MEGAPHONE

Cathedral High School
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Featuring opinions in Spanish

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Indianapolis, Indiana 46226

MEGAPHONE

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On the front cover

Seniors Mae Whitlock and Jayden Scruggs were crowned homecoming queen and king at the football game against Brebeuf.

Photo by Ethan Marasco.

On the back cover

Work continues on the new Innovation Center in the space that used to be the courtyard. Chief Operating Officer Mr. Rolly Landeros says the structure should be under roof by Thanksgiving.

Photo by Maggie Johnson.

MEGAPHONE STAFF

CO-EDITORS-IN-CHIEF
Ava Amos
Ashlynn Bakemeyer

NEWS EDITOR
Jameson Browne

SPORTS EDITOR
Jake Langdon

GRAPHIC DESIGNER
Ethan Marasco

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MODERATOR
Mr. Tony Willis

PRINCIPAL
Mrs. Julie Barthel

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CONTACT US

TWITTER
@IrishMegaphone
WEBSITE
irishmegaphone.com

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Here to help

Changes in annual raffle also result in adjustments for students to meet their service requirement for the annual raffle free day.

BY TORY BASILE

Philanthropy has been an enduring mission at this school for many years, with one of the most impactful endeavors being the Luck of the Leprechaun student raffle.

In years past, students sold raffle tickets in the hopes of raising at least $250 toward tuition assistance for students who needed it, and then were rewarded with dress down days and an extra day of fall break.

Those students who were unable to earn their money had to attend school on the raffle free day for a service project, with the intention that these students would fulfill their philanthropic requirements in this way.

This year, the Luck of the Leprechaun fundraiser operated differently for the sake of Covid safety. The philanthropic efforts that would have taken place in person or on paper with raffle tickets were restricted to a digital platform, in which students could share a link to their fundraising site with those who might donate.

Because of these Covid safety measures, the service day for individuals who do not raise all of their money was destined to change as well.

Mrs. Jean E. Smith '97, director of philanthropic engagement, outlined how the program is working toward limiting in-person contact for safety purposes. Rather than having students volunteer at elementary schools or listen to guest speakers as they have in years past, Smith said students this year will "be working on a project where they're sending handwritten letters to members of our various service branches."

The project is connected to the Bert Show, a radio show with which Mr. Howard Fogel is associated. According to Smith, the show hosts a program called "The Big Thank You" in which thank you letters are collected to give to service members during the holiday season. Students who do not meet their fundraising requirements had until Oct. 16 to submit 25 handwritten letters to earn their philanthropic credit as well as their day off.

While Smith realizes that many perceive the service requirement negatively, she emphasized that it is "absolutely not" meant to punish those students who do not meet their goal. She instead sees the day off as an incentive to reward those students who do hit the $250 benchmark.

Smith said, "About 80% of our student body is able to meet their requirement through the fundraising goal, and then another 20% fulfills their requirement through (service)." Smith reflected further, saying, "We understand that everyone can't fulfill their philanthropy requirement (financially, because) everyone has different access to people and that sort of thing.

"We do hope that everyone at least tries, because that's a pivotal part of our fundraising in terms of tuition assistance. It's not a punishment if you can't hit that, we just (require) an alternate form of philanthropy."

Ultimately, Smith's outlook on the raffle free day is a positive one. She noted that the student body should realize the importance of helping their fellow students and their shared responsibility for one another.

She said, "We really want to think holistically in terms of giving your time, treasure and talent as ways to be philanthropic. We want you all to be citizens of the world in that way, and be able to give in whatever capacity that you can."

Students were given access to a video in September that provided them with the steps to achieve success in the annual fundraiser to support tuition assistance.
Photo from screenshot.

Helping out

Despite the lack of flex, there are still many opportunities to receive academic assistance both on Mission Monday and on regular school days.

BY ELLA BUNDY

Covid-19 has brought many changes to learning this year, such as the loss of flex, longer periods between classes and a change in the ways a student can stay before and after school. This leaves students with an unusual schedule that makes finding time for extra help harder.

But the opportunities to receive academic assistance still are available.

Mr. Mark Matthews, vice principal for academics, said, "Covid has changed how students can get extra help. It's not necessarily any better or any worse. It does require a bit more planning and self advocacy for students. Schoology and Zoom are simply tools to help facilitate the process of learning. Students need to know what works best for them and then find ways to make those strategies happen in their own lives."

Students can get extra help with their teachers by setting up an individual time before and after school to meet, asking questions of teachers through Zoom or using the flex/lunch ("flunch") that takes place every Mission Monday.

There are other places to go, however.

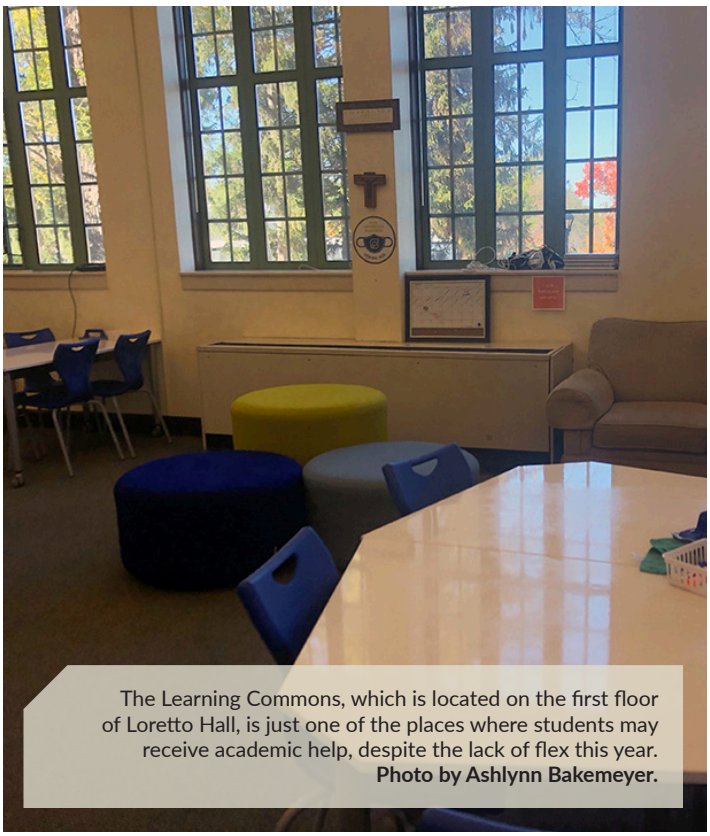
Matthews said, "Student tutors are available every period of the day in the Learning Commons for math help. We have access to an online tutoring app called Nexus that can be used either on campus or at home for help in math. We also have (English teacher) Dr. (Stephanie) Kucsera who directs the Writing Center, and student tutors are available for writing help there on a regular basis. No sign ups are required for the Learning Commons, but students do need to make an appointment for the Writing Center."

The Learning Commons is run by Mr. Parker Leisure, who works with an outside organization called Crossroad Connections. Director of learning resources Mrs. Sheila Roberts said, "The idea is to get students the opportunity to work with other students as mentors. Parker Leisure trained these students to be able to be tutors for all levels of math. The learning resource center is right next to Mrs. (Melinda) Bundy's room in Loretto."

The Learning Commons, which is also in Loretto but is downstairs from the LRC, is a place where students can receive help with math, writing, time management skills and organization skills. Math teachers are in the Learning Commons during C, D and F periods to help students. There are also online resources for students who cannot be at school in person or who don't have the time to go to the Learning Commons.

Math teacher Mrs. Lisa Ford said, "Khan Academy is a very well known website. He's very easy to understand and has short videos about all kinds of math topics. It's not just the lower math, he actually goes higher to calculus. There is also the Rose Hulman's Homework Hotline, where you can call in and ask for help with any sort of math homework. The information for this is located in the guidance office. They're open from Sunday night to Thursday night, and are staffed by kids who are willing to help." Matthews said, "Ideally, students who need extra help from teachers should contact those teachers directly to set up the best time to get together. If a student's resource period matches up with a teacher's planning period, that is a possible time when teachers may offer extra help. If not, teachers and students can almost always find an agreed-upon time to get together. I still encourage students to utilize the Learning Commons and Writing Center during their resources."

However, Matthews said he believes that every student has a different way of learning, so some of these ways to get extra help might not work for everyone. "Every student is different. Students should advocate for themselves and find ways that work best for them. For some, Khan Academy is perfect. For others, it needs to be an extra session with a teacher. Still others reach out to friends in their classes to seek clarification," he said. Despite the difficulties of Covid-19, the Hill still has plenty of resources available to help students outside of class.



The Learning Commons, which is located on the first floor of Loretto Hall, is just one of the places where students may receive academic help, despite the lack of flex this year. **Photo by Ashlynn Bakemeyer.**

Wish you were here

With fewer colleges offering on-campus tours, students explore other ways to get to know what may or may not be their future four-year home.

BY ZOEY JOHNSTON

Every year, high school upperclassmen go to college campuses to tour and find the perfect fit. However, this year, students and colleges have to change the way they approach college tours due to the pandemic.

Instead of having all tours strictly on campus, most colleges are hosting tours digitally. Many campuses are also offering tours in person, but there are lots of rules people have to follow to ensure no one gets sick.

Counselor Ms. Kathy Pivonka recommends doing an in-person tour as opposed to online if possible. She said, “Obviously, in person is always best, because you can interact with the current students and see things in real time and talk with professors and admission staff."

There are a few benefits to doing tours online. Instead of spending money traveling to see campuses across the country, students can tour any college from the comfort of their homes. Also, digital tours are more accessible to students of all ages and for those who feel pressure walking around campus.

During a digital tour, depending on the school, students will experience things differently than traditional tours. Some schools are hosting Zoom meetings where seniors can talk to admissions representatives about the school or go on tours in real time.

Other schools aren’t hosting tours in-person, so they record them beforehand. You can usually find those on the school’s website, so if students can’t make the dates, this is a good alternative. Pivonka said the counseling department has posted some of their meetings on the school website under the trending topics page.

Some juniors and seniors have said they find digital tours to be an ineffective use of their time, so a lot of them haven’t gone on any. One senior, Caroline Ward, said, “I didn’t go on any college tours because the online ones aren’t really that helpful.”

Seniors Roman Sally and Anne King had similar responses. They added that they are waiting for the pandemic to clear before they attend any tours in person.

Once the pandemic settles down, Pivonka says, “Colleges will continue to reach out in multiple ways.” They’ll be able to interact with more students all over the country using different platforms.

This year, students have far more options when it comes to touring. Colleges are hosting tours often, so there’s a small chance they’d miss the dates. However, if students can’t make the date, they are advised to sign up anyway, and the colleges will most likely send a recording of what happened.

