

# THE SIGNAL



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...Spring edition!

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## SASD teachers prevail during tough school year

By Zak Zanella  
staff writer

COVID-19 has been an increasingly serious matter, especially for the hard-working teachers in the Shamokin Area School District. Ever since the pandemic started in the middle of March of last year, teachers have had to adapt to various technological formats, adapt their lessons

and activities to ones that are viable for both in-person and online students, and continue dealing with all of the procedures and restrictions caused by this illness.

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Health's official website, the total case numbers have risen significantly -- over one million confirmed cases of

COVID-19. It has taken the lives of millions of people, and has left the entire world wondering about the short and long-term effects of this horrible virus.

Even as the vaccine process has begun, Shamokin Area schools are still continuing to take rigorous measures to slow the spread of COVID and other diseases, such as

implementing social distancing, mandating that everyone wear masks, and encouraging students and staff to wash their hands several times a day, everyday, to prevent germs.

Each teacher at Shamokin has had their share of ups and downs when it comes to teaching during the pandemic. Despite some negative times,

there have been some positive ones, too. Overall, the key to dealing with this unique circumstance is adaptability.

The following teachers took time out of their busy schedules to share their thoughts about teaching during this pandemic:

*SASD teachers,*

### Students vs. COVID

By Jadyn Slovick  
news editor

When I found out about the schools shutting down due to COVID on Friday, March 13, 2020, I was sitting in my fifth period mass media class, after I had spent my morning making milkshakes to sell at the Purple Perk, and was trying to decide what spring sport I could join last minute. After that, I couldn't even picture what the next week would be like, let alone what school would be like a year from then. Now, students have spent the past several months experiencing online learning, hybrid learning, and completely in school learning in a completely new climate,

and they have a lot to say about it.

Seniors Ashley Zimmerman and Kali Leiby, as well as freshman Brandie Yoncuski, all prefer hybrid learning, where students alternate going online and being in-person. "I prefer hybrid learning. With COVID still being around, I understand that being fully in school all the time isn't an option. Hybrid learning helps me get a feel for both aspects of learning at home and school, so I can be prepared for anything," said Yoncuski.

*Students, page 2*



Mr. McDevitt stands at his whiteboard while informing everyone about an upcoming assignment. (Photo by Miah Thompson, layout and design editor)

### Theatre returns: *Godspell* inspires audiences

By Blake Harris  
staff writer

With the 2020 musical, *Newsies* left unperformed, and the set still standing, Mr. Styer had to find a musical for the 2021 school year that could still work with what he had. He selected *Godspell*, a musical based on a modern version of the Christian gospels and the following of Jesus in New York.

"Lots of factors went into it, the amount of people that auditioned, what shows we could fit onto the stage, the possibility of repurposing the set we had from *Newsies* because we didn't want to do that, and a show that would fit into the scheme of a limited audience. So we had to focus differently because you don't want to do a big cast show and have a few people see it," said Mr. Styer, director of the Shamokin musical, when asked why he picked *Godspell*.

With the pandemic still happening around us, certain

measures will have to be taken to make sure rehearsals and shows stay safe. "The performance end limits the auditorium size of people that can be in the auditorium during the performances, so not having our 1,000+ audience brings us down to around 100 which could be a little more or a little less. I thought we were at 25%, which would have put us at 200 to 250 people," Mr. Styer replied to how COVID-19 will affect performances and rehearsals. "Two positives actually coming out of this is we will be live streaming this year's show. So a person can purchase a ticket to watch the show from a remote location, and we are actually expanding to four shows. With the live streaming, we are adding in an option to purchase tickets online with a card."

"I'm not going to lie", senior Ashlea Oakum, who portrayed Uzo, stated, "I was



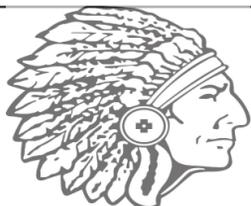
Joshua Bashore, center, tells a parable to the surrounding cast and audience.

skeptical towards the show due to its religious topics, and I was concerned with how different the plotline and style is from the type of dark and brooding shows we usually perform. As well, I was worried about how we could accomplish this great feat with the limited amount of time and resources we had,

considering we started later than we usually do. However, I'm very happy with the way it turned out, and I'm glad my final show as a senior at Shamokin was one to remember. I'm going to miss it a lot. Thank you to Mr. Styer for giving everyone this opportunity."

The performance dates for this year's musical were Thursday, April 8; Friday, April 9; and on Saturday, April 10. The cast performed to the entire student body during two shows, one for seniors, juniors, and sophomores, and one for freshmen and the middle school.

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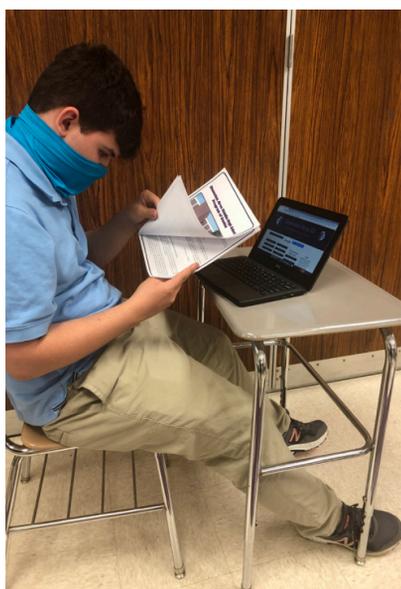
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News	4	Opinion	7	Hodgepodge	10	



**TOP:** Mr. Dante Picarelli, guidance counselor intern, answers questions about scheduling with from left, Lane Reese, and Dawlton Wood, who are both juniors. (Photo by Abigail Kurtz, staff writer/photographer.)



**BOTTOM:** Sophomore Zak Zanella peruses the Program of Studies to determine which classes he will take during the 2021-2022 school year. Zak was among hundreds of students this spring to schedule new courses. (Photo by Terry Post, staff writer/photographer.)

## Selecting classes for 2021-2022

By Ashlea Oakum  
managing editor

One thing that was normal during this unpredictable school year was the process of course selections for the 2021-2022 school year. This year, course selections were held in early March for grades 7-11. Seventh and eighth grade students were able to select their classes for next year during their PE classes, ninth grade in civics, tenth grade in ancient history, and eleventh grade in any of their English classes. Mr. Weller's goal for the fully virtual students was to put instructions on the school's guidance Google Classroom page, and anyone having issues can send him a quick email to get them fixed.

Along with the standard classes that have been added for this current school year, there are some new additions. There will be a History Major class, a research-heavy honors history course. A class fully dedicated to the editing program *GarageBand* will be added, taught by Mr. Hollenberg, as well as a Music Production class where you can learn how music production works.

English 9, 10, and 11 are each getting an honors class, and the Outdoor Recreation course will get a little amped up with things like mountain biking, ziplining, use of the on-campus obstacle course, and much more. The Accounting class taught by Mrs. Suchanick will be renamed "Accounting Principles and Technology", which will focus more on digital accounting rather than the old pencil and paper method. An Accounting 2 class, also taught by Mrs. Suchanick, also has been added to next year's course choices.

Mr. Weller suggested students challenge themselves by taking harder courses, as well as courses that tie in with their career plans. "The big thing is there are many career pathways, and you want to pick courses that fit in the general pathway of your preferred career choice. Give direction as opposed to just taking random courses," Weller added.

**Any further questions or concerns about the scheduling of classes should be directed to the guidance office.**

## 52 students take Alumni Exam

By Jaden Kodack  
staff writer

Fifty-two Shamokin Area seniors took the 2021 Alumni Exam on March 16.

