.

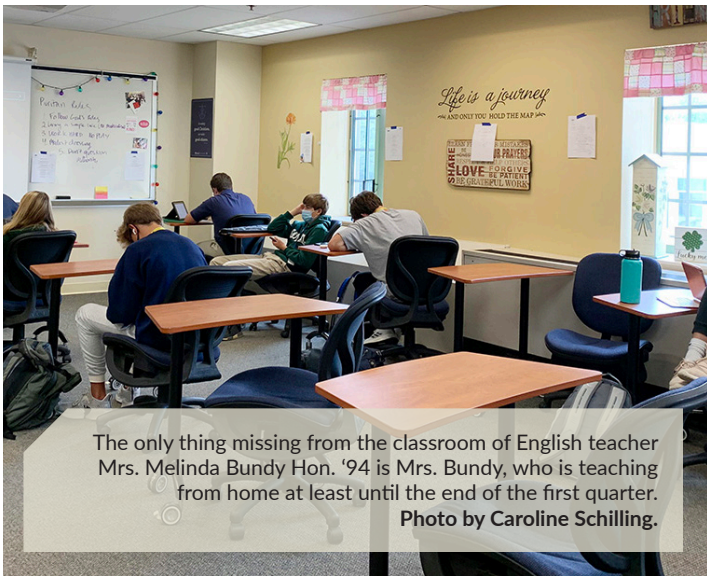
However, not being in class has also brought complications for Bundy, especially because she has not met some of her students prior to this year. Being on Zoom has not allowed her to be able to see every student, but she also has found other ways to get to know them.

Bundy said, "My joy in teaching is to be with my students not to be on a computer with them but to actually be in class with them."

Bundy is a long-time fan of Irish football, and she said she very much misses seeing the Irish play in person, although she has listened to the radio broadcasts.

Math teacher Mr. Rick Shadiow also is teaching his classes from home.

Editor's note: Junior Nick Saba contributed to this story.



The only thing missing from the classroom of English teacher Mrs. Melinda Bundy Hon. '94 is Mrs. Bundy, who is teaching from home at least until the end of the first quarter.
Photo by Caroline Schilling.

Join the club

Student organizations change their approach to gathering for large meetings, offer options during flex periods on Mission Mondays.

BY JULIA HURLEY

Due to the dangers of large gatherings during the pandemic, school clubs have had to cancel many of their in-person meetings and activities. However, there are some new plans to allow student groups to safely regroup.

The school has a variety of clubs students can take part in, notably the Horse Club, International Food Club, Medical Club, ASL Club and EMBRACE Club. According to Director of Student Activities Mr. Anthony Ernst, "These clubs are meant to bring students in ways that serve their emotional, spiritual, physical, intellectual and social needs."

When the Covid-19 pandemic first hit in March, the Coffee House Jam became the first canceled student event. Throughout the spring, there were little to no occasions. Ernst wrote in an email, "It was difficult to lose so much of the school year and also many of our traditional spring events."

As many students come to school for in-person learning, student activities are poised to get back on track. Club moderators are assembling their own plans and protocols to fit their activities and brainstorming safer ways to still partake in old traditions. Ernst said, "Now that the school year has begun, the opportunity to put into action some of the creative ideas for a hybrid model of virtual and safe in-person activities can begin."

The Black Student Union, co-moderated by Mr. Ken Barlow '82, the vice president for community relations and diversity, has made up for lost time in the spring by hosting virtual safe space forums in the summer. "It was a tremendous success," Barlow wrote in an email. These forums were designed as safe places for students to share their experiences and discuss relevant issues, such as the Black Lives Matter movement and how to be respectful during the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Susan Mills, who teaches biology and zoology, moderates the Horse Club. They continue to meet in person with their own precautions in place. All club meetings take place outside and members are expected to stay six feet apart. Horse rides now have a limit of two people at a time.

Girl Up will stay active under the leadership of Mrs. Lizabeth Bradshaw, English teacher and the humanities director. Their first meeting was set for Mission Monday on Sept. 21 during flex. "(We're hoping to) come up with some creative ideas for quick after-school meet ups to exchange support and keep our sisterhood going until we can meet in person," Bradshaw wrote in an email.

For more updates on the status of clubs, group meetings, and events, Ernst advises students to look out for announcements in their weekly email newsletters. Information on all the clubs the school has to offer can be found on the Student Activities page accessed through the school website. Ernst said, "If you are a current member of a club, group or organization be sure to reach out to your moderator and start planning for your group to begin meeting."

Members of the Horse Club, which is sponsored by science teacher Mrs. Susan Mills, are limiting their excursions to no more than two riders in close proximity at any given time. **Photo submitted.**

Meeting the test

As a result of their exemplary scores on the PSAT, three seniors are named National Merit Semifinalists.

Three members of the Class of 2020, PJ Avery, Joseph Egan and Isaac Michael, have been named National Merit Semifinalists. This recognition is based on their scores on the PSAT during their sophomore year.

According to information released by the counselors, there are approximately 16,000 Semifinalists from across the nation in the 66th annual National Merit Scholarship Program.

These three have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,600 National Merit Scholarships worth more than $30 million that will be offered next spring. To be considered for a Merit Scholarship award, Semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the Finalist level of the competition.

Avery, Egan and Michael will be judged on academic record, participation in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, employment and honors and awards received.

The three seniors replied to questions from the Megaphone regarding their prestigious academic achievement.

PJ Avery

Did you prepare for taking the PSAT your junior year?
I took two full PSAT practice tests.

Where do you plan to apply to college?

Stanford, Purdue, Wisconsin, Colorado (Boulder)

What do you plan for your college major?
Engineering

In what clubs or school activities are you involved?
Irish Engineers Club, Brain Game

In what school sports are you involved?
Cross-country and track

Did your performance on the PSAT translate to your performance on the SAT?
I received a 1,560 on my second SAT.