As opposed to a college senior leading a group around campus, a screenshot shows what a more typical college tour will look like this year. **Photo submitted.**

Not so driven

While many students rush to get their driver's license as soon as they are eligible, others decide that doing so is not a huge priority.

BY EMMA KRESS

At age 16 and 90 days and after a driver education program, students are allowed to take a test to get their license. Many students can't wait to get their license. But for others, not so much.

Senior Caoimhe Knutson is one senior who has not gotten her license. She wrote in an email, "The primary reason I don't have my license is actually just because I am somewhat unmotivated, and just simply haven't gotten around to it. I do plan on getting it at some point, though, hopefully sooner rather than later. I know I will love having it once I get it."

Senior Emily Nevins is another student who is eligible for a license, but has not gotten it yet. Nevins said, "I enrolled in online driver ed as soon as I could and I got my permit the day after my 16th birthday. I tend to be constantly running late to everything, so it was difficult to find times where I was able to drive instead of having my mother drive me.

"I've had my 50 hours completed since August, but either because it didn't seem like the most important thing on my to do list or because there weren't any slots available, I never got an actual driver's license test scheduled until recently. I'm scheduled to take my driver's test on Halloween morning."

Nevins said that she wants to have hers badly, and as soon as possible. "I'm not worried about passing; I just can't wait until the day finally comes," she said.

Senior Brooklynn Thorpe also does not have her license, but for her it is because of an issue with documentation. "My last name is different from the one on my social security card and I have to update my card before I can get it."

According to the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles website, people getting a driver's license require "one document proving your identity, one document proving your lawful status in the United States, one document proving your Social Security number and two documents proving your Indiana residency."

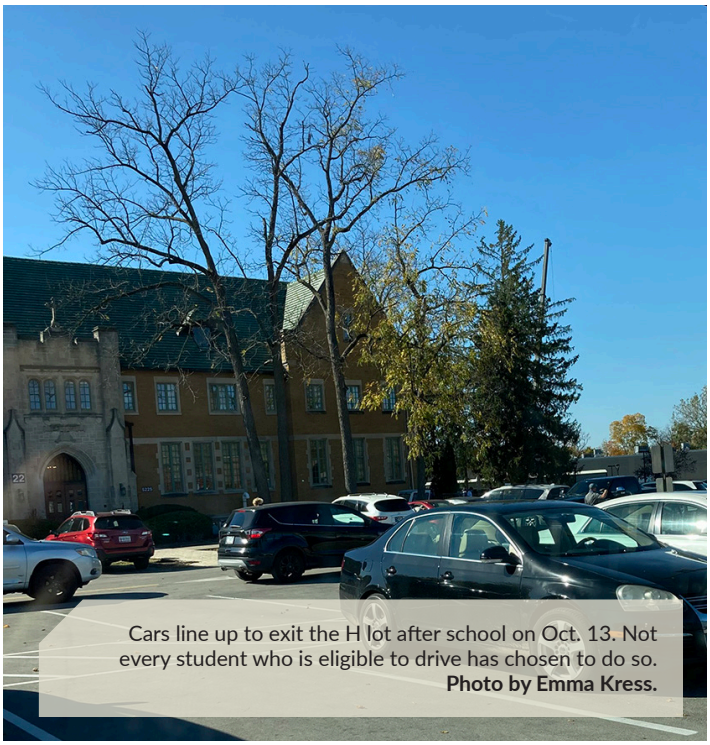
Because Thorpe needs to update her social security card, she is unable to get her license until she does so. She said, "I'm in the process of doing that now so that I can get my license by next spring."

Mr. Greg Bamrick, director of transportation and coordinator of driver education, helps offer driver education to students. He said, "By far the majority (of students) are freshmen going into their sophomore year or some sophomores going into their junior year. We've had some kids that were seniors that never got their license but wanted to get it before they went to college."

Bamrick said that many students are less motivated to get their license as soon as they can, especially when they can find rides so easily from family members and friends. He said, "I can reflect back to my son, Michael (Bamrick), who graduated from Cathedral three years ago. He had no desire to want to get his license. I almost had to force him to get his driver's license. He ended up getting it mid-junior year, even though he was eligible since the middle of his freshman year."

Many students who are not able to find rides to hang out with friends are still able to do so without their license. Bamrick said, "I think a reason (that students do not get their license) is that kids are so much into staying in touch through social media that they can stay at home and are able to still contact their friends. You don't have to actually drive anywhere and hang out."

However, Bamrick recommends that students get their permit and license as soon as they are eligible. He said, "I feel that as soon as you're 15 you should get your learner's permit and then go through a certified driver ed program to get the training. Then get your license at 16 and 90 days. That way you get a good two years of driving experience before you're on to a college campus and away from your parents. So I think it's beneficial to get it as soon as you can."



Cars line up to exit the H lot after school on Oct. 13. Not every student who is eligible to drive has chosen to do so. **Photo by Emma Kress.**

Homebodies

Second quarter begins with dozens of students still opting to stay off campus and to take advantage of online instruction.

BY CAROLINE SCHILLING

Students were given the option at the beginning of the quarter to stay home to attend classes online. For the second quarter, new additions have been made, but students are still able to learn virtually.

School administrators discussed rules for these students staying at home to ensure that they were not abusing the option. If they chose to stay home from the beginning, they were required to stay home full time and were unable to return before the first day of the second quarter.

"If your choice is to return to in-person, on-campus learning, your student is welcome to return to campus on Oct. 9. Your student will be required and expected to be in class on campus on Tuesday, Oct. 13, until the end of the semester," Principal Mrs. Julie Barthel wrote in an email to students, staff and parents on Oct 6. A survey was sent to those who chose to stay home for the second quarter.

"The best part is that I can do everything from one place. The worst part is dealing with Zoom when it freezes," said sophomore Julia Thompson. Some challenges have been presented during these times, but several online students said they have found ways around them. She stayed home for the first quarter due to safety reasons and has chosen to remain at home during the second quarter for similar causes.

Counselor Ms. Jenny Myers said, "We reach out to our students who are online. I do a regular Google form check-in just to see where things are going well and where they could use some extra help." Counselors' roles have changed during this time, as they are reaching out to online students to make sure their experiences are going smoothly and they are staying on top of their work.

"As counselors, it's probably more challenging for us because we love to see our kids in person and it's a little bit easier to see you in the building," Myers said. "Finding that time has been a little bit of an extra step."

Students who chose to stay home for both quarters remain able to attend school functions and even certain classes, such as zero period weight lifting. "I still do (marching) band in person, so I can hang out with friends then," Thompson said.

Myers said, "The main thing we want all students to know, virtual students especially, (is) that your counselors are here to help you reach out to us at any time. Email us whether you are at home or in the building."

Counselor Ms. Jenny Myers said the number of students who have opted to stay home for instruction has created a shift in the roles counselors play to make sure that all their students are successful. **Photo submitted.**

Opposites attract

Ceramics and engineering students are set to collaborate on a project to combine their artistic and math skills.

BY ELLIE SCHNUR

There are a select number of elective classes offered that enable students to advance through multiple levels and acquire high levels of expertise. Two of these courses are ceramics and engineering. Comparing their respective curriculums and content, ceramics and engineering initially appear to have little common ground.

However, an upcoming collaboration between the two classes expected to successfully combine the work done in each into one cohesive and unusual project.

The idea to partner AP 3D Studio Art and Design students with honors independent study engineering students was proposed during a meeting that included Mr. Daniel Saunders, Mrs. Sara Greene and Ms. Ria Pereira. The central concept was that the collaboration would provide for the unification of "artist and engineer," according to Greene, who teaches the ceramics classes.

To do so, a trifold plan was established. First, the ceramics student would create the idea of a piece, which would then be given to the engineer to be 3D modeled, eventually to be developed into a plaster mold to cast the piece several times. This regime would then provide the ceramics student to recreate identical pieces over and over, eliminating the risk of error.

Josh Ramsey is a senior taking honors independent study engineering this year. He has taken engineering courses since his sophomore year. "My role in the collaboration is to 3D model each piece with computer-aided design software so that the ceramics students can create a three-piece mold. After I have designed the pieces, I will 3D print them on my Prusa i3 MK2 3D printer with polylactic acid."

This may sound complicated to an outsider, but Ramsey is no stranger to this type of work. He said, "William Teasley and I collaborated on 3D printing and donating face shields to front line workers having to treat Covid-19 patients."

This upcoming collaboration will further add to his experience and prepare him for the product design career that he intends to pursue in the future. Ramsey said, "After this collaboration, I will know what it is like to consult with other specialists to find a common solution and create the customer's ideas."

Ellie Sagebiel is another senior who's currently taking AP 3D Studio Art and Design. Her role, along with the other AP ceramics students, is to send in a drawing of a desired piece to Ramsey for him to code into the computer and print. Greene notes that "the benefit to the ceramics student is learning the new technique and adding it to their range of possibilities of ceramic work."

For Sagebiel specifically, this addition to her collection of skills will be especially important. She plans to attend Northern Arizona University, with a double major in environmental science and studio art with a concentration on ceramics. This collaboration will extend her knowledge and further prepare her for a successful collegiate future.

The collaboration has been finalized and will take place throughout the second quarter. Greene said, "I am very excited about getting it started. I feel like the first quarter flew by, but now it's time to get it rolling."

Projects such as these finished by students enrolled in Mrs. Sara Greene's ceramics classes now will become work done by engineering students as part of a collaborative effort. **Photo by Ellie Schnur.**

Video view

Rookie Showcase will be livestreamed on Nov. 6 as directors and actors make adjustments and show off their talents.

BY AVA AMOS

Along with the many changes being made on the Hill to accommodate for Covid-19 guidelines, the Rookie Showcase is no exception.

The annual Rookie Showcase provides an opportunity for anyone who is new to the theater program or performing to test the waters in a short scene. It's a collection of 10-minute plays or scenes from larger plays that are directed by older student thespians and feature the work of the newcomers to the stage, according to theater director Ms. Maria Souza.

Souza wrote in an email, "There are three different scripts or scenes this year. 'Roots,' 'Lies,' and 'Contact.' 'Roots' is being directed by (seniors) Caroline Ward and Brooklynn Thorpe, 'Lies' is being directed by (junior) Sir Jonathan Thompson, and 'Contact' is being directed by (seniors) Claudia Lowe and Thomas Kress."