The exam included seven sections: two math sections (Algebra and practical math, like finances), history, two science, and two reading. Students were assigned to certain classrooms on the first floor of the high school with COVID protocol and social distancing measures maintained. The test was given in an online format this year, also because of COVID.

"The test is very fair. No matter your class rank, anyone may get awarded and it is even common for lower ranking students to earn money through the Alumni Exams. The Alumni Exam is an excellent opportunity and each student should not hesitate to take it," said Mr. Matt Weller, guidance counselor.

The Alumni Exam offers 16 scholarships from the Shamokin Area High School Alumni Association. The scholarships include nine awarded from Shamokin High School and seven awarded from Coal Township High School, which were the schools that merged in 1965 into the current Shamokin Area High School. The scholarship amounts range from \$2,000 to \$4,000. Alumni President Amy Rachau, in a video presentation to students about the exam, said recipients will receive their awards per year for four years.

Winners will be announced at the Alumni Banquet, scheduled for Saturday, May 29, at Masser's Banquet Hall. In the event of COVID restrictions, the scholarships will be presented during Awards Night, which is scheduled for Wednesday, May 26.

# On the road and in the air

## 2022 Europe trip updates

By Jaden Kodack  
staff writer

The Europe trip has been postponed once again to 2022. The itinerary will remain the same as of now. Students will depart on an overnight flight to London. The trip, titled "Scots, Bards, and Brits", will take students to London, Oxford, the Stratford area, York area, Alnwick, and Edinburgh. Throughout the trip, students will visit famous landmarks such as Big Ben and Edinburgh Castle.

A survey has been sent out to all students going on the trip to find out if they still plan to attend. With the concerns about visiting a foreign country while a global pandemic is still a threat as well as another postponement, some students have been opting out of attending this trip.

Coronavirus cases have been dropping in the United States as well as in the United Kingdom, and vaccines are beginning to be distributed throughout both countries. The U.K. now has over a quarter of its population vaccinated and is a front-runner for vaccinated populations. Even if students need to follow some restrictions, Mr. Keller is very hopeful that the trip will be in full swing next summer.

## Fun times at Hershey

By Hannah Hess  
staff writer

A sign that life is returning to 'normal' occurred when the annual middle school trip to Hershey was recently approved. The trip will be held on Friday, May 21 for all seventh and eighth grade students who meet specific requirements.

"The trip is a lot of fun," said Mrs. Christina Alonso, one of the teachers in charge of the field trip, which begins with students leaving during homeroom and returning around 5 p.m.

To qualify for the Hershey trip, students must submit their permission slips and a \$45 fee, complete their PSSA exams, meet the academic requirements, and have no discipline issues.

Students, who will have to wear masks, will travel by bus to the amusement park. This middle school trip has become a much-anticipated tradition; however, last year's quarantine meant that the Hershey trip, as well as all other field trips, club activities, and school and sports events were cancelled. Fortunately for the student, this year has a much more positive outlook.

## STUDENTS, continued from front

Others, like seniors Mark Kiracofe and Kayla Kemmerer, said that they can't learn at all when classes are online. "I prefer full in school learning; it really helps me learn seeing the material up close and see how the teacher presents it in person instead of through a screen," said Kemmerer. Kiracofe adds onto this with "...I feel like it is much easier to learn in school as you are forced to actually pay attention in class."

On the other hand, some students choose the online format because they do not have to be around people, but unfortunately it's also harder because you can easily be distracted or ignore your schoolwork as it piles. In the end, a lot of students agree that they are uncomfortable leaving the house whether they are in school or not.

When asked about how their mental health has been doing with COVID and whether it has been easier or harder to learn nowadays, most students had a lot to say. Many said that it was definitely harder to learn now and find it hard to stay on task and complete assignments.

"I feel like it's a bit harder to learn now, before where I was more motivated and pushed forward, I see myself slowly losing motivation to do work and push myself forward in the school system. My grades dropping just caused me to be in a deeper pit of non-motivation," revealed Kemmerer, then proceeded on a positive note, "...I was able to find out more about myself and who I am, as lockdown gave me more time to focus on myself and in the time of this pandemic, I have completely become a whole new person."

Raleigh Nowroski discussed what she thought affected the school the most. "COVID has definitely affected hands-on projects, like we can't do labs in Chem and we can't have parties to celebrate things like Carnival in Spanish; a lot of group projects and interactive lessons

have suffered from social distancing guidelines," Nowroski said.

Most students were split and had varying opinions on the half days. Some said it helped them and teachers catch up on work, plus it gave students more time to study. "The half days were very beneficial to me. It was a bit of a breather to me, and gave me the opportunity to relax at the end of the week," stated senior, Joshua Bashore.

Others said it wasn't necessary and that they preferred more class time. Kiracofe said, "I liked them, but they weren't beneficial as I never have anything that important that needs to be done at home." Nowroski shared a similar thought, "I don't think they were [beneficial], I loved them and it was fantastic to have half days every Friday, but they weren't super beneficial but I understand they were for the teachers more than the students."

"My biggest goal is/was to stay on top of classes, which gets hard, but I'm trying," explained Bashore. Everyone's endgame seems to be similar, in either getting good grades or just getting through the year, facing each setback that has been presented. Nowroski concluded with what every 2021 senior is thinking: "My goals are to finish the school year strong and have a real graduation rather than a virtual one."

## Freshman fundraiser a gigantic success

By Paige Shoffler  
staff writer

Mrs. Makowski and Ms. Miller recently had a fun little fundraiser during the Christmas season, raffling off a *Yeti Cooler* and two stockings filled with gift cards. Currently, the freshman class advisers are holding a meeting once a month with their class. They are hoping to have at least one more fundraiser in the spring. Earlier in the year, that was one of the fundraisers planned, along with selling Shamokin Area face masks and T-shirts.



Some images of the soccer team participating in a campus clean up. LEFT: Dallas Scicchitano made quite a find! RIGHT: Hayden Kramer (left) and Hunter Bates (right) forage the parking lot. (Photos submitted by Mr. Grybos)

### SASD TEACHERS, continued from front

**Mrs. Makowski** - "The way we teach our students has to be flexible. We just need to adapt to the schedule and go with the flow. We have always followed the CDC guidelines, but since COVID hit, we really focused on keeping everything sanitized. I definitely want to keep up the cleaning practices. One of the positive things I learned is that it made me appreciate being a teacher a lot more, because I miss my students and getting to have that hands-on interaction with them."

**Mrs. Reed** - "It's tricky to do our physical activities like cooking. We focus on the content and modeling our activities so that students can learn how to do things we normally do physically at home. The biggest challenge was in our cooking labs. We had to separate students and add a lot of sanitization practices."

**Mr. Kramer** - "I look at the situation two different ways. I look at who will be in school and who will be virtual. Every single class you have to be ready to teach. The negative thing is that it makes labs and group activities more difficult. The positive thing is that if somebody is ever absent because they are sick, the virtual system works well. I've learned that everybody feels different in terms of education and how they want to be taught. It has shown a wide range of opinions from every classmate."

**Mrs. Maciejewski** - "It's hard because the kids lose track of where they are in the story. It also affects my lesson plan because I have to back-track; I need to stop and re-view the section of the story where we left off. It takes a lot of time with everything on Google Classroom. I had to learn to be flexible and roll with the punches. I learned to use technology a lot more."