How did Cathedral help you succeed?
Mr. Jim Nohl's honors precal class helped immensely with the math sections of the standardized tests.

What advice would you give to current underclassmen regarding doing well on the PSAT and SAT?
Take advantage of the free studying resources on Khan Academy. A motivated student can use these free resources to do very well.

Joseph Egan

Did you prepare for taking the PSAT your junior year? If so, how?
I used official practice tests to familiarize myself with the test format. Another important preparation I took was making sure to get lots of rest the night before and eating a good breakfast.

Where do you plan to apply to college?
Purdue, Georgia Tech, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

What do you plan for your college major?
Computer science

In what clubs or school activities are you involved?
Brain Game (Academic Quiz Bowl), CHS Live, International Food Club, Dungeons and Dragons Club

In what school sports are you involved?
None, but I ran cross-country freshman and sophomore years.

Did your performance on the PSAT translate to your performance on the SAT?
I have yet to take the SAT.

How did Cathedral help you succeed?
My academic career at Cathedral has included many educators who taught me to think critically and assess ideas and how those ideas are communicated, which are necessary skills for the English language sections of the test. In my experience both years, the English sections were more difficult than the math sections, so the abilities I developed in my humanities classes were immensely important.

What Cathedral teacher was most influential in your academic success? Why?
Mrs. Kathy Keyes, who I had for sophomore English and has since retired, was the most influential teacher I have learned from. She was the first teacher to challenge me out of my comfortable patterns that got good grades in classes, and she inspired me to explore ideas and language in a more creative and complex manner.

What advice would you give to current underclassmen regarding doing well on the PSAT and SAT?
Take advantage of the numerous official practice exams given. Rather than testing for time or completion, for each question thoroughly examine each answer and don't move on without writing down a reason why each answer you didn't choose is incorrect. If you can't differentiate between two answers, or they both sound equally good, you stand too high a chance of getting the question wrong, so move on and then return to the question after finishing the rest of the answers.

Isaac Michael

Did you prepare for taking the PSAT your junior year?
No.

Where do you plan to apply to college?
Notre Dame, Purdue, Franciscan University of Steubenville, and probably some other colleges

What do you plan for your college major?
Undecided

In what clubs or school activities are you involved?
I do Math League and I am on Student Council

In what school sports are you involved?
Tennis

Did your performance on the PSAT translate to your performance on the SAT?
I don't know; I don't have my SAT score yet.

How did Cathedral help you succeed?
Cathedral supported me and encouraged me to do my best.

What Cathedral teacher was most influential in your academic success? Why?
Chemistry teacher Mrs. Vicki Roessler because I've had her for three years and she has taught me a lot.

What advice would you give to current underclassmen regarding doing well on the PSAT and SAT?
Try your best and remember you know more than you think.

An Overview: National Merit® Scholarship Program

What it is:
The National Merit® Scholarship Program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships that began in 1955.

Number of participants:
Approximately 1.5 million high school students enter the program each year.

Three seniors, from left, Joseph Egan, PJ Avery and Isaac Michael, have been named National Merit Semifinalists. **Cathedran file photo.**

Banding together

Pride of Irish continue to practice and play, performing at home football games is not an option due to Covid-19 restrictions.

BY LIAM EIFERT

The coronavirus pandemic has changed how nearly every class operates. Mandatory masks and strict social distanced assigned seating have become the standard schoolwide.

Some classes, however, have been required to go beyond the already somewhat cumbersome precautions. Director of bands Ms. Kathy McCullough has worked to make band a safe environment for its members. McCullough said, "We're lucky to still be able to do it. Several of my other friends who are band directors, their school won't let them do anything."

McCullough said that to be able to continue playing, "we're being careful, and we're playing outside."

The director recounted all the extra safety precautions the band is taking this year and also the progress the band has been able to make in spite of the difficulties.

McCullough said that the first safety measure to be taken was for everyone who could wear a mask to do so. As for herself, McCullough said, "I wear a mask all the time. Other than lunch, you will not see me without a mask."

For most of the band, though, "you can't wear masks and blow into an instrument," she said. Even if Pride of the Irish members can't don masks, McCullough said, "We have (used) some covers, like the trumpet has a bell cover, the saxophone where the hole is they put a cover over that, the tuba has a big (cover)."

Football game performances, once a staple in the band's schedule, will not happen for the foreseeable future. McCullough said, "If we were to go, that would take another hundred tickets away from the lottery," referring to the system in which a limited number of students can gain attendance to football games. Even if tickets weren't an issue, McCullough said, "I worry about the kids, the parents that help and everybody else. When we can do it safely, we will do it."

The inability to be present at a football game still doesn't necessarily mean the band won't have any performances.

McCullough said, "One of our dads came up with a great idea that, in maybe a week or two when we can do the whole show, we can video it and play it at halftme when they stream the football game." A live performance might also be possible on possibly a Sunday afternoon in October.

The band has had events other than football canceled due to coronavirus as well. McCullough said, "ISSMA, the Indiana State School Music Association, usually runs several contests. Well, they canceled all of them."

McCullough said that usually the ability to go to a band show provides what she called a chance for the band to show off its talents and skills. McCullough said, "The travel, the meals together, we miss that." From football games to the trip for Hawaii planned for last May, McCullough said that all these experiences would have been valuable for band members.

The director noted the challenges that practicing and playing during a pandemic have caused.

McCullough said, "If want to look at all my years at Cathedral, yes we're a little behind, but if you look at what we've had to deal with, I think we're doing great." She acknowledged her members for their progress, she said, "These kids are astonishing, and I credit our upper class. They know what needs to be done and they are so positive and helpful and they work with the freshmen or the first-year kids."