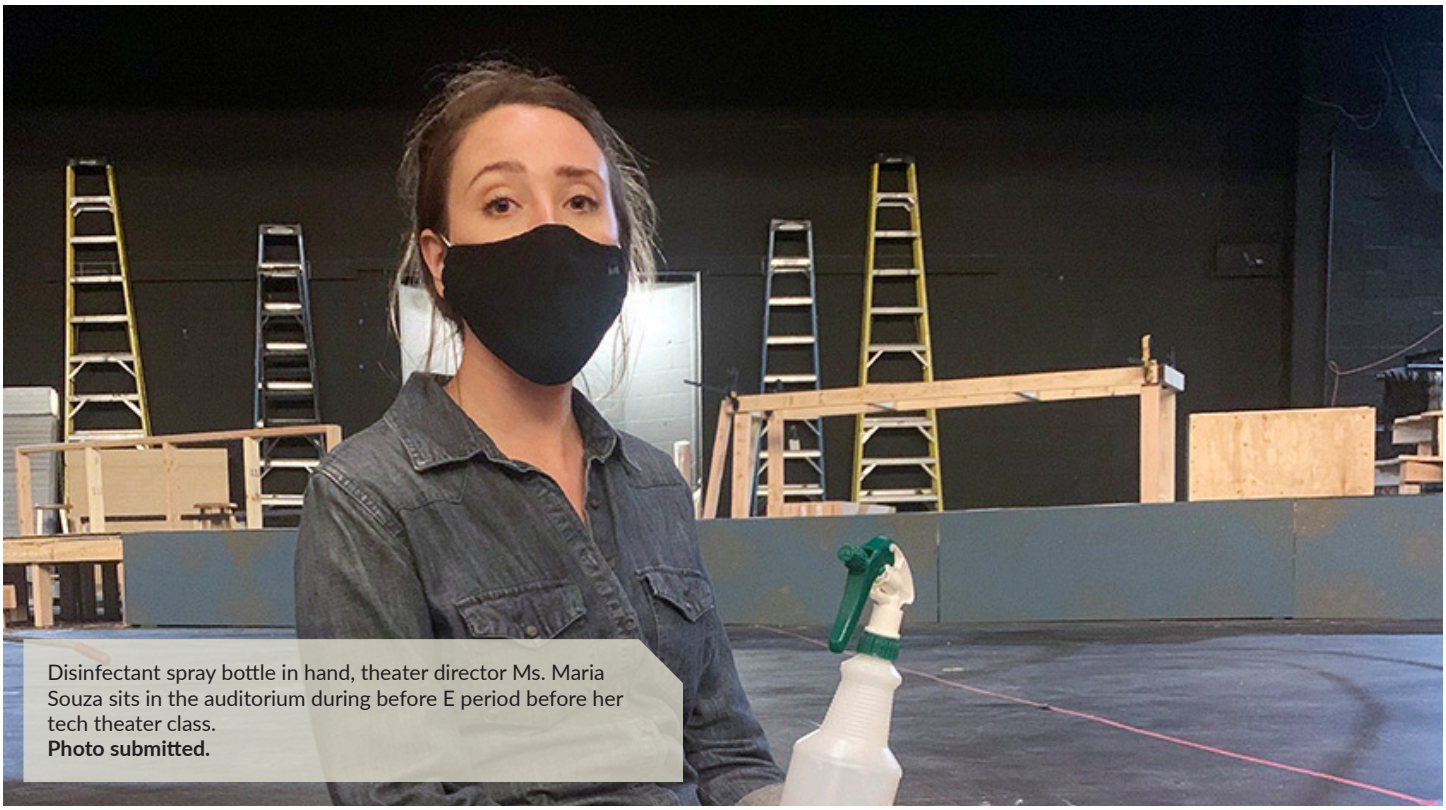
There are six members in the cast this season, which can be viewed on the school website, and the performance and rehearsal process will take place entirely online. Souza said that at the start of the year, the theater program was asked to reimagine how the theater and live performance could take place, and this was the resolution.

"This is something that is happening across the board in the industry, so it was my opinion that learning how to direct on a Zoom platform would be a valuable skill for any of our theater students who are considering continuing in the art form. Theater must be adaptable at all times and has repeatedly been asked to morph throughout the years to stay alive," Souza said.

She added, "A link will be set out for people to login and enjoy a short evening of scenes. This will take place Friday, Nov. 6 at 5 p.m. The performance, in total, should last roughly 45 minutes, enough time to watch some theater and make the football game."

She said she believes the showcase will be a success. "Anytime a group of people comes together to explore art, to tell a story, to present a topic for discussion, or gathers in a community for the love of one another, it is successful. Human expression is beautiful. Trying something new is exceptional. Sharing something with others is transformative. Art is always a success for these reasons." Souza said.

She added that she hopes to keep the Rookie Showcase rolling throughout the year into the spring. Souza said, "Because it requires less in terms of technical preparation and physical space, it can become more repetitive allowing more people to get involved if they chose."



Disinfectant spray bottle in hand, theater director Ms. Maria Souza sits in the auditorium during before E period before her tech theater class.
Photo submitted.

No more snow days

Now that we're all experts at eLearning, there is a very good chance that we all have experienced our last opportunity to enjoy an actual day off due to winter weather.

BY ASHLYNN BAKEMEYER

In the past, snow days consisted of sleeping in, going sledding and having snowball fights. But this year's snow days are expected to look quite different.

Principal Mrs. Julie Barthel said she believes the school will begin eLearning on days that the school is closed because of hazardous winter weather.

Barthel said that the increased use and knowledge of technology because of Covid-19 "is huge." She added, "I think there could be more snow days called since we know we're not losing instructional time, and I think it will be a lot better for our families."

Students come from all across Central Indiana to get to school. Barthel said, "Kids are traveling much more here than at other schools."

While snow days may be called more frequently, school days will take place virtually. Barthel said eLearning is better than adding a day into the school year. She added, "eLearning is never as good as having class in person. One of the major losses is the resources. Classes like chemistry or anatomy can't send home all of the equipment."

But Barthel made it clear that the school's eLearning is what she said is "at a very high level." She said, "I talked to a lot of other administrators and parents, and no other school is doing eLearning the way we are." She added that she is very grateful for how teachers are handling eLearning. "Our teachers are doing an amazing job at eLearning, but you just can't replicate all of the face-to-face you have at school," she said.

Although the snow days of past years are likely going to be replaced with eLearning days, Barthel remembers specific snow days that happened in her childhood. "I lived in the corner of the state, about five minutes away from Michigan. There was a blizzard in January of 1978 and the whole state of Indiana was out for two weeks. People were running out of food and even heat. So people were going and staying with neighbors."

The blizzard left behind 20 inches of snow. "My birthday is in Januarym so I even missed my birthday party, and I was pretty upset about that," Barthel said. "This was before there was social media, so I remember staying up at night watching the schools scroll by in ABC order on the news. If you missed it you had to wait for it to scroll back around and see if your school was going to be added," Barthel said.

While the snow days in the future won't look the same as years past, Barthel said she was encouraged by the option of eLearning. The weeks of eLearning because of Covid-19 provided the school with opportunities for a more advanced eLearning system that can substitute for snow days.

Barthel praised the teachers, saying, "Now that we know that our teachers are even more trained, we won't mind doing eLearning days because our teachers do such a good job with them."

The first snow of the school year fell last year on Nov. 10 and covered plants on the campus. Snow this year probably won't result in a snow day, due to having eLearning days as an option. **Photo by Madison Spiegel.**

To your health

Low's students are ahead of the curve as a result of what she has taught them about Covid-19 and its effect on teenagers -- even healthy ones.

BY ELLA BUNDY

Covid-19 has brought a new emphasis on personal health, and this school's health teacher is providing her students with key information in her classes.

Health and PE teacher Ms. Rhonda Low said, "I think we have more emphasis on taking care of the body, because we know youth is a benefit, and being thin and healthy is much better against the virus. I've brought in different aspects of different things.

"As we progress, I'll be bringing in current things more frequently because it's in the headlines and kids need to know about it. Last semester when I saw it coming, we did projects on Covid and got ahead of the curve."

At this point in the midst of a stressful time, health class may be more important for more reasons than those traditionally instructed. Topics such as emotional and physical health are emphasized, and healthy eating also is taught in the course.

However, health classes also teach the social and spiritual values of life, as well as how to do your own research.

"We've tried to talk to feeder schools to see what's already been covered. Right now with the Covid situation, bringing in that issue is important because it teaches (students) that you can't believe everything you see and read, and you have to research everything, even when you're taught something different," Low said.

She added, "You need to be on board with what is necessary to keep a community healthy. At this age, these aren't things we commonly think about. Even adults don't think, is this true? Is this valid? Is this safe? Most adults say that someone said something and therefore it can be trusted, but it might not be accurate."

A big part of health class revolves around teaching students to think outside of the box and to understand that a student's every action today can greatly affect them in the future. "The most important issue in health class that we try to convey to the kids is to understand the importance of taking care of their body now so they can be healthy later on. We want to increase their awareness of opportunities to stay healthy," Low said.

"Covid is offering us things we don't even realize," Low said. "It's giving us time to set individual goals about what you want to improve on, and that's one thing that can change a person's way of thinking a lot, especially in these times."

Health teacher Ms. Rhonda Low directs an activity during her G period health class, which met on the football field in early October. **Photo by Maggie Johnson.**

Applying yourself

Counselor provides tips, including the need to manage your stress, for the Class of 2021 as seniors fire up Naviance and seek admission to college.

BY ANDREW DE LAS ALAS

2020 is a bit different. Said everyone ever. The "uncertain times" that are all too familiar have extended into a portion of high school senior's lives that were already a bit nebulous to begin with: college applications and the admissions process.

The Class of 2020 were the first ones to feel the effects. Counselor Ms. Kathy Pivonka said, "When we went home last March, the first thought for me was that seniors are trying to pick their colleges." Although quite a few former seniors had all but finalized their decisions, many visit schools farther away during spring break.

Other students had to reevaluate and decide whether they wanted to still attend an institution hundreds of miles away for the same five-figure price of a digitized education.

Pivonka said counselors were right in the middle of meetings with juniors and that all conferences scheduled for after March 12 had to be moved to Google Meets. Pivonka said that typically counselors will have multiple contacts with juniors, but this year counselors have had to reconnect with their students in the fall.

Overall, Pivonka said that the Class of 2021 had to regroup. Typically, the incoming seniors will attend a Common App workshop in August just before school starts as well as tour colleges and take the standardized tests.

"I think the biggest piece is scores," said Pivonka. The absence and repeated cancellations of standardized testing are create perhaps the most significant impact on the application process. Between the ACT and SAT, eight testing dates were canceled all across the country.

As a result, a vast majority of colleges and universities have adopted a test-optional, test-blind or even test-flexible policy. From the counseling perspective, this has added a new layer of questions and decision-making.

Pivonka said, "There is no right answer." For instance, a strong student who has test anxiety may not want to submit their score to some schools, or another student may withhold their scores in order to make themselves a more competitive applicant.

In some cases, scholarships may not be test-optional and Pivonka said students should read very carefully on their target school's website, as well as checking where they are compared to the school's 50th percentile.