**Mrs. Carl** - "The kids in my class work better with the in-person routine. What happens is, with the virtual kids, it's a disrupting of their routine. If there was a way to format that into a schedule, it would work better. There are negatives, with the virus shifting learning to virtual and the accountability of the students'

## Shamokin turns back to standardized testing during tough times

By Ashlea Oakum  
managing editor

Even during a pandemic, standardized testing season is back again for a limited time only. The PSSAs and AP exams are presumed to happen normally. PSSA testing for middle school started on April 19, with ELA April 19-21, math April 26-27, and science ran from May 3-4. Students currently enrolled virtually were recommended to come in person and take them at the school.

For keystones, testing for current sophomores will happen in May. Current juniors who didn't get to take their exams last year because of the pandemic have been given an automatic pass and don't have to retake the keystones if they passed their algebra, biology, and English classes. For information on the AP Exams, AP students will be given information from their teacher(s) and College Board closer to May when the exams are set to take place.

To prepare for these exams, do what your teachers have always told you to do - get a good amount of sleep, eat breakfast the morning of, and study (don't cram everything in one night!). Also, try to make educated guesses if you don't know the answer to the questions. "Play around with the problem for a little bit and take an educated guess, you'll have a better chance," Mr. Weller, guidance counselor, advised.

In recent years, the debate of standardized testing being a requirement for students to graduate has made its rounds in the public. Many people have talked back and forth about how beneficial they actually are to students and teachers in the long run. "I'm competitive, so I like them. This is competitive academically, and I want to see how we do against other schools. Historically, we don't test really well, so I want to see how we improve or "beat" other schools," Mr. Weller added.

## Biden inaugurated; now what?

By Terry Post  
staff writer

Jan. 20, 2021, was a day for the history books.

As our nation celebrates the inauguration of its 46th president, the 45th president faced his second impeachment.

After a tumultuous campaign and election, Biden was declared the winner garnering 306 electoral votes, while Donald Trump earned 232. Trump boycotted his successor's inauguration; however, Vice President Mike R. Pence attended.

The new administration features a few interesting facts: Biden is the second Catholic to enter office, and his running mate, Kamala Harris, is the first female vice president. Harris is also the first African American-Asian American vice president.

After all that Biden has done thus far, Americans will be watching to see if Biden fulfills all of his campaign promises: rejoining the Paris Climate Agreement, taxing the wealthy at a higher rate, and signing executive orders putting regulations on gas and oil.

Meanwhile, Congress charged Trump with inciting insurrection and

approved his impeachment on Jan. 13, with a hearing to follow. Trump is the first president to be impeached twice. The charges stem from the riot and storming of the Capitol on Jan. 6. As of now, Biden has signed a total number of 38 executive orders, one of such orders enacted the shutdown of the Keystone XI pipeline, resulting in hundreds of losses of jobs, and a loss of potential energy for both Canada and the USA.

Another executive order established a "Gender Policy" council, which is supposed to combat gender and sex discrimination, and work towards fighting the wage gap. The council is also supposed to "empower girls", which is quite vague for a government document, but it was made in best interest for the coming of equality between men and women.

We can only hope that Biden will continue to put effort towards bettering the USA as a whole, whether that be from his record breaking executive orders amount, or other ways. However, one thing is for certain, and it is that President Joe Biden is certainly busy in his office.

## Graduation update

By Zak Zanella  
staff writer

Graduation is an exciting time for every student and staff member of Shamokin Area High School, but it is especially exciting for seniors, who are eagerly awaiting to move on to college, technical school, the military, and the workforce.

One-hundred and fifty-six students are expected to graduate Tuesday, June 1. Principal Todd Hockenbroch said the ceremony will be held either at the Bridy-Ruane football field, or online, depending on the circumstances of certain COVID-related developments.

If the ceremony is held at the football field, the format will be all the same from previous years. The only difference is that it will be held outside. If the situation forces the school to stay inside and be in the auditorium, speeches from the principal, secretary, as well as the class president, vice president and secretary will be pre-recorded at the auditorium. Also, no adults are permitted to stay in the auditorium. Leading up to the graduation, there are two special events exclusively for seniors, including Awards Night on May 26 and Baccalaureate on May 27. If COVID restrictions in the state are loosened, the ceremony might go as normal in the auditorium.

## Music department will present the sounds of spring

By Blake Harris  
staff writer

To celebrate spring, the music department is working hard on perfecting their musical selections in upcoming concerts. To ensure everyone's safety, the performances for each of the ensembles will be recorded.

Some selections from the orchestra that are sure to please the crowd are *The Avengers* theme and the classic music from *Minecraft*. Chorus will hype the audience with songs like *Eye of the Tiger* from *Rocky*, and *Sir Duke* as recorded by Stevie Wonder. As for band, pieces like *Rampage!* and *Grease*, a collection of songs from the hit musical, will rock the house. Just like previous concerts, these will be available on the SATV's Youtube channel. Dates and times will be announced.

# National *Look-A-Like* Day: April 20, 2021

**Mr. Major**



**Mr. Bailey**



**Mr. Hollenberg**



**Yukon Cornelius**



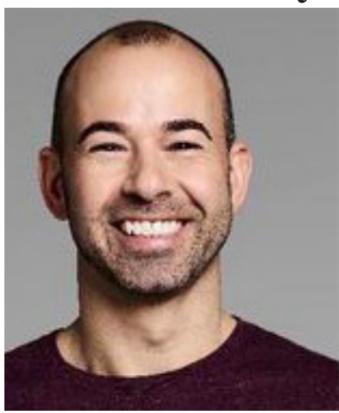
kinda looks like...

kinda looks like...

**Mr. Venna**



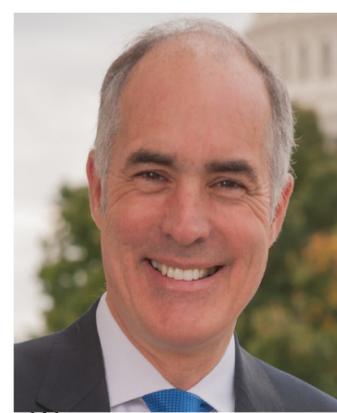
**James Murray**



**Mr. Major**



**Bob Casey Jr.**



kinda looks like...

kinda looks like...

## ...and some of the runners up ;)

**Abbey Noll**



**Lauren Noll**



**Liz Reese**



**Liv Reese**



really looks like...

really looks like...

**Gianna Venna**



**Gabrielle Venna**



**Jaden Kodack**



**Kaden Jodack**



really looks like...

really looks like...

### Over 120 students expected to attend prom

By Jaden Kodack and Ariana Nolter  
staff writers

With all the events being canceled this year, students will be happy to know that one of their most important and memorable events will still be held. The 2021 “Enchanted Forest” prom is planned to be held on May 7. The plan for this year is to have a traditional, indoor prom held at the Brady Fire Hall in Ranshaw, which will be catered by Brewser’s Sports-Grille. However, there is a plan for an outdoor event should the need arise due to the pandemic. This year’s prom theme was voted on by the junior class. The class is still raising funds through meat sticks and t-shirt sales (see Mr. Grybos or Mrs. Suchanick). Over 120 students will be attending prom this year. Voting for prom royalty will be conducted online before the event.

### Kashner calls it quits as the head softball coach

By Audrey Cristan  
staff writer

Shamokin Area Athletic Director Rick Kashner, who also served as the Lady Indians head softball coach, resigned his coaching position earlier this year due to family obligations.

Kashner experienced many accomplishments throughout the years. “We made district playoffs five out of the six years,” he said.

The team has had some ups and downs, but no matter what the result of the game was, Kashner always believed that the girls would “learn more, show growth, and prosper together as a team.” He added, “I’ll miss the girls, the game, and the competition”.