McCullough thanked the band for their efforts, saying, "I'm one person. I can't get 101 kids to do everything, but the upper classes and the guard captains and the drum majors, and the section leaders, It's their band and they are working to make it work."

This year's marching band is led by Color Guard captain Kimberleigh Mattingly, drum major Gabe Tice, drum major Chloe Miller and Color Guard captain Madison Ackley. **Photo submitted.**

The Pride of the Irish take advantage of a beautiful late summer day to get in some practice time on the football field, Like every class and group, band members have adjusted their routines due to Covid-19. **Photo submitted.**

Tradition lives on

Homecoming will persevere this fall, with the StuCo hoping to retain its spirit and energy despite the event being remarkably out of the ordinary.

BY ELLIE SCHNUR

Homecoming is destined to look quite different this year, just as many school traditions and events have been altered in the wake of the pandemic.

In observance of health guidelines and restrictions, most classic elements of Homecoming are currently deemed unsafe and therefore cannot occur as they usually would.

However, Mrs. Kim Jamell, Spanish teacher and Student Council co-moderator, along with the entirety of the Student Council, are determined to keep the celebration alive.

Jamell said, "We are doing anything we can to keep any tradition going that is possible and safe." Although there is almost no chance the dance will take place, other staples of traditions including decorating the halls, dressing up on theme days and watching the football game are in the works.

Avoiding dangerous crowding in the hallways, Jamell proposed that four freestanding walls be placed outside for decoration, enabling more social distancing and less contact. Once completed, the walls could be brought inside for showcasing.

Jamell confirmed that designated dress up days can be executed as normal, as that respective tradition is not a threat to students' health.

Mass attendance at the Homecoming football game is prohibited, however, so Jamell and the administration are working to organize a viewing party or something of that nature.

For all that will be lost in light of Covid-19, the goal is sustain the spirit, excitement and enthusiasm of Homecoming. The largest damper on Homecoming traditions is the current mandate to avoid the "mixing of groups and audiences," according to Jamell, but no one has given up hope.

Alterations and adjustments to celebrations will cause Homecoming to look different, but different does not mean worse or less fun. The Student Innovation Team, Student Council and all of administration is committed to keeping as much normalcy as possible. Additionally, Jamell noted, "If somebody out there has a great idea, email me." Those responsible for planning and organizing this year's Homecoming are open to suggestions and eager to pull this off as a united team.

The dance team performs during last year's Homecoming assembly. The Student Council plans to keep as many traditions alive for this year's Homecoming, according to Student Council co-moderator Mrs. Kim Jamell.
Photo by Jonas Hollis.

Get your shot

Nurse says school to offer flu vaccines to students on Oct. 8, with permission from parents to be required.

BY JAKE LANGDON

As the flu season approaches, school nurse Mrs. Marianne Vogt '83 advises all students to receive the flu shot. The school will give the flu shot on campus on Oct. 8 for students who have a signed permission slip.

Vogt believes that though flu shots "are around 50 to 60% effective. If you get (the flu shot) and you still get the flu, it has a huge benefit of you not getting that sick with the flu. You might still get it, but you won't get a severe case."

She also stressed the importance of receiving the vaccine, she said, "Even if you hate shots, or you think it's not a big deal, it's a super big deal and it's a tiny little shot and usually there are no side effects. It can save spaces in the hospital for those who get severe Covid-19 or severe flu."

She mentioned how with the incoming flu season and the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, people have coined the term "twindemic" to describe the shared impact of these viruses.

The flu vaccine is even more critical this year. Vogt said, "You can get strep throat and Covid at the same time and you can get the flu and Covid at the same time."

For those concerned about putting themselves at risk by getting the shot, Vogt said, "We are separating sick people from healthy people. They are using such strict protocol for cleaning between patients. If you didn't want to go into an office, I would get it at one of the stores (such as CVS or Walgreens) or get it here on (Oct. 8)."

2019 Flu Shot Statistics

45% effective overall against 2019-2020 seasonal influenza A and B viruses

Approximately 141,136,200 Americans received the influenza A and B immunization during the 2019-2020 season.

Source: CDC

School nurse Mrs. Marianne Vogt '83 stands outside her office on the first floor of Kelly Hall.
Photo by Gavin Neucks.

MEGAPHONE Sports

Fall sports updates

Editor's note: Because the head coaches of the men's cross-country and women's volleyball teams did not reply to several emails requesting information, coverage of their teams is not included.

Women's Golf

Highlights: The team won its Sectional on Sept. 21 by a commanding 26 shots. Seniors Katie Shin and Caroline Buhner finished first and second respectively in the tournament. The team also finished second in the City tournament and had three players finish as all-City: Buhner, Shin and freshman Tillie Browning.

The team competed in the Regional on Sept. 26 at the Edgewood course in Anderson. The Irish finished 11th out of 18 teams in one of the most competitive sites in the state and therefore did not advance to the State Finals. At the Regional, the team's score of 382 resulted in the Irish coming in ahead of Yorktown, North Central, Delta, Hagerstown, Greenburg, New Palestine and East Central. Noblesville won the Regional with a score of 314, followed by runner-up Hamilton Southeastern with 324. Junior Olivia Schidler led the team with a 90.

Key contributors to team's success: According to Head Coach Mr. Eric Bruns, "Caroline Buhner has been a great leader for us. She was the returning senior with the most experience in matches. She has mentored the younger players and really helped to bring the team together. Katie Shin has brought a fresh attitude to the program and inspired the whole team with her play."

From Coach Bruns: "The team is proud to have won the Sectional and looking forward to competing in the Regional," he wrote in an email three days before the Regional in Anderson.