Typically colleges will have a higher amount of applicants by this time. Behind the scenes in college admissions, Pivonka said her contacts told her "the numbers are down." Pivonka said, "Everything seems to be a bit behind with the application process." Smaller colleges may be more receptive to students applying early, but larger or more competitive schools are unlikely to admit more than usual.

A common worry among seniors and their parents is that there will be fewer spots for the class of 2021 because members of the Class of 2020 deferred their spot. However, Pivonka said "Deferral requests were not actually as high as some thought."

In spite of the dark clouds of COVID, "there is a silver lining in the pandemic," said Pivonka. Aside from test-optional policies enabling some shaky testers, students have also been blessed with a myriad of virtual tours, recorded webinars and Zoom breakout rooms with professors and current students.

Pivonka said that the trending topics page on the counseling website has links to many of these programs. Younger grades are able to view much of this material as well, without the pressure to actually apply. "The real deal is the best, but these are good," said Pivonka.

But perhaps the biggest adaptation this year is the need to destress.

Pivonka said, "All seniors are stressed but the unknowns are massive this year and the stress has increased a ton." But the Class of 2021 isn't alone. The counseling department has, of course, never encountered anything on this level, either. "Our biggest job, aside from advocating for you and processing paperwork, is thinking through the right fit and keeping you calm," said Pivonka.

One tool for both students and counselors has been a checklist Pivonka put together last year, and is now being used in meetings this year. "You could see the stress melt off their face. Not all the way," she said. "But it was helpful."

While students are waiting for their college meetings or contemplating their next box to tick on the counseling department's checklist, they can check out the scattergrams on Naviance, the common data set or even email admissions officers at their target schools about testing policies. Pivonka said that she fully expects students to walk into her office. "Maybe even the same one five times," she said. Information is the only remedy for this level of stress.

"The worse thing you can do is to not ask questions," said Pivonka.

Masks on stage, too

Fall production in November makes adjustments to ensure safety of the actors and to allow for a small audience in the auditorium.

BY LIAM EIFERT

Perhaps the most disorienting part of the ongoing pandemic is to observe public spectacle grounded by the same precautions as everyone else. It's reminiscent of pre-coronavirus days when we see TV commercials and nobody is wearing a mask.

Sometimes, though, the masks are unavoidable, and even the spectacle cannot get away from the mask. And that will be the case when student actors and crew present the fall drama, "Hades: A Retelling of the Persephone Myth," via live streaming on Nov. 19, Nov. 20 and Nov. 21 at 7 p.m. and Nov. 22 at 3 p.m.

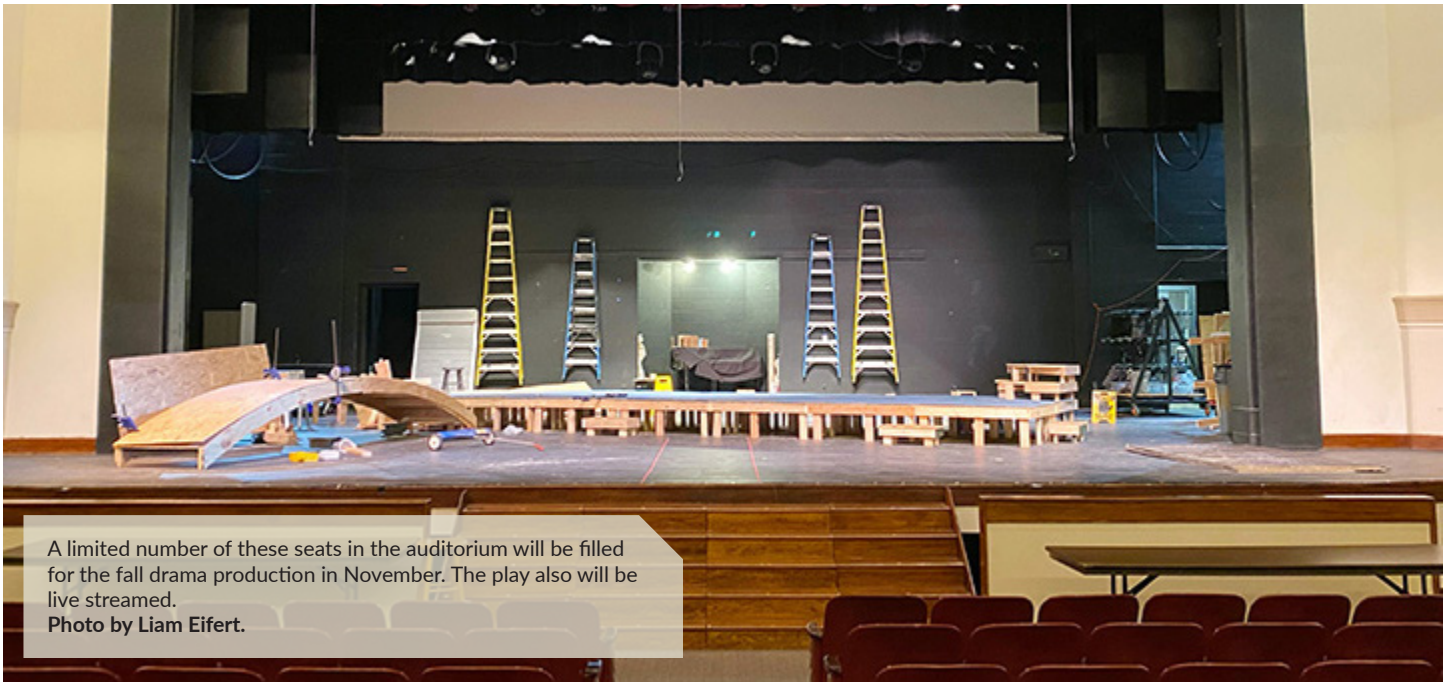
Theater director Ms. Maria Souza had an idea to incorporate masks more naturally into the fall play. She said, "There is a Mexican-American playwright, her name is Nelly E. Cuellar-Garcia, (and) she takes old classic tales, tales of mythology, Greek, Roman tragedies, these sorts of things, and then puts them into a modern vernacular."

Souza said, "That became an attractive choice because I could use some of those traditional methods of performance with masks, performance in choral settings, but still have an interesting story that might be something high school students could relate to."

The drama will be staged with precautions and will allow for a very small number of audience members in the auditorium. The performance will differ from past productions in other way as well. Souza said, "It will not be traditional in terms of there won't be any touching, no one will be standing directly next to one another, and we'll all be sort of that stadium arena acting which is less about close moments, and we will all be using a style of acting referred to as stadium acting which is less about close moments and more about a larger collaboration."

Souza has worked with her actors to ensure their safety. She said, "It's going to be a process unlike anything they've ever experienced before." Similarly, Souza told the audience to expect, as she put it, "something they've never seen before. It's going to be grand and unlike anything Cathedral theater has ever done before."

"Hades" cast list
Agamemnon: Antonio Arroyo
Menelaus: Claudia Lowe
Achilles: Colin Chandler
Charon: Katie Timble
Clytemnestra: Jordan Peter
Helen: Karsyn Kramer
Cassandra: Allison Pea
Hades: Sir Jonathan Thompson
Persephone: Whitley Walton
Hermes: Ethan Martin
Ensemble of the dead: Sam Allee, Scout Andersen, Aidan Betts, Monica DeSanto, Caroline Dobrota, Madeline Elson, Sandra Granados, Olivia Griffith, Charles Haas, Allison Haug, Lindsey Huntzinger, Ashelyn Lucas, Joseph Mariani, Jessica Quadrini, Brooklynn Thorpe, Maitlyn Vastag
Captain: Claire Miller
Movement captain: Caroline Ward



A limited number of these seats in the auditorium will be filled for the fall drama production in November. The play also will be live streamed.
Photo by Liam Eifert.

Food for thought

Two seniors reflect on their experience working jobs in the food service industry in the midst of a pandemic.

BY ELLIE MOORES

Many people can say they had a job in high school, but few can say they had one during the middle of a global pandemic.

However, as Covid-19 continues to affect people worldwide, this is the reality for many students who continue to work throughout the pandemic.

For two seniors, not only were they holding a job in the midst of a worldwide health crisis, but they worked at restaurants where there is a high risk of employee and customer infection if the proper precautions aren't taken.

One senior, Avery Rowe, has been employed at Puccini's Pizza and Pasta at the Geist Marina since May, 2019 as a host and busser. Since the virus reached the United States, Rowe said going to work has looked very different. When the lockdown was put into effect in March, she explained that she stopped working completely, even though Puccini's did not close.

It was not until the beginning of June that Rowe resumed her duties. Upon her return to work, a lot had changed. "Everyone has to wear gloves serving food and everyone has to wear a mask," Rowe said. In addition to this, severs deliver food to tables on a tray rather than by hand to limit employee contact with the food.

"We are still not at full capacity. There are pizza boxes marking off every other booth," Rowe added.

Since the restaurant is not able to seat as many customers in the dining room, the amount of takeout orders has increased dramatically. Before reopening their dining room, Rowe sometimes made as much as $60 a night in tips from just the takeout orders. So while many businesses were struggling to stay afloat due being closed, Pucinni's was able to maintain a steady flow of customers.

Senior Lauren Frank had a similar experience working at Flamme Burger in Keystone, where she has been an employee since October, 2018. Flamme Burger is owned by a former Cathedral family, the Najams. Frank was friends with Gabi Najam '20 and was able to secure a position as a host at the restaurant.

Like Rowe, Frank explained that Flamme Burger has undergone many changes in order to ensure the safety of both their employees and customers in the wake of Covid-19.

Employees are required to wear masks at all times while at work and customers are seated away from each other. Currently, Flamme Burger is still not at full capacity as are many other restaurants.

Besides these precautions, Frank explained why a special cleaning spray is used to disinfect surfaces frequently. Frank also said she has been applying a lot more hand sanitizer. Anytime she is handling silverware or food, she sanitizes her hands to avoid spreading germs.

It's safe to say that the food industry has had to adjust to this new, pandemic-stricken world. Restaurants have become somewhat of a health hazard, but employees like Rowe and Frank help make the dining experience a safe one.

Senior Avery Rowe is a part-time employee at Puccini's. Rowe noted the changes that restaurant workers have made to ensure a safe experience for their customers.
Photo by Ellie Moores.

Chip off the old bloc

Catholic vote will be instrumental in deciding the outcome of this year's presidential election, as a teacher and a vice principal provide their perspective.

BY ANDREW DE LAS ALAS

In the past, coalitions of certain groups have been essential for electoral victories. It may orbit around decisions like going to war, how the economy ought to be organized or pressing social issues.

But one of the most significant groupings of people is by religion, nationality or ethnicity. Catholics make up a voting bloc tens of millions strong. This year with the combination of an election year featuring a Catholic candidate and the possible confirmation of a Catholic Supreme Court justice, both candidates and the media are highlighting the importance of the Catholic vote in the Nov. 3 election.