As his family obligations changed over time, Kashner has returned to



A headshot of former head softball coach Rick Kashner. (Photo by Audrey Cristan, staff writer)

practices as an assistant coach, while new head coach, Jared Petrovich, takes the helm.

Kashner has always been known as a very humble person, who enjoys creating bonds between his team and co-coaches. Looking toward a bright future, Kashner offers some advice

the upcoming girls, “Keep working, make goals, and try your hardest to bring our first league and district championship home.”

# How do students feel about online learning?

*The Signal* staff writers interviewed many students in the high school about their feelings on learning online. Here's what a few of them had to say:

**Name: Lauren Noll**

**Grade: 10**

**Positives:** Your work is always there with you. You always know when it's due.

**Negatives:** You don't get face to face [instruction]. [It's] More difficult for typing.

**Name: Payten Puttmann**

**Grade: 10**

**Positives:** Eat a lot of food. I don't have to ask to use the bathroom.

**Negatives:** Learn from a computer. You have to get on the Google Meets.

**Suggestions for better learning:** Send home actual papers.

**Name: Alyvia Charriez**

**Grade: 10**

**Positives:** Sleep in later. Have some alone time.

**Negatives:** Less seeing your friends. Your eyes get strained.

**Suggestions for better learning:**

If you're in school you should have to do paper work so you don't get constantly attached to technology.

**Name: Jacob Erdman**

**Grade: 9**

**Positives:** Sometimes you can work at your own pace. I can listen to music while I work.

**Negatives:** Students can blow their work entirely.

Lots of people learn better in person than virtually and may fall behind.

**Suggestions for better learning:**

If there was a way to make teachers even more active with their students then I think learning could be improved.

**Name: Emily Stanton**

**Grade: 10**

**Positives:** Two positives are being able to work at your own pace and having more free time to get your work done.

**Negatives:** Two negatives about virtual school is that we don't get to socialize with our friends and it makes time management very difficult and more room for procrastination.

**Name: Krystal Pitcher**

**Grade: 10**

**Positives:** Flexibility, you can submit assignments throughout the day whenever and can do your work without having the stress of turning it in within your class period.

**Negatives:** Two negatives are that some virtual kids do not have wifi at home and it makes it very difficult to submit work and it is very hard to learn through a screen for visual, hands on learners.

**Suggestions for better learning:**

Printing out copies of work for students who do not have wifi or struggle with technology problems.

**Name: Kieran Gallagher**

**Grade: 12**

**Positives:** A decrease in COVID cases and freedom to work at your own pace.

**Negatives:** Lack of work ethic because you are in your own home and reliance on wifi and the possibility of not having a connection.

**Suggestions for better learning:**

Students should need to be more involved and have to speak during online learning.

**Name: Hunter Bates**

**Grade: 12**

**Positives:** Being able to learn from the comfort of home and the ability to make your school schedule more flexible.

**Negatives:** Topics can be harder to understand for those doing their work on their own. Some students often become lazy because no one is 'forcing' them to do school work at home.

**Suggestions for better learning:**

My suggestion for better learning would be to create an environment that is as engaging as possible. Get kids to use their voices, make sure each kid is involved. The key to removing a lack of motivation is to give kids a reason to be excited for class. Kids don't want to sit through a boring Google Meet lecture. Their attention spans are too short for it. You have to find a way to make them fun and engaging and the method for this will obviously vary by teacher.

**Name: Dominic Delorso**

**Grade: 11**

**Positives:** If you get sick you are not near others and exposing them to what you have and you don't have to make up the work when you get back to school since you can do it from home.

**Negatives:** Students don't get personal contact with the teacher when online. Fewer chances to socialize with other students when online.

**Suggestions for better learning:**

It should be mandatory that students join their Google Meets so that the teachers can instruct them directly.

**Name: Madysyn Nolter**

**Grade: 9**

**Positives:** Using electronics instead of writing on paper, being able to do work at your own pace.

**Negatives:** (Virtual) Having to be more independent, no assemblies/pep rallies.

**Suggestions for better learning:** Teachers being more available for individual help.

**Name: Cameron Annis**

**Grade: 10**

**Positives:** We don't have snow days that we will have to make up, different ways to study/ learn by being able to go back and watch lessons from teachers.

**Negatives:** More students cheating with technology, people become more distracted being at home.

**Suggestions for better learning:**

People should be more educated on how to use technology.

**Name: Morgan Nolter**

**Grade: 11**

**Positives:** Being able to finish work while not being present in the classroom, not as many kids in school stops the spread of Covid-19.

**Negatives:** Students getting better grades by cheating, harder for teachers and students to communicate.

**Suggestions for better learning:**

Teachers could put all work up ion advance so students can work at their own pace.

**Name: Gabrielle Kurtz**

**Grade: 12**

**Positives:** You don't get docked for being late. You have more wiggle room to do things.

**Negatives:** Some virtual students can cheat while in-person students can't. It's hard to find motivation to do your work or focus while being virtual.



A goose perches itself on the lake at Weiser State Forest. (Photo by Ashlea Oakum, managing editor)



From left, Garrett Kitchen, Brenden Rogers, Robert Harvey, and others carry Joshua Bashore off the stage into the audience during a rehearsal of *Godspell*. (Photo by Cynthia Zheng)



Carly Nye (left) and Morgan Nolter (right) defend a Danville player in a district semifinal game. (Photo submitted by Dr. Jill Nye.)

# Chasing a dream during a pandemic

By Miah Thompson  
layout and design editor

Last April, members of the graduating class of 2020 were devastated to hear that the rest of their academic year would be spent virtually due to concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic, stripping them away of the many exciting things that were yet to come. Even though various (safe) events were held to compensate for the loss of their last few months of school, and, for those who chose to further their education or pursue their goals, the future looked very bleak.

Fortunately, many people were able to continue on with their plans, including Caycee Kalinoski, a 2020 graduate and a former *Signal* staff member. She also participated in the musical for all four of her high school years, FBLA, chorale, and was the vice president of the Shamokin League of Artists.

Caycee, in pursuit of furthering her knowledge for and experience in theatre, chose to study abroad in England for several months, attending Associated Studios in the United Kingdom.

Travelling abroad is a route that many dream of, but very few actually choose to pursue. Kalinoski had her reasons. “I felt like none of the colleges I got into in America were what I wanted, and so I looked for another country with a big musical theatre presence, and London has the West End, so I applied on a whim,” she explained.

Of course, choosing to travel presents the overwhelming challenge



Caycee Kalinoski takes a moment to bask in the sunlight on a hill on a field in England.  
(Photo submitted by Caycee Kalinoski)

of adjusting to life in an unfamiliar place. “Adjusting to being on my own was rather hard, especially in a big city like London. The constant threat of COVID-19 also made things much more stressful than they should have been.” Caycee noted how hard it was to juggle a life of eight hours in school immediately followed by taking care of things at home. Nevertheless, she persisted and eventually was able to strike a balance, with things like navigation, language, and overall etiquette becoming second nature to her.

Unfortunately, her time overseas was cut short due to growing concerns about a new strain of COVID-19 in the UK, but this slight change in plans has not cost Caycee her motivation to

perform. “...if I learned anything in the UK,” she stated with pride, “it was how much I truly love theatre, and I will keep doing it. My plan for now is to apply to some UK and USA universities, or I have been invited back to London for the next semester,” she said.