Women's Cross-Country

Highlights: Head Coach Ms. Allie Griffith reports many individual personal records along with the team's second place finish at the All-Catholic Meet at Guerin Catholic, finishing one point behind Bishop Chatard.

Key upcoming meets: The City meet is scheduled for Oct. 3.

Key contributors to team's success. Griffith wrote in an email, "Ellie Thor is an exceptional runner and senior leader. Grace Bragg is a sophomore who has run some of her best times despite a nagging injury. Junior Reese Sanders has been a great addition and shows leadership by continuing to train despite being quarantined."

From Coach Griffith: "We are excited to show some growth at City this year and have a great opportunity to surprise some folks at Sectional. We would love student support at City."

Football

Highlights: The Irish, ranked Number 1 in the Class 5A poll that was released on Sept. 21, have started off the season with wins over defending Class 6A State champion Carmel, crosstown rival Bishop Chatard and Ohio powerhouse St. Xavier.

Key upcoming games: The team takes on Cincinnati (Ohio) Elder on Oct. 2, Brebeuf Jesuit on Oct. 9 and finishes up the regular season on Oct. 16 at Center Grove. "These games will be great challenges," according to Head Coach Mr. Bill Peebles '88.

Key contributors to the team's success: The coach cited quarterback Nathan McCahill, wide receiver Camden Jordan and running back Jake Langdon, along with the entire line, have led the offense. Safety Jeff Utzinger, defensive lineman David Guhl, defensive lineman Jayden Scruggs, linebacker Huddy Miller and cornerback Zane Hill have been impressive on defense, according to Peebles.

From Coach Peebles: "Hang in there. Hopefully they will allow more people to attend (games) in upcoming weeks."

Women's Soccer

Highlights: Head Coach Mr. Marc Behringer '84 reports that the team is ranked fifth in the most recent Class 2A poll.

Key upcoming games: The Irish were scheduled to play in the City semifinal on Sept. 28, and if successful, would play in the City tournament championship game on Sept. 30 at Bishop Chatard. The team opens Sectional play at Batesville on Oct. 6, with the Sectional semifinals set for Oct. 8 and the finals on Oct. 10.

Key contributors to the team's success: The senior captains lead the team in scoring, Seniors Caroline Cline with four goals and two assists and Bella Dausman with two goals as of Sept. 22. Sophomore goalkeeper Kate Phillips is having another fine season keeping the team in matches with key saves, according to Behringer. He wrote in an email, "This truly is a team effort as all players are focusing on their individual roles for the benefit of the team."

From Coach Behringer: "The 2020 team has all the making of a championship team – integrity, family and excellence. The players have worked with integrity through a brutal regular season schedule. Using the challenges to pull together, the girls' soccer family is focused on winning another City championship and regaining the Sectional crown. As always, student support at the matches will make a huge difference as the Irish spirit provides the lift the players need at critical moments to overcome the opposition. Let's all bring the spirit and continue the tradition of excellence in our post-season competitions."

Men's Tennis

Highlights: For the first time in 10 years, the team defeated North Central, which was ranked in the Top 5 at the time. The team was the runner-up at Fort Wayne Carroll Invite by defeating the 12th-ranked host school.

Key upcoming matches: The team will compete in the Sectional at North Central, with participants including the host team, the Irish, Arsenal Tech and Bishop Chatard, with first round matches scheduled for Oct. 1.

Key contributors to the team's success: Head Coach Mr. Mark Noe said that seniors Levi Wojtalik, Isaac Michael and Andrew Davey have led this squad to a 10-3 record (as of Sept. 22), along with a Top 20 ranking in the state. Senior Alex Pohl and sophomore Sam Black have also stepped up and played some clutch tennis. Seniors Parker Ballew and Eli Carroll were instrumental in the victory over North Central, according to Noe.

Men's Soccer

Highlights: The varsity defeated Brebeuf Jesuit 3-0 on Senior Night, played Number-1 ranked North Central to a 0-0 tie and tied second-ranked Hamilton Southeastern 1-1. The Irish beat Roncalli 2-0 and Carmel 1-0.

Key upcoming games: The City tournament final will be played Sept. 30 at 8 p.m. at Bishop Chatard, assuming the team wins quarterfinal and semifinal games on Sept. 26 and Sept. 28.

Key contributors to the team's success: Head Coach Mr. Joel Russell cited the play of seniors Mick DeWeese, Roman Sally, Jameson Browne and Reid Brenton. "Our senior captains have kept our team motivated and playing with a high level of confidence," Russell wrote in an email.

From Coach Russell: "Come join us as we make our run into the playoffs. The Sectional starts on Oct. 5."

The women's golf team shows off its Sectional championship trophy, which it won on Sept. 21. The team played in the Regional on Anderson on Sept. 26.
Photo submitted.

The future is now

Both athletes and coaches take advantage of high tech to improve their game and practice performance and prepare for their opponents.

BY ANDREW DE LAS ALAS

"The future's not coming. It's already here" says a U.S. Air Force ad. And they're right. Technology, one of the most obvious indications of this future, has steadily inundated our lives. Packages can be delivered in hours, video calls allow for face to face connection across continents and the internet can provide a virtual library of Alexandria in a few short keystrokes.

Given the techie culture of the 21st century, it makes perfect sense that athletics is utilizing technology too.

Hudl is one of the most versatile pieces of software that a team can implement and is commonly used across high school sports, as well as in smaller college programs. The video-based app allows for coaches to upload footage from practices, games, or anything else they may wish for. Head Football Coach Mr. Bill Peebles '88 said, "We've used it for a few years now. It allows us to break down opponents' tendencies by yard line, plays, defense, coverage, blitz. Once we put the information in, we're in good shape and can put a game (plan) together."