According to U.S. History teacher Sr. Mary Ann Stewart, historically "until the Roe v. Wade decision, Catholics were Democrats because (the Democratic Party) was more accepting of minorities, but after Democrats took the stance of pro-choice a lot went to the Republicans."

Stewart said, "I saw that change when I was teaching. Many kids were Democrats with families in labor unions. But when the (abortion on demand) decision came in, I saw a lot of people change to Republicans."

This year is reminiscent of the 1960 election in the sense that Joe Biden would be the second Catholic ever elected to the office as President, said Vice Principal Mr. Mark Matthews. In an email, Matthews wrote, "John Kennedy won almost all the Catholic vote."

It does not necessarily appear that the 2020 election will fall the same way. Matthews said, "Today, President Trump has a super majority of white Catholic voters who support him against a Catholic candidate. Among non-white Catholics, more support Mr. Biden."

Stewart sees abortion as a flashpoint issue for Catholic support. Having a Supreme Court justice opposed to abortion may cause a lot of Catholics to be supportive of Republicans, Stewart said.

Matthews said, "(In 1960), many Americans were afraid that (Kennedy's) Catholic faith would restrict his ability to function as president," which has already been a popular topic when discussing the merits of Judge Amy Coney Barrett, whose religion was questioned when he was confirmed to a another position on the federal bench.

Stewart also said, "I don't consider either (party) to be pro-life." Democrats take a pro-choice stance on abortion, while many Republicans have policies on death penalty or immigration that run contrary to pro-life. Stewart said, "Many Catholics don't see it that way. Abortion tends to outweigh, in the minds of many Catholics, other things, like the right to have healthcare."

Since the Senior Class has a fair amount of individuals of voting age, the influence of their faith is bound to be present on Nov. 3.

Sr. Mary Mary Ann Stewart prepares for her next social studies class in the library. Sr. Stewart provided her perspective on the importance of the Catholic vote in the upcoming presidential election.
Photo by Callie Helm.

Check it out

Librarian makes adjustments to ensure that accessing texts, both print and eBooks, and getting academic help are still available for students.

BY MIREYA MUNOZ

Covid-19 and construction have resulted in many changes to the library that will continue throughout this school year.

Library director Mrs. Jenny Herron noted how the Indianapolis Public Library, of which Cathedral High School is a branch, has been impacted, including the use of the facility as a classroom.

Herron said, "First of all, the entire physical space of the library has completely changed." She said that the library has been altered mainly due to construction, but there are some impacts of Covid-19. "The library is currently being used by Sr. Mary Ann Stewart and her U.S. history courses. There is only one period in our schedule without a class." Herron noted that art teacher Mr. Jon Kane also teaches a class in the library.

Because there are classes that meet in the library, students have been discouraged from going in and out of the library. This is mainly because teachers would not like to have their classes disrupted. This affects a student's ability to print in the library. "We strongly encourage students to print at home," Herron said. She said she concludes that many students also are printing in the Shiel Student Life Center or on the second floor of Loretto.

Because of Covid-19, Herron said, "We have been trying to push our students towards using a virtual library so that we prevent the spread of the virus. But if students would like a hard copy of a book, we have another process that we use."

That process includes a book drop-box in the library hallway. The books that are returned into the drop-box or are delivered from other branches are sanitized and are subject to what Herron called a "quarantine" for three days to assure that the virus is no longer on the books. Students and staff pick up their requested items on a shelf labeled "pick up" just inside the library.

Senior Claudia Lowe, a frequent user of the library, is also one who would rather read books on a screen. "I prefer hardcover books," Lowe said. "There's less distractions and I like to see how far I've gotten in the book."

Since the library staff is recommending that students use the online library, the technology department has downloaded an application on every student's iPad called Axis360. Herron said, "It's basically a collection of books recommended for readers in the high school level. Our online databases are still up and running and we still strongly encourage that the students use those for research."

Herron said that while students may find it more challenging to go to the library for help in person, she is only one email away. She said that students who need help with conducting research or writing a paper should contact her, and she will be glad to help, either over email or through a Zoom meeting.

Scenes like this from last year, with students gathering in the group before school in the library, are now a thing of the past. This space is now occupied by Sr. Mary Ann Stewart's social studies classes. **Megaphone file photo.**

The wheels on the bus

Transportation director notes the numerous safety procedures that have been put into place to ensure a safe and healthy ride for bus riders.

BY AVERY STUCKEY

Precautions were immediately made here for Covid-19, including how students are transported to and from school.

Many families rely on the bus, so changes were made to keep this mode of transportation up and running. Transportation director Mr. Greg Bamrick explained how students are transported safely. “We have reduced the number of students in each shuttle so we can be sure to space the riders out,” Bamrick said.

Due to this spacing, a new shuttle has been added to the fleet. Bamrick said,“We added another shuttle on the route so we could space out.” Along with the new shuttle, a new driver had to be hired.

Spacing is not the only precaution being made. Disinfecting the bus after each trip has become the new normal for the bus drivers. “After we get the kids to school, we disinfect the buses with the disinfectant spray,” Bamrick said.

Areas that are commonly touched are focused on to avoid potential spreading of the virus. “We have disinfectant spray that we spray on the seats and on the high-touch areas such as the door handles and the rails,” Bamrick said.

The precautions that have been taken appeared to have worked. “So far it's been successful. our ridership continues to be at its maximum,” Bamrick said.

The reason these adjustments are working is because of the patience of everyone involved. “A positive from this change is the cooperation between the student, parents and drivers,” Bamrick said.

Along with the success has come some challenges. Bamrick said, “Trying to use protocols, figuring out routes, and additional costs.

However, these challenges don’t stop the drivers from wanting to help. Bamrick said, “Drivers are highly trained and dedicated to the mission of the school.”

A driver waits on the circle to pick up his students for his afternoon route. Drivers are doing extra cleaning on the vehicles to ensure the safety of their riders.
Photo by Avery Stuckey.

MEGAPHONE Sports

Fall sports updates

COMPILED BY JAKE LANGDON

Women's Volleyball

The Irish won the Sectional, which took place in the Welch Activity Center, on Oct. 17, defeating North Central in the afternoon semifinal 19-25, 25-20, 25-14, 25-16 then going on to take out Lawrence North in the Sectional championship 25-12, 25-22, 25-23.

The team heads to the Regional, which will take place Oct. 24 at Greenfield-Central, where the Irish will challenge Yorktown.

At this level of the tournament, Head Coach Mrs. Mary Hemer '09 said, "Our team's main goal is to always focus on our side of the court, maintaining our energy and effort, and making the other team beat us and not give away points with silly mistakes.

"Our schedule is arguably one of the toughest in the state, but our team embraces the fact that we play for the chance at a championship, not a stellar regular season record. This means that our girls grind it out against the toughest in the state and country every match, every week in order to prepare themselves for a run deep into the State tournament."

In an email the coach wrote, "These girls have been battle tested repeatedly this season, and have come out even stronger than they started. It takes a lot of maturity to battle the best in the state day in and day out like we have this season and not get frustrated or give up. Our girls truly embody the Fighting Irish persona, and I'm so excited to see them continue in the postseason tournament and begin to realize the true extent of their potential."

Hemer noted that senior Lucia Corsaro surpassed 1,000 digs in her career on Sept. 30. Senior Sarah Casper "started" the last match of the regular season, as Casper had been out due to a torn ACL from the beginning of September. She was subbed out before play began to a standing ovation from both the Irish and opponent's fans.

Earlier in the season, the team reached the City championship match and was defeated by Heritage Christian.

Women's Soccer

The Irish, under the direction of Head Coach Mr. Marc Behringer '84, won the Regional, which was played at New Palestine, and are now heading to the Semistate, which will take place on Oct. 24 at 5 p.m. at Seymour against Silver Creek High School, according to the Indiana High School Athletic Association website.

At the Regional, the team defeated Brebeuf Jesuit 2-1 in the opener, then beat Lawrenceburg 2-0 to claim the Regional championship.

Senior captain Caroline Cline commented on the team's victory against Lawrenceburg saying, "having played an earlier game the same day against a very experienced Brebeuf team, we were definitely challenged to see how well we can bounce back and play that same night. The energy and the enthusiasm of the senior class has sparked this team to new heights."

Cline said, "although we have a big senior class, there are 8 freshmen on the roster who I have been very impressed with as they have been able to step up and provide a much needed depth to our team."

She was satisfied with their performance at the regional saying, "We responded to adversity when we were down 0-1 against Brebeuf and were able to score 2 unanswered goals to take the lead. In the championship, we were able to fight hard until the end and never gave our opponent an opportunity to answer with a goal of their own."

Men's Tennis

Head Coach Mr. Mark Noe noted that the varsity team won the City championship for the 12th year in a row. The team was the runner-up in the prestigious Carroll Invitational in Fort Wayne. During the regular season, the Irish defeated North Central 3-2, the first victory over the Panthers in 10 years.

Noe said seniors Levi Wojtalik, Isaac Michael, Andrew Davey and Alex Pohl, sophomore Sam Black, senior Eli Carroll and junior Fisher Van Rooy all contributed to what he called "our great season." Black earned all-state doubles honors and Van Rooy, Noe said, would return next season to lead the team.

In an email, Noe wrote, "We were special because of the great core of senior leadership and bonds they had with the other players."

In the Sectional, the team defeated Bishop Chatard 3-2 in the first round and then lost to North Central 3-2 in the Sectional championship.

Men's Soccer

The team captains, seniors Jameson Browne, Reid Brenton, Mick DeWeese and Roman Sally led the squad to another successful season. Head Coach Mr. Joel Russell also noted the play of senior TJ O'Brien, who, according to Russell, "Had a great senior year and was a dominant force in our backline." The varsity finished the year with a record of eight wins and five losses and two ties.

The team won the City tournament, defeating Bishop Chatard 3-1, Covenant Christian 2-2 (winning on PKs) and Heritage Christian 2-1.

Other highlights during the season included a 1-0 win over Carmel and a 4-0 thrashing of Brebeuf Jesuit.

In the Sectional, the Irish defeated Arsenal Tech 3-2 in the opening round, Warren 2-0 in the semifinals and fell to Franklin Central 3-2 in the Sectional final, giving up a 2-1 lead with about about eight minutes left in the match.

Russell wrote in an email, "As a team, we had a run of games of playing the first-, second-, third- and fifth-ranked teams in the state and finished with one win, two ties and one loss, with the win being against Carmel. We had not beaten Carmel in a number of years, so it was exciting for the players to celebrate that win. Our Senior Night against Brebeuf was a special night. Our group of seniors had never beaten Brebeuf during their time on the Hill, and winning 3-0 on Senior Night was a special way to celebrate our seniors and their families.