Caycee has some advice for those interested in theater: “Theatre is hard. It is so hard. You need to be ambitious, and dedicated, and willing to sacrifice your body and your mind for theatre, because if you don’t someone else will. You can’t have a backup plan, you just need to throw yourself into it and prove that you really want this. If theatre is your dream, put in the work, and you will achieve everything and more,” she concluded.

## Modern Music Club: new name, new format

By Miah Thompson  
layout and design editor

Clubs and organizations, like many other activities for this pandemic-affected school year, have been heavily modified or flat out reduced to nothing. However, Modern Music Club, formerly known as the Guitar Club, has managed to coexist with strict COVID-19 guidelines.

Orchestra director Mr. Hollenberg leads the group, along with president Rosalind Kane, senior; vice president Victoria Felin, senior; treasurer Samantha Stancavage, sophomore; and secretary Miah Thompson, senior.

On January 28, 2020, it was announced during a winter showcase that Guitar Club would be formally renamed to Modern Music Club, to the surprise of everyone.

“The club started out because we had a lot of guitar players who wanted a time and place to work and learn together. The club has really evolved beyond that though – we have so many members now who don’t really play guitar, but do play other sorts of modern instruments, like bass, drums, even banjo, etc.,” Hollenberg explained. “... this isn’t a thing that is just happening here in Shamokin. There are schools all across the country that have been embracing more modern music practices in their schools. Some schools will call it ‘Modern Band’, some ‘Modern Music’, some ‘Music Language’, but it all means basically the same thing – teaching music literacy in the way that kids today are most likely to have access to.”

With COVID-19 eviscerating any sense of normalcy within the school, everyone and everything has had to adapt. In MMC’s case, those

adaptations include an entirely online format instead of the standard in person weekly meetings. “It has been difficult to organize the logistics of some of our more ambitious projects. We will certainly be putting together some more projects through the course of the year, but I don’t think we will be having any ‘concerts’ this year by any stretch of the imagination,” Hollenberg said.

This format, however, is not entirely free of struggles. “When students have work and homework to do, and especially when they have already spent the majority of their day behind a desk and a screen, it’s tough for me to justify adding one more thing to the pile,” Hollenberg added.

Mr. Hollenberg gave a valid closing statement about the future of organizations, and how an entirely online format has its benefits and downsides. “I do think that the incorporation of modern technology and internet use in school was long overdue, but I certainly don’t think of what is happening now as a replacement for clubs – just a solution to a problem. So while we may not be able to return to anything resembling ‘normal’ for the rest of this year, or even maybe the year after, there is no doubt in my mind that eventually we will have live and in-person activities and events again,” he concluded.

**Want to join Modern Music Club? Talk to Mr. Hollenberg in room A123!**

## Join the Color Guard!

By Hannah Hess  
staff writer

Have you ever found yourself bored and can’t find fun activities to do? Do you enjoy dancing and performing? Do you want to join the band but can’t quite find an instrument that’s right for you? If you said ‘yes’ to any of the questions, then maybe the Shamokin Area Color Guard is the right activity for you!

Color guard is an amazing extracurricular activity that is a part of the band and performs during football games and competitions with the Shamokin Area High School Band. Guard combines the art of dance, marching, and throwing and spinning a six foot flagpole all together and the output is a creative performance.

Participating in color guard gives you an experience you will never forget! “For me, color guard went from something that I’m a part of, to something that is a part of me. I love the activity and the new friendships it has created,” stated Alicia Whilby, color guard instructor.

So do not waste your time; ask a current member about guard. If you want to join, watch out for sign-ups, which will be posted in the Music Suite.



Mr. Styer, Shamokin Area Marching Band director, holds a euphonium that he will play as he marches in next year’s Tournament of Roses Parade in California. (Photo by Audrey Cristan, staff writer)

## Everything’s coming up roses for Mr. Styer

By Audrey Cristan  
staff writer

Everything will be coming up roses next year when Shamokin Area High School’s band director, Mr. Kevin Styer, will march in the annual Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California. Only three hundred band directors are selected across the entire United States, and to be one of them is a very honorable accomplishment.

“I received an email about submitting an application to be part of the parade,” Styer explained. “Hundreds of thousands of applicants were viewed, all based on skill, local area, what curriculum is taught, and instrument to be played. When my wife and I saw the application, she told me to ‘go for it!’ so I did.”

Shortly after Styer submitted the application, he received a letter of acceptance. “We watch the parade every year, and I never would have thought that I would be in it,” he added. In 2003, Mr. and Mrs. Styer actually went to the parade, “It was kind of like our honeymoon,” he said. “Once you see it live, it completely changes the way you see it.”

The preparation for an event as grand as this is quite a process. Each member will arrive three days prior to the parade for the “meet and greets,” rehearsals, and to practice for the parade routine. The parade is five miles long.

“How do you prepare for that... walk around the track a lot?” joked Styer. “I think that the three hundred of us will carry each other’s weight, and we’ll get through it. It’s going to be a long day, but very rewarding.”

Over 130 years old, the Tournament of Roses Parade is a New Year’s Day tradition where thousands of people line the parade route and millions of television viewers watch creative and colorful floats made of flowers and listen to the accompanying marching bands. According to the Tournament of Roses’ website, next year’s parade will feature the theme and other elements that were planned for 2021, but were affected by the pandemic. The theme “Dream. Believe. Achieve. will expand beyond the initial focus on education and will include a celebration of perseverance and strength, science and scientists, health professionals, first responders and essential workers,” the website mentions.

# State your opinion

## Who was the best *Blues Clues* host?

By Audrey Cristan  
staff writer

Everyone has had a childhood television show that they'll never forget. A popular one for Gen Z is *Blue's Clues* (1996-2006). The interactive show featured Blue, a blue-spotted dog who leaves paw print clues for her owner, who served as the show's host. Through the years, three different actors portrayed the host under the names of Steve, Joe, and Josh. In my opinion, Joe was overall the best host because he showed so much more character and the episodes were a lot more interesting. From his personality to his shirt color, everything was simply better.

This six-season series is about a human host who welcomes his preschool audience to the *Blue's Clues* house, where his animated puppy, Blue, helps find three clues to something they are trying to figure out. Viewers are invited to participate, with Blue and her friends stopping to listen to what the audience has to say. From seasons one to four, the host was Steve, and the host for seasons five and six was Joe.

It is still argued to this day over who was the best host. Then recently, something huge happened. On November 11, 2019 *Nickelodeon* came out with a *Blue's Clues* reboot, which so far has two seasons with a new host, Josh. This became a big hit for the current younger generation. Some episodes actually bring back Steve and Joe, so obviously people are still debating over who's the best host. I have a very simple solution to this debate: rightfully crown Joe as the winner.

## US should take action in Myanmar

By Terry Post  
staff writer

Upon the recent coup inside Myanmar, which saw the country have a military takeover, many have been wondering whether the United States should intervene and continue to let democracy thrive there, or allow things to take their own toll. Americans all over are torn between the choices that the USA has in terms of what we can do for the people of Myanmar. I believe we should act as fast as possible to ensure that nothing bad happens out of the coup.

Allowing matters to take their own toll might present a problem to the democratic countries in Southeast Asia, due to Myanmar's political reach into its neighbouring countries, the change in ideology might inspire more fanatical authoritarians to start a coup in other countries, having seen it successfully done in Myanmar. President Biden has already stated that he plans on doing something to withhold the democracy in Myanmar; however, if he does truly plan some type of action, now is the best time to do so. The government was taken over recently, so the new leader, Min Aung Hlaing, doesn't have his foothold in every part of the country just yet.