Peebles said, "There's a saying: the eye in the sky does not lie." Hudl's real benefit is the ability to analyze player movement and position. The coach of the top-ranked Fighting Irish said, "We can see what our kids are doing when they succeed and what they do when they fail."

The app is integrated into the weekly schedule for the football program. In the beginning of the week, the team will meet to watch film. Through Hudl, coaches can pause and draw on the video to explain mistakes "and show them exactly what to do," said Peebles.

To prepare for Friday night, players and coaches can review the opponent's film via Hudl as well, which is much faster than driving hours away to exchange VHS tapes hand to hand. Peebles attributed some success in a recent game against Carmel, a 44-28 Irish win over the defending Class 6A State champions, to this analysis. "We had their defense broken down, and knew what their post-snaps would be. Our quarterback knew what to read because of that video," he said.

The app can also help athletes who hope to play in college. Peebles emphasized that the software makes sharing video extremely easy. "Every kid has access to it on their phone, computer or iPad," he said. Players are encouraged to make highlights reels, especially since the app can stitch together elements that will specifically catch the eye of collegiate coaches.

Peebles said that players are truly benefiting from this heightened level of analysis, because it "helps people see where they're at" whether on Friday nights or during practices. "Technology has improved tremendously and improved our level too," said Peebles. "We run an offense light years different from when I was here and were still using VHS or CD."

Student athletes can relate to this sentiment, too. Baseball player junior Will Mayer said in three years he's been able to develop as a player by working with data from various technologies. "I go to Grand Park every weekend for baseball and they use Trackman, which is a machine that can out the speed and exit velocity of the pitch," he said.

Mayer also attaches a Blast Motion sensor to his bat to measure bat speed and special baseballs to focus on building velocity. Mayer said, "You get a number for the speed of the ball or how hard you hit. And if that number isn't where it needs to be, you know you need to hit the weight room."

You don't need a ball in your sport to innovate, either.

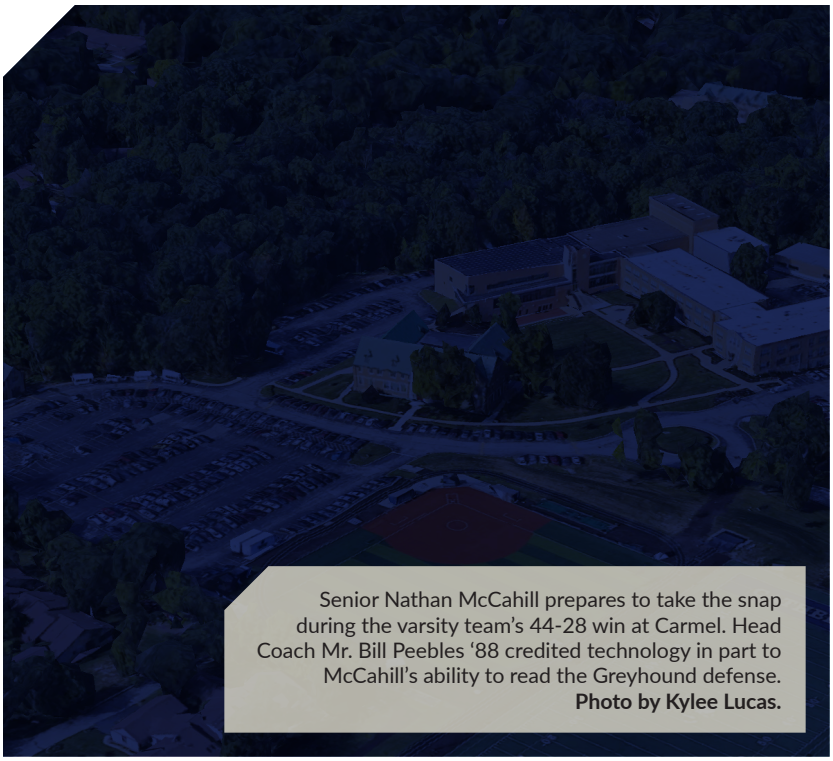
Track and field Head Coach Mr. John O'Hara '02 said that many of his athletes use a side app called Hudl Technique. The app can take video with a very high amount of frames per second and can then be slowed down. Similarly to how football coaches may look at defensive fronts, track coaches are able to concentrate on a sprinter's body mechanics. The app offers a feature that superimposes the angle degree of the knees, back and arms in the image, but then even suggests where they should be. "It gets very technical and mathematical," said O'Hara.

O'Hara said that the app is able to offer insight for runners who are just starting their events. "Hurdlers that are new to the sport really struggle with seeing how they hurdle and understanding their knees, ankles, neck and back. It's a lot of things, but the more experienced ones make it look very smooth," he said.

The sheer amount of technology available to every kind of athletic program can be almost overwhelming. Both coaches expressed a degree of caution when examining their options. Peebles said that the "implementation dip" in instruction and performance comes with any technology, but "it's a part of progress." O'Hara said "It's a tool, not an end all be all."

For O'Hara, one of the most important aspects to keep in mind in a digitizing world is the coach-athlete relationship. "It's still Number 1," he said. All the video and pictures can be extremely helpful, but it's important "not to overstimulate and forget why you got into coaching. Remember to make a better person out of the athlete and the coach," O'Hara said.

Technology, in all its forms, is shaping the world. It's often much more subtle than flying cars and robot butlers. It has already revolutionized so many pieces of our society, including athletics. So really, as Peebles said, "It's not the future. It's now."



Senior Nathan McCahill prepares to take the snap during the varsity team's 44-28 win at Carmel. Head Coach Mr. Bill Peebles '88 credited technology in part to McCahill's ability to read the Greyhound defense. **Photo by Kylee Lucas.**

At the Indiana Baseball Academy in Westfield, junior Will Mayer prepares to hit off a tee. The Hit Trax machine in the background, similar to a golf simulator, will record and break down every element of his swing, helping him to improve his game. **Photo submitted from video screenshot.**

600's a crowd

Athletics department works to ensure limited crowds at football games have a safe experience; Streiff notes guidelines and restrictions are imposed on the school.