Russell provided his perspective on the season. He said, "We opened our preseason with a frustrating loss to Westfield in a scrimmage game. Subsequently, we were shut down for two weeks due to Covid-19. Missing five games and two weeks of practice was a challenge. This team came together as a group and displayed a tremendous amount of determination and grit once we got back onto the field. We climbed as high as Number 12 in the MaxPreps rankings and I was proud of the effort and attitude our players brought to the field each and every day."

Women's Golf

Head Coach Mr. Eric Bruns said the highlight of the season was winning the Sectional. He wrote in an email, "We played so well as a team and won in convincing fashion by 26 shots. I knew we were capable of playing like that as a team, but we just had not managed to put it all together yet. We picked the perfect time and opportunity to do so.

Bruns said, "We had a group of four players that we relied on throughout the season: seniors Caroline Buhner and Katie Shin, junior Olivia Schilder and freshman Tillie Browning. I would say I really enjoyed seeing the team come together and play for each other."

The coach added, "The special thing about this team was how fortunate and happy they were to be playing. Like all fall sports, there were so many questions at the beginning of the season due to Covid-19. The team made the most of every opportunity to practice or play and enjoy the experience."

Now that this season is over, the team looks to next August. Bruns said, "Next year we will look to Olivia Schilder, Tillie Browning and Allison Haug as our leaders. As the year went on, Allison really cemented herself into the (Number-5) spot for us, and the team will be looking for her to continue her improvement into next season."

Women's Cross-country

Going into the Oct. 17 Regional, Head Coach Ms. Allie Griffith provided her perspective on her team's progress this season.

The Irish finished fifth as a team in the Sectional at Brebeuf Jesuit. Standout performances came from senior Ellie Thor, junior Reese Sanders and freshman Lucy Marquart, who helped the Irish advance.

Griffith said, "We were very proud of our girls for overcoming adversity and advancing to the Regional. We have had at least three varsity runners PR in the last few meets."

She also said, "These girls really showed their focus and determination the last two weeks to advance out of a very competitive Sectional meet. We are so proud of the work and leadership that both the Sectional roster and the entire team has put into making this season a success."

While the team finished 10th in the Regional, Sanders advanced and will compete as an individual at Semistate.

Men's Cross-country

While the team did not qualify for the Semistate, three individual runners advanced out of the Regional. They are senior Collin Monesmith, junior Jack Wajda and sophomore Liam Eifert. They will run at Shelbyville October 24th.

Monesmith commented on the team's show in the Regional, saying, "I performed well and so did our team. The meet is just so competitive that we couldn't make it out. We did our absolute best and that's what matters to us."

The head coach of the team did not reply to several emailed requests for further information.

The volleyball team, in action earlier this season, won the season on Oct. 17 and now advances to the Class 4A Regional on Oct. 24, where the Irish will take on Yorktown. **Photo by Jonas Hollis.**

Senior leadership

Team captains emphasize the need for all members to follow social distancing, ensure that their seasons can continue through the tournament.

BY JAMESON BROWNE

The Covid-19 pandemic has put athletes everywhere in an unprecedented situation. Guidelines have left uncertainty as to whether any sport will be able to have full seasons.

Senior David Guhl, who is a football team captain, described the weirdness of this year. He said, "It is really weird not having completely packed crowds at our games every week. I am just happy we get to play at all," he said. Most football games have been limited to about 25% capacity, that changed as of Sept. 25.

Guhl and other leaders on the team are counting on their teammates to do the right thing. He said, "We have to be willing to follow the guidelines so that we can keep playing. Almost every day there have been programs that have to take two week breaks because of positive tests."

Guhl, who also participated in rugby, knows the feeling of missing a season already. "It was definitely an awful feeling to not have a rugby season. We always have a really good team that competes for state and national championships so it was sad not being able to play with our seniors one more time," he said.

Guhl said he hopes everyone realizes what their actions can mean for people around them.

"Even if you aren't worried about getting sick, it can affect everyone around us and make us not be able to play games that we have worked so hard for," he said.

A lot of football players have made the decision to switch to online school in hopes to prolong their season. Guhl said, "A lot of us decided that it was the best option. Obviously, we can't do anything about it if someone on the team gets sick, but being at school would have been too easy for one of us to get sent home."

The worry for every school is getting a sport shut down. Athletic trainer Mr. Mike Hunker hopes athletes continue to do the right thing throughout this time. "So far our school has been fortunate compared to other schools and states," he said, "This could get bad at any time, so we must stay diligent."

Hunker noted the changes he and his team have had to adapt to so far this year. "Obviously we have to follow the CDC guidelines and practice social distancing, but there have also been some smaller changes such as not being able to share water bottles and the extensive cleaning process," he said.

But Hunker also noted a positive he has been able to take from the situation. "It has been challenging, but because we cannot see as many people at a time, it actually allows us to spend more time with an individual."

Senior Bella Dausman, who is a women's soccer team captain, says that her teammates have been doing a great job of thinking about the team first. "Even the younger girls who don't have as much at stake as seniors have made sure to social distance," she said. The team has been strict on wearing masks and social distancing at practices and games. Dausman said, "It definitely gets frustrating not being able to have a normal senior season, but we have to follow guidelines in order to have a season at all."

The team is focusing on their goal for the season so that they all understand why they have to take these steps. "We all want to win a State championship and make our efforts to stay healthy worth it," she said, "The plan is for all of this to pay off at the end of the season when we are holding up a trophy."

With all of the uncertainty about fall sports, Dausman and Guhl are relieved that they get to have a season. Guhl said, "Being able to play this year gives us a chance to compete with our brothers and hopefully get a ring. It also is important for a lot of us because we might get more opportunities to play at the next level."

Senior David Guhl and several of his teammates take instructions from Assistant Coach Mr. Adam Barth. **Photo by Grace Straley.**

From weeds to wins

Former Irish football player and current Turfdogs owner explains how his company transformed a broken field into the team's new home.

BY JAKE LANGDON

The football team celebrated homecoming with a 49-7 win over Brebeuf Jesuit that capped off an undefeated home regular season. For Mr. Andrew Christiansen '99, president of Turfdogs Athletic Field Management, this season was a bit more special than others. His team was responsible for preparing the field on which the Irish play.

The school's football program has hosted home games in a variety of locations over the last 20 years, including Lawrence North, Lawrence Central, Arsenal Tech and even local colleges. Last year the school sought a more permanent home, which turned them to look at the field at the recently shut down Arlington High School. Cathedral used to call Arlington home for football games in the '90s when Christiansen played for the varsity.

During the search for a home field, Christiansen said, "Coach (Mr. Rick) Streiff and Coach (Mr. Bill Peebles called me and we walked the (Arlington) field, and it was all weeds." But despite the poor condition of the field, the Irish decided that this would be their new home.

Christiansen and the Turfdogs staff were given full responsibility for the field and transformed it from an unplayable weed covered surface to, as Christiansen described it, "One of the best grass fields in the state."

Turfdogs Lawn & Landscape is a full service commercial and residential landscaping contractor that specializes in athletic fields. They are responsible for 110 different schools' athletic fields across Indiana as well as Ohio and Illinois. They also worked on Brunette Park, taking it from a baseball Little League field and building it into a high school facility.

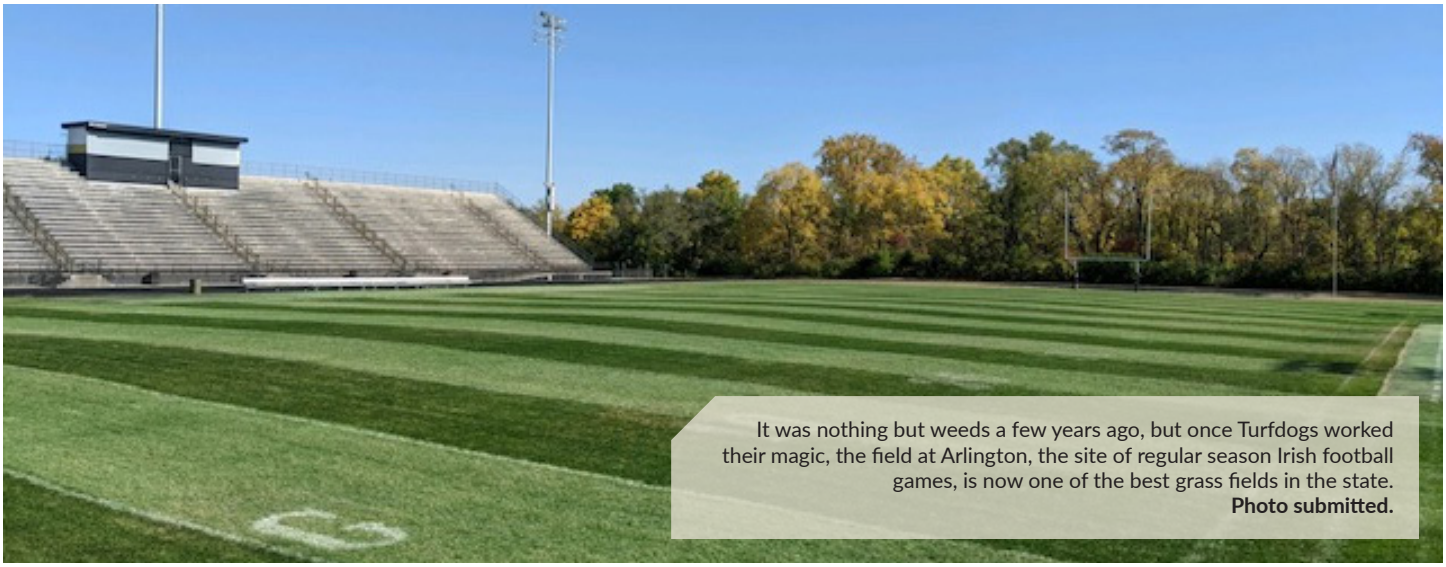
He and his crew use cutting edge technology, as many of his employees hold turf science degrees. Christiansen said, "It has taken a lot of time, a lot of money and a lot of specialized equipment. So over the last 10 years we have gotten a million dollars in athletic equipment that we can only use on athletic fields. It's kind of like a (maintaining a) golf course."

Christiansen said he was honored to come back and help out his alma mater. He said, "It is probably one of my biggest joys. It's pretty neat on Friday night when I can bring my kids to a Cathedral football game. It's neat to sit there and think that 20 years ago I was on that field."

The field requires a high level maintenance just for a few games. Christiansen and his crew begin work on the field in March to prepare it for anywhere between four and six games throughout the football season. Christiansen said in early spring the crew laid seen applications of fertilizer and weed control about five weeks apart. "In the spring we roll the field with an asphalt roller, and we airfy it where we punch holes in the field. Then we top dress it with a root zone sand and we overseed it," he said.