If the Burmese leader does not willingly give democracy the foothold in Myanmar, we must take action. Diplomacy is of course the preferred way of dealing with this situation, but if the situation calls for it we can also send forces into the area, potentially showing the Burmese government that we are not afraid of them, and that we have the capability to deploy more forces to retake Myanmar.

# Some facts about standardized testing!

“Standardized testing has been a part of American education since the mid-1800's.”

[www.standardizedtests.procon.org](http://www.standardizedtests.procon.org)

“Federal law requires 95% of test participation, including for the vast majority of those students with disabilities.”

[www.fairtest.org/factsheets](http://www.fairtest.org/factsheets)

“There are several schools that no longer require as part of a student's application, instead examining their larger academic history - from grades and athletics, to community involvement and internships.”

[www.bglaw.com/the-education-reform-primer-our-history-with-standardized-testing/](http://www.bglaw.com/the-education-reform-primer-our-history-with-standardized-testing/)

“Results from a 2015 survey of more than 1,500 NEA members teaching the grades and subjects required in the No Child Left Behind act, indicate that 70% of educators do not believe that state assessment is developmentally appropriate for their students.”

[www.nea.org/advocating-for-change/new-from-nea/survey-70-percent-educators-say-state-assessments-not](http://www.nea.org/advocating-for-change/new-from-nea/survey-70-percent-educators-say-state-assessments-not)

# Are standardized tests fair?

By Ashlea Oakum  
managing editor

Throughout our elementary, middle, and high school lives, we are bombarded with standardized tests, like the PSSAs and Keystone Exams. There are also the AP Exams, but those are only a requirement if you choose to take an AP course in high school. These tests are a set requirement for students to take and teachers to teach, but are they really a fair measurement of every student's success?

There are definitely some pros to standardized tests. For one, they offer a decent measurement of education and can allow teachers and parents to see if any improvement needs to happen. The tests assess students based on similar questions under similar testing conditions, and are graded by a machine or a blind reviewer, so there's no sabotage or bias against the students. They also offer meaningful data to students and parents in marginalized communities. This data helps parents determine if their child is on the right track, and viewers of the data can tell the difference between the races/ethnicities of the students, which can give insight to certain civil problems that can be fixed.

Also, standardized tests allow individual administrators, school districts, and the state to compare and evaluate the teachers and how they've helped students. They are included in the wide range of data along with criteria such as administrative observation and student surveys, which allows for a more accurate representation of the teacher and their effectiveness. Research suggests that interventions with struggling students to help them improve test scores are linked to better adult outcomes such as college attendance, higher incomes, and avoidance of risky behaviors.

However, there are also some important negatives to standardized testing. First, test scores are affected by many factors besides intelligence,

such as stress, hunger, tiredness, study environment/time, etc., and the scores really only determine who's good at preparing for the test, considering students could have better scores if their stomachs weren't empty or they weren't super stressed out.

Standardized tests could also be deemed as racist and classist. For example, according to John Rosales for the National Education Association ([nea.org](http://nea.org)), the SAT was originally created during WWI by psychologist Carl Brigham to segregate soldiers by different races and the test scores, as science at the time incorrectly linked race to intelligence. The tests can also be classist, as wealthier students have access to higher-quality educational resources, which leads to better scores than the less financially stable students. These are just a few examples of how the tests can only be beneficial to a select group of people/students.

Standardized tests are unfair metrics for teacher evaluations, as there will always be some mismatch between what is taught in class and what actually shows up on the test. Lastly, scores cannot be accurate predictors of future success. The tests only evaluate knowledge in mathematics, English, and science, so they do not evaluate creativity, problem solving, critical thinking, artistic ability, or other knowledge that cannot be judged by scoring a sheet of filled bubbles. Also, grade point averages (GPAs) are a 5-times stronger indicator of college success than standardized tests, as they measure a wide variety of skills and behaviors needed for success in college, where students will encounter widely varying content and expectations.

To sum it all up, I think that standardized tests aren't a terrible thing to have, but they need much more improvement to become as great, important, and fair as education officials make them out to be.

# The children deserve better

By Zak Zanella  
staff writer

There are many children's programs that every average child has grown up with throughout their lives. *Sesame Street*, *Full House*, *Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood* and *Doug* are just some of the iconic shows that have become staples for children everywhere. But, when it comes to relatable stories, characters and timeless life lessons that children can grow and learn from, no other children's program out there is about as iconic in honoring these values as *Thomas the Tank Engine and Friends*, or *Thomas & Friends*, for short. Sadly, this legacy of beloved stories and "Making Tracks to Great Destinations" has come to an end, thanks to the hands of *Mattel, Inc.*

*Mattel*, the largest toy maker in the world, bought the iconic franchise from *HiT Entertainment*, a children's production company, and changed it to a more cartoon-y 'bouncy' style in animation and appearance. *Mattel* also plans to change it to reflect current issues, such as gender equality. For the past 10 years, since the brand's acquisition, the creative teams and story writers at *Mattel* have decided to treat the brand not as an iconic story with a quality message to deliver to children, but instead as an opportunity for them to consistently gain profits and make fresh new content to lighten up the brand, just so they can be the supreme leader of the toy category. They have completely re-engineered *Thomas* to become more of a geography show by taking him around the world and learning about new countries and railway lines.

For over 70 years, this beloved character has "chugged" his way into the hearts of millions of young children (typically 2 to 6 year olds) and families throughout the world.



*Thomas & Friends* has definitely become a global children's icon in its own right not only through his incredible TV series based on the books, but also, the timeless classic songs composed by Mike O'Donnell and Junior Campbell, a successful railway tour throughout the U.S. and Canada called *Day Out with Thomas*, and consumer products that extend its reach to a new generation, such as wooden railway sets, DVDs, and remote-controlled engines. Many people have even looked up to *Thomas* as a teaching tool, especially for people with disabilities like autism. Whether people like the repetitive nature and simplicity of the stories, or the cast of colorful engine characters, no one can deny that there has always been something that everyone can relate to from these stories.

However in 2011, *HiT's* productions and brands became a part of *Mattel's* brand portfolio, joining *Barbie*, *Hot Wheels*, *Fisher-Price*, among other brands. But, ever since the merger, *Mattel* has made a lot of bad changes that fans hated, including voice acting for the engines, CGI animation, and gender equality by adding Nia and Rebecca to Tidmouth Sheds, and taking out Edward, Henry and Toby. It doesn't make sense to take away those two characters because they have built the franchise into what it is today. Introducing new engines to the mix is nice, but when you fail to emphasize on their character, the characters become pointless and they

don't get as much attention as the main characters. That is exactly what happened when Nia and Rebecca were introduced.

The people at *Mattel* never thought about how the brand held a special place in many people's hearts and even considered how many adult fans of *Thomas* there actually are, some who are even writing and producing their own *Thomas* productions at home through YouTube and using the most professional editing tools to bring the stories to life. *Thomas* was supposed to be treated as a cheeky, but a really useful engine who wanted to explore the island and learn from his work, not as a world traveler cartoon engine who wanted to "actually" see the world for himself by going to different countries. No wonder many fans of the classic series have

been upset with what *Mattel* has done, and they have been sharing their thoughts throughout YouTube and other social media. At least when *HiT* owned *Thomas*, they remained true to the show's roots and accepted it for just the way the show was. They did make a few mistakes now and then by putting in CGI face expressions in Season 12, but at least it was not something to ruin the reputation of the franchise. *Mattel* should either sell the franchise to another company, or just stick to having the license to make *Thomas* toys and not make films and episodes for *Thomas*, because half of the people that they hire to make these stories rush the work and they simply don't care about what the children are watching.