BY JAKE LANGDON

As the fall sports season continues and the Irish keep on winning, everything seems almost normal again. That is, until you take a look at the stands at a home football game.

Then the realization really sets in. As Covid-19 limits attendance at all sporting events, the athletics department has had to shift its focus to, as Athletics Director Mr. Rick Streiff put it, "dealing more with restricting crowds rather than drawing crowds."

Streiff has had to adjust on the fly, as restrictions can change at any time. And fewer people in the stands means fewer dollars in ticket sales.

Regulations have limited fan attendance to 225 in the Welch Activity Center out of the 1,000-person capacity. No more than 600 fans can be admitted to Arlington High School for football games. Streiff said, "With football, we have to follow (Indianapolis Public School) guidelines. And IPS set the guidelines to two fans per participant. So when I talked to their district AD, I said we have 158 in our program, so (we have) 300 tickets for home side. We give 200 tickets to our visitors. We should have in the ball park of 500 to 600 people at Arlington."

Streiff mentioned that 6,000 fans attended the home football game against Bishop Chatard last year while only 10 percent of that number attended the St. Xavier game on Sept. 18.

The luxuries Irish sports teams had become accustomed to, such as utilizing athletics department money to buy new uniforms and equipment, have been put on hold. Streiff said, "We are not going to make as much money. The reality is that our goal is each game we play, we have enough money to pay the officials and workers If we can do that and break even; at this point that is about the best that we can do."

Streiff shed some positivity on the situation, saying, "On the flip side, we are still playing sports. And in my mind each week that goes by that we can play and keep good things happening is a plus." He said he hopes that as Covid-19 cases fall and the season continues, the school will be able to host more fans.

He said, "We are keeping our fingers crossed. We are really close to the positivity rates on Marion County to open things up a little bit more. (In Marion County) we are actually under the number statewide."

Streiff urged students, alumni and parents to be understanding as fall athletes continue their seasons. The limited attendance is out of his control, as he said, "The restrictions that are put in place are not done by us, they are done by government officials. We would love to be in a situation where we could open it up, but unfortunately, that's not where we are right now."

They're game for their game

To ensure their safety as well as that of the players, football managers must adjustments to their routines for both practices and games.

By Caroline Schilling

Football coaches, players, trainers and others have been adapting to the changes made to the season.

Senior and football trainer Julia Reasinger has adapted to these changes while still helping the team. "We've done pretty good with keeping all of us together," Reasinger said.

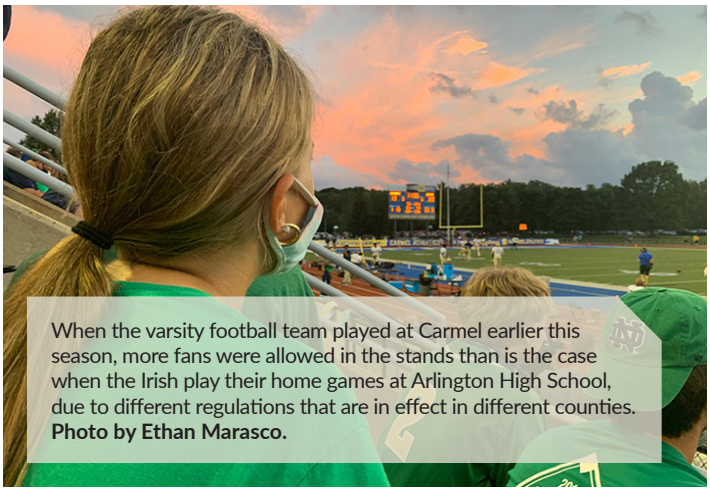
To ensure that everyone stays safe, changes have been made which are impacting the athletes and others, while pushing the players to play their best and stay safe. "I feel like (changes) will be pretty constant and right now we have reached a point of this is what we will do for the rest of the year," Reasinger said.

In the past, trainers would attend each practice, but with current guidelines in place, they are allowed only at one practice a week and they cannot be on the field during those practices.

During travel, bags are used whereas in the past, trainers directly handed their belongings. These bags help to stop the spread of germs. There are also additional transportation options. "We take an extra player bus and an extra shuttle and we use travel bags instead of just giving out their jerseys and pants," Reasinger said.

There appear to be few complaints from athletes because the routine has stayed relatively typical for them, but the administration is dealing with challenges and issues. "It's more on the administrative side and they are feeling the impact of this, not really on the players." Reasinger said, alluding to the process for distributing a small number of tickets to a large and enthusiastic fan base.

In previous games and for future contests, players will adapt to these changes while striving to stay safe and healthy. Reasinger said, "The players all want to play, and the coaches all want to make sure we are still staying in season. They're doing everything they can to keep on playing."



When the varsity football team played at Carmel earlier this season, more fans were allowed in the stands than is the case when the Irish play their home games at Arlington High School, due to different regulations that are in effect in different counties. **Photo by Ethan Marasco.**

MEGAPHONE *Opinion*

Our opinion

While the positives are difficult to see now, there has been some good that has come out of our experience with Covid-19 and all that it has affected.

Since the day quarantine hit back in March, wearing masks, remaining socially distant, washing your hands more often and slathering on hand sanitizer has all seemed more of a big part of life now than a temporary aspect of it. The coronavirus has gotten in the way of the lives of everyone, shutting down events, stranding families apart from each other, and of course, taking lives.

It's hard at times to see any positives coming out of or existing during an experience like such, but there are more than a few things to be thankful for despite the havoc that Covid-19 has wreaked so far.