Christiansen said, "It's got a custom turf program that we have designed for that field. We maintain it all year for four games." During the week of a home contest, Turfdogs mows the field four times and uses an asphalt roller to prepare for Friday night. Rolling the field compacts it, making it firm and smooth, allowing the athletes to run more confidently.

Christiansen said, "I'm just glad we can help and proud to take care of the field we played on back and the '90s and the field you are playing on now. It's pretty neat to be able to give back to my school, because I would not be where I am today without Cathedral."



It was nothing but weeds a few years ago, but once Turfdogs worked their magic, the field at Arlington, the site of regular season Irish football games, is now one of the best grass fields in the state. **Photo submitted.**

Here come the Irish

With a close lose to 6A Center Grove in the regular season finale, the team now shifts its focus to the Sectional opener at Terre Haute South.

BY WILL MAYER

After taking the state's top-ranked Class 6A team down to the wire on Oct. 16, the varsity football team looks to make another deep run in the State tournament with Head Coach Mr. Bill Peebles '88 on the sideline.

The Irish have a week off between their game against Center Grove, which came from behind to beat the Irish 17-13, and the first Sectional game at Terre Haute South on Oct. 30.

When it comes to having down time between the games, Peebles said in an interview in his office in Kelly Hall, "I hope it helps our team. With the type of schedule we've had this year, we've had no breaks, no downtime, every game has been against a really good opponent and sort of a rivalry type of game so I think just mentally, physically and emotionally, our guys need some sort of a break. We all just need to take a deep breath and get our legs back underneath us and recharge for the tournament."

South goes into the Sectional with a losing record (3-4) and with one regular season common opponent with the Irish. Brebeuf Jesuit absolutely handled South in a dominating fashion 42-7. At Homecoming, Peebles' team easily defeated Brebeuf 49-7.

Teams like the Irish sometimes can begin to lose focus and be complacent.

But Peebles has a plan to make sure the Irish don't do either. Peebles said, "Every week no matter who we play, we talk about Cathedral playing the Irish every game. On our schedule board in the football locker room, when it says who our opponent is, it says Irish for every week.

:So we've played some really good teams, but we always prepare for us to play our best against us, not necessarily worrying about the opponent. So each week that we go into it, we obviously prepare for their play schemes, but it's always about us doing our best each week and measuring ourselves against ourselves."

Peebles' team has definitely played the best of the Irish each week, putting up great scores against Westfield, defending 6A State champion Carmel, annual powerhouse Penn and many others.

Peebles said, "Hopefully the schedule we've played in the regular season is a strength that we've prepared ourselves to face adversity and that our guys know how to handle it when things are going well and going poorly." Peebles said he believes that Cathedral, as he termed it, playing the Irish and not the opponent of the field has allowed the football team to set a tone that will lead to success in the Sectional opener and beyond.

When looking at the stats on MaxPreps, the Irish have scored at least three points or more in almost every quarter this season. The Irish are definitely the favorite against the Braves. When it comes to the matchup between the two teams, Peebles said, "Terre Haute South actually has a lot of really good athletes. They have a wide receiver who is committed to Indiana State, they have a big strong quarterback, so we'll have plenty of things to worry about and prepare for.

"They actually put up a lot of points as well, but they also give up a lot of points. We've just got to worry about ourselves and make sure that we're executing at a high level and don't make mistakes."

The Irish do have to travel a distance to play the Braves. Peebles said, "The rule of thumb is, every time you travel, you're always down seven points per hour in the buses. It's about an hour and 15 minute drive, there so we'll treat the game like we're down seven when we show up for game time."

Over the course of this season, Peebles pointed out that he has seen some impressive leadership from the upperclassmen.

The coach said, "(Senior) Jake Langdon has had an outstanding year at running back for us. He's been an absolute workhorse. The offensive line has gotten better every week, which they'll need to continue to do throughout the playoffs. Defensively, Our two senior captain defensive ends have done an outstanding job.

"And our linebacking core, two of them being juniors, they have improved each week. Zane Hill has had a great year playing cornerback, he's come up with a lot of big interceptions and key moments for us. What we've seen is consistent improvement from guys who didn't play a lot last year and they've developed throughout the year. We've been very happy with the development of our young offensive line. Will Sizemore has had a great senior season

"He was a JV player as a junior and has started every game doing a great job. We've seen much improvement throughout all of our new starters."

When it comes to being the top team in the 5A poll, Peebles said that the rankings mean absolutely nothing when it comes to the tournament. "If we play poorly, we can get knocked out. Covid-19 can knock us out of the tournament as well," Peebles said.

The coach said, "If we get three or four guys knocked out with Covid, we have to shut down the program and forfeit It's been so important for us to tell our guys to stay distanced, or even changing our postgame routine so that we're doing everything we can so that if something bad were to happen it's not going to be because we've done something dumb. It can happen to us

even if we do everything right.

"So we're just trying to do everything right when it comes to distancing, wearing masks, not spending too much time in the locker room. We don't have meetings indoors in tight spaces for long periods of time. We're still using Zoom on Saturdays, so we're trying to do everything we can to minimize the impact of Covid on our football team."

And while Peebles and the coaching staff have taken great pains to ensure that their players remain healthy, the coach asked Irish fans to do the same. He said, "Be safe so that you don't affect our football team and their chances to play each week in the tournament."

Senior David Perry scores a touchdown against Center Grove High School on Friday night. **Photo by Ethan Marasco.**

Photo of the week

Senior John Paul Koscielski runs downfield after catching an interception thrown by Center Grove. **Photo by Ethan Marasco.**

MEGAPHONE *Opinion*

Our opinion

We're still in school, other than on Mission Mondays, so let's do everything we can to make sure that this continues to be the case.

Everybody remembers that day a few months ago when schools were first shutting down due to the coronavirus, and eventually theirs was inevitably next. By the end of the school year, most every school was operating virtually, or not at all.

Fast forward to the summer, when quarantine was still in effect, but society was largely loosening social distancing restraints, whether unknowingly or not. Most went into the school year with the hope that whether hybrid or full time, the 2020-2021 school year would be spent with actual student and teacher interaction.

After only two full months in, many schools around Central Indiana and the United States have closed down after unsuccessful attempts to reopen its doors to schooling, with restraints as has become the norm.

So the question for many becomes this — is it simply a matter of time before Cathedral returns to online schooling as well? We surely hope not.

For staff and students, the news of our school returning full time on campus, with the option for any with any reason to be involved from home, was joyous news after the tough struggle that has been the quarantine. While many schools were going to a hybrid schedule, with others adapting to full time online schooling, we shocked many by announcing school would be in-person, and not only that, but one of the safest and best prepared schools in Indiana.

Despite contact tracing, 24/7 mask wearing on campus, hand sanitizer everywhere the eye can see, many have come in contact with Covid-19 through means such as in the classroom, on the athletic field or off campus. The inevitable has come, and since Cathedral has not shut down already, another question to ask is that if Cathedral has had cases already and survived the storm, what would be reason to shut it down now?

The addition of Mission Mondays, an online, full schedule day every Monday to start the school week, appeared as a sign of the closing down of Cathedral. Yet here we are, weeks later, and Mission Mondays have not been followed by an increased hybrid schedule, but rather proven to be a helpful aspect of the week. Not only have Mission Mondays allowed for more time for cleaning agents and such to take their toll on the coronavirus, but they have proven to give students and staff alike a slower paced way to gradually work into the week, which is greatly appreciated.

Since many of the signs that would signal a shutdown have not led to one yet, it becomes a matter of what is keeping us in school rather than what is pushing us out. For many, school, regardless of location, size or time length, is a place far beyond academic learning. It can be a venue for social interaction, safety, discipline growth and much more. The risks for contracting coronavirus are dangerous, but the impact that places of education have had on the youth of America will impact the nation long after Covid-19 has become an afterthought.

Online learning simply is not the same as being in a classroom, and that does not even begin to describe the rest of the iceberg that is the school experience. Person to person interaction, hands on labs, assemblies, sporting events and more are all parts of being a part of a school that the everyday, monotonous feeling of going from Zoom class to Zoom class can not possibly replicate.

Aside from that, there is a whole new level of pride in the importance our school plays in the lives of those who interact with it regularly and even every now and then. The community and family that Cathedral forms in the life of each and every student and educator is played out on the field and in interactions on and off campus.

While many other schools might have students who are indifferent on the loss of personal interaction and other attributes of online classes, the reason this school has stayed open is exactly the opposite. Just like last year's seniors, who sadly saw the final year of their high school careers torn away from them, the current Cathedral community simply loves the experience too much to let it wash away.

Cathedral hopefully will be open for the rest of the year, but it could also be online in the next week; the matter of Cathedral getting shut down is quite simply a question that no one can truly answer. While there is still nobody that can predict exactly if or when this school will shut down, one thing is known — as long as the excellence of Cathedral continues to draw students and teachers to it, the school will continue to do its best to make sure its people get the most out of the experience they deserve.

Face off

Halloween is less than two weeks away. Two students discuss whether or not high schoolers are too old to be trick-or-treating.

We're too old

BY NICK BOZZELLI-LEVINE

Halloween. It's a time that brings back loads of happy childhood memories for many people. It's a time where pumpkins and ghosts adorn houses across the nation. Technicolor leaves gratefully land on every lawn. People put together extravagant costumes to be used for only one night of trick-or-treating or for spooky costume parties.

Another thing occurring this year business-as-usual is the great debate over whether or not high school age students should go trick-or-treating. In my opinion, there are many reasons why we are too old for the tradition.

One reason that it's not a good idea for people our age to go trick-or-treating anymore is because we'd be taking away the joy from those younger than us. I, as well as many others, have felt that pang of sorrow when we walk all the way up to a house on Halloween, only to be greeted by the pitying faces saying that they're all out of candy. Without older teens hogging all of the fun, the younger kids can have that special experience that many of us cherish.

Another reason not to go is because of the pandemic, which has impacted everyone. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Many traditional Halloween activities can be high-risk for spreading viruses." The whole concept of Halloween is certainly not social distancing friendly. People go up to random people's houses and often come into close contract with strangers and then repeat the process.

It's not all doom and gloom, though. There are safer alternatives.

Although Covid-19 has put Halloween as we know it in grave jeopardy, there are certainly other ways to enjoy the holiday. The CDC considers events such as pumpkin carving, house decorating and family scavenger hunts to be lower risk. That way we can still enjoy the seasonal festivities without being exposed to the virus.

As Halloween approaches and calendars here on the Hill begin to fill up with all the festivities October can handle, I firmly believe that at least for teenagers, trick-or-treating is one more thing we're going to have to give up. We're too old and it's just too risky. I'm not letting it get me down, though. I suggest trying to make the day special for younger friends and relatives. This year I'm going to put a little more effort into decorating my house for Halloween and making the day fun for my younger cousins.

It may be different, but we will persevere.