## Softball team starts with a new coach

By Audrey Cristan  
staff writer

The Shamokin Area Lady Indians Softball team will focus on the word 'new' as its season kicks off with a new coach, new players, and even new uniforms.

Shamokin area 2004 graduate Jared Petrovich has taken over as head coach after Athletic Director Rick Kashner resigned earlier in the school year. Kashner, who served as head coach for seven seasons, will remain on staff as an assistant coach. Other members of the coaching staff include Jim Campbell, assistant coach; Alea Faus and Jennifer Hornberger, volunteers.

Coach Petrovich is married to Ashley Scandle, a 2003 Shamokin Area graduate. They are the parents of Kennedy Petrovich, freshman, and Kamden, who is in fourth grade. In his new post, Petrovich will have the opportunity to coach his daughter, Kennedy, who plays shortstop on the team.

With only a few weeks in, Petrovich brought the girls together at his private practice complex, worked with them on better communication, and even created new uniforms for the team.

Like every school activity and sport, the softball team has lost some good players due to graduations, but this gives the underclassmen a time to shine. Many of the teammates have played together for years, which only continues to strengthen the team as a whole. The girls are full of positivity and eager to get things started.



A headshot of Jared Petrovich.

## SA boys' basketball draws to a close

By Ariana Nolter  
sports editor

The boys' basketball team ended their season on March 5 with a loss at Montoursville in the first round of districts. They finished the season with a record of 6-11.

The Indians graduate one senior, Brent Reed. High scorers for the Indians this season were Cayan Lee, Colin Seedor, Brent Reed, and Cameron Annis. The Indians had some very hard fought wins this season, but couldn't connect the dots in some close games.

They will look forward to a promising future with only one starter graduating and many underclassmen with experience for next season.

**6-11**  
wins losses

## Lady Indians nab silver in district game



TOP: The Lady Indians huddle up during their district championship game at Williamsport vs. Central Columbia. BOTTOM: Carly Nye (left) and Morgan Nolter (right) defend a Danville player in a district semifinal game. (Photos submitted by Dr. Jill Nye)

By Ariana Nolter  
sports editor

The Lady Indians basketball squad closed out their season with a tight 45-40 loss to Central Columbia in the District 4 championship. They ended with an overall record of 12-6. In a 'normal' year the team would have advanced to states after taking silver in the district, but because of Covid-19 restrictions, only the district champion moved on.

The Indians played a seven-girl rotation throughout the year with all players taking turns contributing to the team's success. The girls' team

graduates three seniors: Emma Kramer, Grace Nazih, and Ari Nolter. Key varsity players that will be returning for next season are: Morgan Nolter, junior; Madison Lippay and Desiree Michaels, sophomores; and Carly Nye, freshman.

Coach Rickert commented on the girls' district title run, "The effort was there all year long, the senior leadership was one of the keys to success. It was a major stepping stone to get to the championship game and hopefully with the younger classmen having that experience it leads to more championship occurrences."

## Track and field team is taking a 'wait and see' approach

By Ashlea Oakum  
managing editor

The spring sports season has begun, and track and field is no exception. With the season beginning March 7 and ending during Memorial Day weekend with the state championships, the track and field team is working hard to make this year successful.

"It's always tough to say how the team will do this year, especially with losing last year. We are taking a 'wait and see' approach" said head coach and social studies teacher Mr. Kopitsky Jr.

How well the team will compete against other schools this year "all depends on the year and the division we are in. The Pennsylvania Heartland Athletic Conference (PHAC), especially in division 1, is a track heavy league with very good teams. We compete against Shikellamy, Williamsport, Selinsgrove, Lewisburg, Jersey Shore, and Central Mountain," Kopitsky stated.

There is a hefty amount of competing seniors this year who want to make this season the best it can be.

The seniors include: Grace Nazih, Emma Kramer, Haelee Taylor, Megan Roman, Aubrey Shultz, Freyja Yeager, Diana Martinez, Emilee Bland, Katlyn Brunson, Gabrielle Kurtz, and Madison Bridy.

If there are any underclassmen that want to join track and field in the future but haven't done it before, Kopitsky advises you to "please get in shape BEFORE the track season starts."

### Remaining Division I Track Meets

Selinsgrove  
April 28th

Shikellamy  
May 4th

Jersey Shore  
May 11th

## Mowery and team finally get a season!

By Ariana Nolter  
sports editor

Last year around this time the whole country shut down. This included schools and any spring sports. Head coach Jason Mowery was preparing for his first year leading the Indians baseball team when one week into practice everything was put on hold, and eventually cancelled. "I understood the decision, but I was really disappointed. With it being my first year as head coach, I was very excited to get started," Coach Mowery commented.

This year the team will finally get to compete. The team and other local baseball teams will not need to wear masks as the PIAA voted against spring sports to wear them while engaging in physical activity; however, all spectators and athletes on the side lines will be required to wear them.

When asked what this season will mean, Coach Mowery said, "Every season is special. This one will be a little more special, however. It was very sad for all of last year's seniors to miss out on their final seasons in all of the spring sports. Fortunately, this year's senior class will get a chance to compete in their final seasons."

The Indians have little experience returning to the lineup as the squad two years ago was mostly seniors and last year no one got to play. Senior Hunter Bates is the only player on the roster with any varsity experience. "We will be leaning on him and the other upperclassman to lead the team while trying to get playing time to the younger guys so we can build the program for future years," said Mowery. His goals for this season are not based on wins or losses; he just wants his team to "...go out each and every day of practice and each and every game to play as hard as we can."

The Indians' kicked off their season March 29 at Mount Carmel.

## Wrestling comes to an end

By Ariana Nolter  
sports editor

The Indians' wrestling team finished the season with a team record of 5-10. In a school year filled with uncertainties, sports teams being able to compete has been a challenge for schools, athletes, and coaches.

Head coach Todd Hockenbroch said, "I am so proud of all our wrestlers, coaches, school board, and administrators for being able to compete this year. So many people never thought this season would happen, but it did and it was with great success."

The Indians were led by seniors Micah Miller and Collin Bozza. Underclassmen also contributed to the season. Wade Alleman was a regional qualifier for the team and Tyler Whary finished with the most wins on the team. Alleman should be on the path to place at states next season and the Indians will hope to have Max Madden return from an injury by next season. The team has a promising future ahead of them with two junior high wrestlers going undefeated, Chase Pensyl and Blake Hockenbroch, who are both incoming freshmen next school year.

## Buck-A-Line

Curriculum not bussin, no cap. -Mrs. Rhoads

If I don't win the vote, I'm always prom king in your hearts. -Jaden Kodack

Hope your senior year is better than mine! -Ari

"It's pronounced Are-e-ah-nah, not Air-ee-uh-nuh" -Ariana Nolter

"What if you viewed The Signal Spring 2021 edition...haha just kidding....unless?" -Ashlea Oakum

Why's prom built like that? -The entire student body

Shout out to everyone still trying their best during these trying times! -Jadyn Slovick

Excellent job this year Signal staff! -Mrs. Rhoads

I don't have a favorite teacher, I love them all equally. -Zak Zanella

May the force be with you. -Paige Shoffler

Wack. -Everyone ever

Help us -the siggy

## Mandalorian actress Gina Carano fired from Lucasfilm

By: Paige Shoffler, staff writer

The *Mandalorian* actress Gina Carano was fired by Lucasfilm in February after she posted controversial tweets. Carano has since stated that she found out about the firing through social media.

The *Mandalorian* TV show is about when the Mandalorian meets "Baby Yoda" and embarks on a journey to get the child back home to his own kind.