While our generation will never forget that period in our lives where certainty was uncommon, the adaptations necessary for getting through this pandemic are sure to help in years to come. With increased technologies and plans, schools, both public and private alike, can be better prepared for online learning should the need ever arise again.

Already, schools have drastically improved their online presence, as most public schools in Indiana simply didn't have schooling for the final quarter. The need for at-home quarantining has enabled schools to come up with ways for students to learn no matter where they are, ensuring that those who might not be able to teach themselves well from home can still can learn.

Furthermore, the coronavirus has led to a better environment for our world. People first started noticing last spring how rivers were clearing up and skies were seemingly more blue, and it's true. The reduced amount of human manufacturing, and general interaction has led to an improved environment globally, an encouraging site considering the direction global climates have been headed in over the past decade or so. While this undoubtedly is a good sign of what mankind can accomplish, it will be important to carry on with what Covid-19 has helped show us, which is the importance of continuing to take care of the environment.

The time we have spent at home, while undoubtedly boring at times, has led many to become more creative in their lifestyles. Students are left not being able to see friends and teammates in person, adults have had to get to know coworkers better through Zoom, and so people have been forced to learn how to entertain themselves. Somewhat like a second New Years, setting new goals and striving for them has been the driving factor for getting many through quarantine. Whether it is a new workout plan, eating routine or daily reading, a common routine has been an important part of getting people through the day, as the order of normal life has been disrupted.

In an odd sense, the most positively impactful part of the coronavirus has been how it has affected relationships with each other. One would never think that a mass mandate of social separation and lockdowns would bring people together, but it has. People are communicating more than ever, whether it be via sending letters, texting, using Zoom or through other social sites and networks.

The absence of daily interactions with close friends and family has made people appreciate the presence and role they have played in their lives. Families are spending more time together, and while many aren't getting to enjoy the thrill of the first few weeks of college, others have appreciated the opportunity to get a few more weeks with local family and friends before moving away. The missing hole of the people we love not being around us as often has only increased the gratefulness for such relationships.

And while many might be fine with not walking the halls of their school, the missing presence of the Irish in the hallways, in the classroom and on the sports fields during the spring was hard to bear. Even with many of the students and staff being back, and sports and clubs back in almost full swing, the state of Covid-19, and all its restrictions, has led to a much different year.

Appreciating how coronavirus has impacted one's love for Cathedral and its community might not be something realized yet, but in the time coming when coronavirus no longer has as large an impact, when given the time to look back and reflect, coronavirus gives us the ability to see how great a role Cathedral and good schools play a role in one's life.

The permanent feeling of a socially distant world makes one appreciate the joy of walking through the halls, mask-free, talking and enjoying being around friends, classmates, teachers and coaches. Already, the pandemic has made being back up on the Hill a blessing, and when restrictions and rules that come with it inevitably are no longer necessary, all students will be able to be reunited with their school back to the way it was, pre-coronavirus. Despite the pain the pandemic has brought to everyone's lives, the positives are there, and while we may not see it yet, soon enough we'll be able to appreciate the longing coronavirus gave us for being back up on the Hill, restriction free.

Mass taking place on the football field is just one of the many adjustments that we have made in order for most of us — other than those students who have opted for online instruction — to be back on the Hill where we all belong.
Photo by Nya Huff.

Face off

Long passing periods have been put into place as a safety measure during the pandemic and to allow students more time to walk around construction to their classes.

Flex over long passing periods

BY SALLY BRADSHAW

With the arrival of Covid-19 came many new procedures and protocols, including one-directional hallways, making the commute to class even longer. However, this has gotten rid of flex, a decision I think should be reversed.

Though safety is of the utmost importance in this uncertain time, so are the academic pursuits of students at this school. Flex provided a time for students to meet with teachers, make up tests and get that last minute assignment done before turning it in next period. After all, the reason for returning to in-person classes this fall (for most students) was to retain as much normalcy as possible and continue to educate the hearts and minds of the students.

Another valuable function of flex is for clubs to meet, such as EMBRACE Club, the student unions, Girl Up Club and many others. Being able to socialize with friends and classmates with shared interests is one of the biggest motivators for students, and not having flex has taken that opportunity away. Many clubs and groups have resorted to meeting after school, which may not be an option for student athletes.

Because I am taking two foreign languages this year, along with my first AP class, I was really looking forward to having that extra time to study and get things done, especially because I don't have a resource period. I am also a member of the cross-country team, a commitment that takes up a great portion of my afternoon free time, which means I'm usually working late and waking up early to get assignments done and prepare for tests or quizzes.

Although the one-directional hallways may take students a few extra minutes to get to their next class, most students don't usually take the full amount of time, leaving them idle in their classrooms, waiting for the bell to ring. Instead of having useless spare time at the start of class, students could reach out to their teachers and communicate any issues they may have with getting to class on time, and an arrangement could be worked out between that student and teacher.

All in all, I believe we should bring back flex: a time to work toward your goals, and maybe have a little extra down time.

Long passing periods over flex

BY MADISON SPIEGEL

Starting off the 2020 school year, many changes have been made on campus that have affected our day-to-day schedule. Some may argue that we need a flex to break up the monotony of the day and to engage with our peers that we don't see during the school day. Since we are in the midst of a pandemic and construction, I see no reason we should have this extra time.

The school has been under construction since the end of last year, and this has brought many inconveniences to our schedule as well as the unexpected arrival of Covid-19. Since hallways are one way and there are fewer exits and entrances, which makes it very difficult to get to class, I'm sure it would be impossible to get to your class in the original five minutes.

There have also been many studies that show several small breaks throughout the day can be much more effective than one large break. They are proven to reduce stress and increase your productivity. An example of this is an excerpt from Forbes magazine, which included content that suggested doing less to accomplish more: "Humans naturally move from full focus and energy to physiological fatigue every 90 minutes." This is another reason why having several 10 minute passing periods is better than one longer break.