We're not too old

BY LIAM EIFERT

Halloween isn't a very well-defined holiday. We celebrate it for complicated reasons eventually tracing back to a Celtic tradition. Even then, few— if any— would attribute Halloween with any of the spiritual significance it may have once had.

As a holiday, it occupies a strange part in our culture, representing a loose collection of ideas rather than a coherent celebration or recognition. Halloween is most concisely about whatever scares us.

Within it, though, and evolved through a complicated genealogy just like Halloween itself, is trick-or-treating. Children dress up in costumes of ghouls, Disney princesses and whatever else their imaginations lead to, and they knock on strangers' doors asking for candy.

With the murky origin of Halloween along comes a blurry age barrier. The exact age when kids should stop trick-or-treating is not set in stone, and people should take that to their advantage. High schoolers in particular are not too old to go trick-or-treating. There's no rule that they should feel overly compelled to follow on the matter.

Just because trick-or-treating is a loose collection of traditions doesn't mean that there are no rules that one should follow about trick-or-treating. If someone shows up at the door without a costume, they can hardly be surprised by their neighbors' unenthusiastic reaction.

Likewise, full-grown adults trick-or-treating on their own would likely be met with ridicule and a lack of sweet treats. The presence of a rule, though, doesn't mean that we should set a hard and fast boundary on the ages for trick-or-treaters. The ambiguous age divide lets us make our own decisions about when it's time to stay inside and watch movies instead. A high schooler is still met with acceptance from the houses they go to. No one that you might meet while trick-or-treating is in a position to take your age and carefully place it against what is accepted. Rather, the worst that can happen is someone thinks you look a little old to be trick-or-treating, but what is that to stand in the way of a bag full of candy bars?

Face off: Election

The 2020 Presidential Election is less than one month away. Seniors Jacob Carlson and Jack Kleck explain why they support each candidate.

Joe Biden

BY JACOB CARLSON

Cathedral students, the 2020 election is just days away and it is one of the most defining elections in our nation's history. Some of us will vote for the first time.

After a difficult and divisive four years, America needs the leadership of Joe Biden. We deserve a president who has the capacity to listen to the public, to his cabinet, military experts and the scientific community, including public health experts. Biden may have flaws, as does every presidential candidate, but President Donald Trump has a dangerous ego bigger than the country he is running.

Joe Biden knows and understands that our generation is the future of this country. That's why a large chunk of Biden's plans are directed toward benefiting and guiding our future. He has plans for taxes, healthcare, renewable energy, Covid-19 and the economy. Voting should not be based on political propaganda, but on the candidate's record. In 1972, Biden became one of the youngest senators in our nation's history. He has worked with Republicans and has demonstrated an ability to compromise and move the country in a positive direction.

With Trump as president, more than 220,000 Americans have lost their lives to Covid-19. His words fuel hate and his lies destroy our trust. Even his own Republican party has been torn apart, with countless former administration officials and military leaders openly endorsing Biden instead of their own party's candidate. If you or your parents consider yourselves Republican, pay attention to what members of that party are saying: Biden is clearly the best candidate we have in 2020.

Some people will wonder if Biden or Trump is the more Catholic choice. In his new encyclical, Fratelli Tutti, Pope Francis calls for a new way of thinking about our relationships. He calls for an openness to each other, including migrants, and caring and supporting the poor. "Without an attempt to enter into that way of thinking, what I am saying here will sound wildly unrealistic. On the other hand, if we accept the great principle that there are rights born of our inalienable human dignity, we can rise to the challenge of envisaging a new humanity. We can aspire to a world that provides land, housing and work for all. This is the true path of peace, not the senseless and myopic strategy of sowing fear and mistrust in the face of outside threats."

American voters have never faced a more crucial decision that will determine the path our country will take. Hate, deception and incompetence? Or compassion, unity, fairness and integrity? The future is in our hands. This election is truly a battle for the soul of our nation. Vote Biden.

Donald Trump

BY JACK KLECK

In regards to choosing a presidential candidate in November, the answer is clear.

President Donald J. Trump should be re-elected. Donald Trump is the best choice for president in 2020 and he has shown why in his last four years as president. The fact is that the economy runs this country and without it, nothing else matters. Donald Trump has done more for the U.S. economy than any president in modern history.

In the Obama administration, the Dow Jones never reached above 20,000 points. Under Trump, even during the pandemic, it still remains above 28,000 points. Under Trump, we have seen the highest economic growth in terms of the stock market since the post-Great Depression era.

Additionally, the United States saw its lowest unemployment rate in history at 3.5% nationwide. Trump also achieved the highest average wage for the American worker-above $30 an hour, a number never seen in American history. These few statistics provided by BBC only scratch the surface of Trump's positive impact on the American people. Again, he improved upon Obama with the lowest poverty rate the United States has ever seen at 10.5%. Once again, he cares for the people of his nation, especially minorities. During his term, the lowest black unemployment rate in our country's history was recorded at 5.4%, according to The Washington Post.

There is no doubt that he has proven that he knows how to manage the economy and his fiscal policies are fantastic based on the numbers seen during his first term, but his social policies are just as strong, especially for Catholic students here at Cathedral and Catholics across the country with his stance on abortion. He is pro-life, meaning he believes life begins at conception and that any abortion is taking an innocent human life.

The same cannot be said for Joe Biden, and his running mate Sen. Kamala Harris, who are both supporters of pro-choice policies. It's important to support our Catholic values and morals in the polls and the best way to do that is to vote for the pro-life candidate.

Let's vote for four more years of a strong economy and sound fiscal policies and vote for a candidate that protects the lives of the unborn at all costs. So I ask every student who is eligible to vote to join me on Tuesday, Nov. 3 by voting for Donald J. Trump.

Nuestra opinion

Todavía estamos en la escuela, excepto los lunes de misión, así que hagamos todo lo posible para asegurarnos de que esto siga siendo así.

Todo el mundo recuerda ese día, hace unos meses, cuando las escuelas cerraron por primera vez debido al coronavirus y, finalmente, la suya fue inevitablemente la siguiente. Al final del año escolar, la mayoría de las escuelas funcionaban virtualmente o no funcionaban en absoluto.

Avance rápido hasta el verano, cuando la cuarentena todavía estaba en vigor, pero la sociedad estaba aflojando en gran medida las restricciones de distanciamiento social, sin saberlo o no. La mayoría ingresó al año escolar con la esperanza de que, ya sea híbrido o de tiempo completo, el año escolar 2020-2021 se pasaría con la interacción real entre estudiantes y maestros.

Después de solo dos meses completos, muchas escuelas en el centro de Indiana y los Estados Unidos cerraron después de intentos infructuosos de reabrir sus puertas a la educación, con restricciones que se han convertido en la norma.

Entonces, la pregunta para muchos es la siguiente: ¿es simplemente cuestión de tiempo antes de que Cathedral regrese también a la educación en línea? Seguramente esperamos que no.

Para el personal y los estudiantes, la noticia de que nuestra escuela regresa a tiempo completo al campus, con la opción de que cualquiera con cualquier motivo se involucre desde casa, fue una buena noticia después de la dura lucha que ha sido la cuarentena. Si bien muchas escuelas iban a un horario híbrido, y otras se adaptaban a la educación en línea de tiempo completo, sorprendimos a muchos al anunciar que la escuela sería en persona, y no solo eso, sino una de las escuelas más seguras y mejor preparadas de Indiana.

A pesar del rastreo de contactos, el uso de mascarillas las 24 horas del día, los 7 días de la semana en el campus, y el desinfectante de manos en todos los lugares donde el ojo puede ver, muchos han entrado en contacto con Covid-19 a través de medios como el aula, el campo deportivo o fuera del campus. Ha llegado lo inevitable, y dado que Cathedral aún no ha cerrado, otra pregunta que debe hacerse es que si Cathedral ya ha tenido casos y sobrevivió a la tormenta, ¿cuál sería la razón para cerrarla ahora?

La adición de Mission Mondays, un día completo en línea todos los lunes para comenzar la semana escolar, apareció como una señal del cierre de Cathedral. Sin embargo, aquí estamos, semanas después, y los lunes de misión no han sido seguidos por un horario híbrido aumentado, sino que ha demostrado ser un aspecto útil de la semana. Los lunes de la misión no solo han permitido más tiempo para los agentes de limpieza y demás para pasar factura al coronavirus, sino que han demostrado brindar a los estudiantes y al personal una forma más lenta de trabajar gradualmente durante la semana, lo cual es muy apreciado.

Dado que muchas de las señales que indicarían un cierre todavía no lo han provocado, se trata de lo que nos mantiene en la escuela en lugar de lo que nos expulsa. Para muchos, la escuela, independientemente de la ubicación, el tamaño o la duración, es un lugar mucho más allá del aprendizaje académico. Puede ser un lugar para la interacción social, la seguridad, el crecimiento de la disciplina y mucho más. Los riesgos de contraer coronavirus son peligrosos, pero el impacto que los lugares de educación han tenido en la juventud de Estados Unidos impactará a la nación mucho después de que Covid-19 se haya convertido en una ocurrencia tardía.

El aprendizaje en línea simplemente no es lo mismo que estar en un aula, y eso ni siquiera comienza a describir el resto del iceberg que es la experiencia escolar. La interacción persona a persona, los laboratorios prácticos, las asambleas, los eventos deportivos y más son partes de ser parte de una escuela que la sensación cotidiana y monótona de pasar de una clase de Zoom a una clase de Zoom no puede replicar.

Aparte de eso, hay un nivel completamente nuevo de orgullo en la importancia que nuestra escuela juega en las vidas de aquellos que interactúan con ella regularmente e incluso de vez en cuando. La comunidad y la familia que Cathedral forma en la vida de todos y cada uno de los estudiantes y educadores se desarrolla en el campo y en las interacciones dentro y fuera del campus.

Si bien muchas otras escuelas pueden tener estudiantes indiferentes ante la pérdida de interacción personal y otros atributos de las clases en línea, la razón por la que esta escuela ha permanecido abierta es exactamente lo contrario. Al igual que los estudiantes del último año del año pasado, que vieron con tristeza que el último año de su carrera en la escuela secundaria se alejaba de ellos, la comunidad actual de Cathedral simplemente ama demasiado la experiencia como para dejarla pasar.

Con suerte, la catedral estará abierta durante el resto del año, pero también podría estar en línea la próxima semana; el asunto de la clausura de la Catedral es simplemente una pregunta que nadie puede responder realmente. Si bien todavía no hay nadie que pueda predecir exactamente si esta escuela cerrará o cuándo cerrará, una cosa se sabe: mientras la excelencia de Cathedral continúe atrayendo a estudiantes y maestros, la escuela seguirá haciendo todo lo posible para asegurarse de su gente aprovecha al máximo la experiencia que se merece.

CONTACT US

@IrishMegaphone

irishmegaphone.com