Though it may be more difficult now to meet with teachers and mingle with friends, I think that this extended time between classes is a great addition to our schedule and should remain, even next year if we go back to having flex.

MEGAPHONE *Español*

Nuestra opinion

Aunque los aspectos positivos son difíciles de ver ahora, ha habido algunos aspectos positivos de nuestra experiencia con Covid-19 y todo lo que ha afectado.

Desde el día en que comenzó la cuarentena en marzo, llevar máscaras, permanecer socialmente distante, lavarse las manos con frecuencia y usar mucho desinfectante de manos se ha convertido en una parte importante de la vida ahora. El coronavirus ha interrumpido la vida de todos al cerrar eventos, evitar que las familias pasen tiempo juntas y, por supuesto, quitar vidas.

A veces es difícil ver algo positivo durante una experiencia como esa, pero hay muchas cosas por las que estar agradecido a pesar de la locura de Covid-19.

Aunque nuestra generación nunca olvidará el período de nuestras vidas en el que la certeza era poco común, las adaptaciones necesarias para superar esta pandemia seguramente ayudarán en el futuro. Con el aumento de tecnologías y planes, las escuelas, tanto públicas como privadas, pueden estar mejor preparadas para enseñar clases en línea si necesitan hacerlo de nuevo.

Las escuelas ya han mejorado drásticamente su presencia en línea, ya que la mayoría de las escuelas públicas de Indiana simplemente no tuvieron educación durante el cuarto trimestre del año pasado. La necesidad de la cuarentena en el hogar ha permitido a las escuelas encontrar formas para que los estudiantes aprendan sin importar dónde se encuentren, asegurando que aquellos que no entiendan todo bien desde casa puedan aprender todo lo que necesitan aprender.

Además, el coronavirus ha creado un mejor medio ambiente para nuestro mundo. La gente comenzó a notar la primavera pasada cómo los ríos se aclaraban y los cielos parecían más azules, y es cierto. La cantidad reducida de fabricación humana y la interacción general ha traído consigo un medio ambiente mejorado en el mundo, algo alentador considerando la dirección en la que se han movido los climas globales durante la última década. Aunque esto es una buena señal de lo que podemos lograr, será importante continuar con lo que Covid-19 nos ha ayudado a mostrar, que es la importancia de cuidar el medio ambiente.

El tiempo que hemos pasado en casa, aunque sin duda a veces aburrido, ha hecho que muchos sean más creativos en sus estilos de vida. Los estudiantes no pueden pasar tiempo con amigos y compañeros de equipo en persona y los adultos han tenido que conocer compañeros de trabajo por Zoom, y a causa de esto, la gente se ha visto obligada a aprender a entretenerse. Algo así como un segundo Año Nuevo, establecer nuevas metas y trabajar mucho por ellas ha sido el factor determinante para que muchos pasen la cuarentena. Ya sea que se trate de un nuevo plan de ejercicios, una rutina de alimentación o una lectura diaria, una rutina común ha sido una parte importante para ayudar a las personas a pasar el día, ya que el orden de la vida normal se ha visto alterado.

En un sentido extraño, la parte más impactante del coronavirus ha sido cómo ha afectado las relaciones entre ellos. Nadie pensaría jamás que un mandato masivo de separación social y encierros uniría a la gente, pero lo ha hecho. La gente se está comunicando más que nunca, ya sea enviando cartas, enviando mensajes de texto o usando Zoom y otras redes sociales.

La ausencia de interacciones diarias con amigos cercanos y familiares ha hecho que las personas aprecien la presencia y el papel que han desempeñado en sus vidas. Las familias pasan más tiempo juntas y, aunque muchas no disfrutan de la emoción de las primeras semanas de la universidad, otras han apreciado la oportunidad de pasar unas semanas más con su familia y amigos antes de mudarse. El hecho de que las personas que amamos no puedan estar con nosotros con tanta frecuencia ha aumentado el agradecimiento por esas relaciones.

Y aunque muchos podrían estar bien con no caminar por los pasillos de su escuela, la presencia ausente de los irlandeses en los pasillos, en las clases y en los campos deportivos durante la primavera fue difícil de soportar. Incluso con muchos de los estudiantes y el personal de regreso y los deportes y clubes casi volviendo a la normalidad, con Covid-19 y todas sus restricciones, ha llevado a un año muy diferente.

Apreciar cómo el coronavirus ha impactado el amor por Cathedral y su comunidad podría no ser algo que se haya realizado todavía, pero cuando el coronavirus ya no tiene un impacto tan grande y se nos da tiempo para reflexionar, el coronavirus nos da la capacidad de ver qué tan buena es Cathedral y cómo las buenas escuelas desempeñan un papel importante en la vida.

El sentimiento permanente de un mundo socialmente distante hace que uno valore la alegría de caminar por los pasillos, sin máscaras, hablando y disfrutando de estar con amigos, compañeros, profesores y entrenadores. La pandemia ya ha hecho que estar en la escuela sea una bendición, y cuando las restricciones y reglas que la acompañan inevitablemente ya no sean necesarias, todos los estudiantes podrán regresar a la escuela de la forma en que era antes del coronavirus. A pesar del dolor que la pandemia ha traído a la vida de todos, los aspectos positivos están ahí, y aunque es posible que no lo veamos todavía, pronto podremos apreciar el anhelo que nos dio el coronavirus por volver al "Hill", sin restricción.

La misa en el campo de fútbol es uno de los muchos ajustes que hemos hecho para que muchos regresen al Cerro.
Foto por Nya Huff.

CONTACT US

@IrishMegaphone

irishmegaphone.com