Numerous media outlets reported that Carano was shocked and sad that she was being removed from the season two press tour.

Hasbro has even decided to pull the Cara Dune action figures, and will no longer produce them after her firing from season three.

A Disney spokesperson has stated as well that Gina's character Cara Dune will not be recast for season three and other future projects at this time.

The *Mandalorian* actress announced on Twitter that she will be partnering up with the *Daily Wire* to develop and star in a new feature film.



## WandaVision

By Audrey Cristan, staff writer

Rating: 4 stars out of 5

From the box office hit movies, *Marvel* presents two super-powered heroes who were once part of the Avengers are now living idealized suburban lives. Wanda Maximoff, the Scarlet Witch and Vision, a vibranium-syntheticoid inhabiting the mind stone, suspect

that everything is not as it seems. First and foremost, I'd like to state that I am considered a huge *Marvel* fan. I've seen all of the movies, in cinematic order, and I am both very emotionally attached and personally invested in everything that *Marvel* has to offer. One word to describe the series would be confusing. If you've watched other movies from *Marvel*, then the first two episodes won't seem to make sense, but with each new episode it's easier to understand. There are a lot of interesting twists happening within this series, such as jokes, an actual plot that goes back and forth, and a lot of "Easter eggs" and clues to look out for. *Marvel* is known to produce epic movies and television shows, and for this series so far, they did not cease to disappoint. You can stream *WandaVision* now on Disney Plus.

## Soul

By Audrey Cristan, staff writer

Rating: 4.8 stars out of 5

This *Disney Pixar* film shows us the life of Joe, a middle-school band teacher, whose life hasn't quite gone the way he expected. His true passion is jazz, and he's pretty good at it. *Disney* is notorious for their great, meaningful productions, and this *Pixar* film truly embraces that. Unlike *Disney Pixar's* other films, *Soul* presents the original setting a bit more realistically, especially where the animated film takes place, in New York City. Something very interesting happens all of a sudden and the film takes us to a whole different setting, a whole different world. The title *Soul* is almost self-explanatory in this case. It takes you through the origins of life before it happens, and *Disney* manages to do this in a very modern, technological way. This has to be one of the best films that *Disney Pixar* has produced.



## All American

By Audrey Cristan, staff writer

Rating: 3.8 stars out of 5

This *CW* drama series is based on a true story, revolving around Spencer James, a rising high school football player and an A-student at Crenshaw High which is located in a dangerous, troubled neighborhood. When coach Billy Baker recruits him to join his team in Beverly Hills, his mother and best friend Coop convince him that it's an opportunity he has to seize. Spencer is forced to move in with Billy and his family to protect his transfer permit to Beverly, and it's quite the culture shock from the hood to this privileged place. This drama series truly proves itself as one of the great shows that the *CW* has to offer.



## REVIEWS

This series really highlights the struggles that the characters go through, and the power they have to overcome them. The amazing thing about this series is that you don't even have to like football to watch it, it's more about personal growth and development.

There's drama, suspense, action, constant real life situations, tragedy, and excitement all throughout the series. I definitely would recommend it. You can watch this on the *CW* app or Netflix.



## Cobra Kai slithers into the spotlight

By Paige Shoffler, staff writer

Rating: 10 stars out of 10

Whether you are an original *Karate Kid* fan from the 1980s, or you are just interested in streaming an entertaining series, *Cobra Kai* should be your next choice. I personally think that *Cobra Kai* so far has been really well done and that the cinematography is great as well.

*Cobra Kai* first debuted on YouTubeRed in 2018 taking place 34 years after the events of *The Karate Kid*. The first season starts off with comparing Johnny Lawrence's life to Daniel LaRusso's; Lawrence and LaRusso were opponents in the original movie. Johnny works as a part-time handyman, lives in a smaller apartment, and has hit hard times. Daniel is successful, owning his own car dealership, is married, has children, and is respected in his community. When Johnny loses his job, he begins to teach karate to Miguel Diaz for defense against his bullies. Diaz lives in the same apartment complex as Johnny does.



At the beginning of season 2, Johnny has rebuilt *Cobra Kai* which has attracted a group of outcasts, and he begins to train them for defense. When Daniel hears about *Cobra Kai* he has a flashback to events in the first and second *Karate Kid* movies and tries to stop Johnny's dojo from entering the karate tournament. This season also sees the return of the character of John Kreese, the original sensei of *Cobra Kai*, a feud between Daniel's daughter and a member of Kreese's dojo, and a tragedy of one of the main characters.

At the beginning of season three, Kreese tries to take over Johnny's dojo stating that he created *Cobra Kai* originally. Johnny tries preventing this and ends up losing his students. Though there are some who are still loyal to Johnny, such as Miguel, some go with Kreese. This season also features the continuation of the feud between Daniel's daughter, Sam, and Tory Nichols, the results of the previous season's cliffhanger, and more karate.

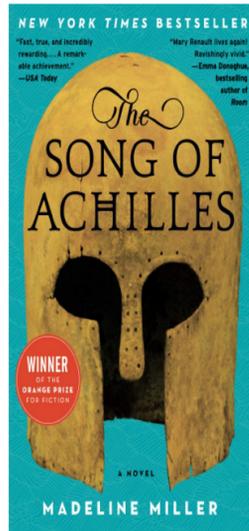
Filming of *Cobra Kai* season 4 is underway, and hopefully fans may not have to wait too much longer to see their favorite characters again. I can't wait to see what they have planned for season 4 of *Cobra Kai*!

## Book Review: The Song of Achilles retells a hero's story

By: Jadyn Slovick and Kathryn Slotterback, staff writers

Rating: 8 stars out of 10

*The Song of Achilles*, by Madeline Miller, is the tale of the great ancient Greek hero Achilles told through the eyes of his therapon (attendant/servant) and close friend, Patroclus. The book tells the story of the two throughout their lives, starting from Patroclus's childhood, before he met Achilles, and still lived with his father. The book then moves on to Patroclus living with Achilles and the rest of the boys Achilles' father, Peleus, takes in. It continues with their friendship all the way up to and through the Trojan War. "He is a weapon, a killer. Do not forget it. You can use a spear as a walking stick, but that will not change its nature." Patroclus knew one day Achilles would die - not only was he a mortal, it had been prophesied - and this was the only person he was close with. "And perhaps it is the greater grief, after all, to be left on earth when another is gone." (*The Song of Achilles*, pg. 79)



This book, written just under ten years ago, tells a story about something that many older historians do not talk about; although it doesn't completely follow the tale(s) of Achilles exactly. For example, Miller doesn't use the myth of "Achilles' *Life is Strange* Series is Worth Reading

Following a possible ending in the well beloved game *Life is Strange*, aspiring photographer Maxine "Max" Caulfield and best friend Chloe Price try to build a new life after a storm swept through Arcadia Bay. One day Max starts going back through time, without even knowing it! To uncover what is really going on, the best friend duo head back to what once was their home, and to quite literally face ghosts of their past.

## Life is Strange Series is Worth Reading

### Reading

By Paige Shoffler, staff writer

Rating: 10 stars out of 10

Following a possible ending in the well beloved game *Life is Strange*, aspiring photographer Maxine "Max" Caulfield and best friend Chloe Price try to build a new life after a storm swept through Arcadia Bay. One day Max starts going back through time, without even knowing it! To uncover what is really going on, the best friend duo head back to what once was their home, and to quite literally face ghosts of their past.



If you are a fan of the *Life is Strange* video game series, then I think that this is the follow up story for you! I cannot recommend this book series enough! And if you are a fan of *Life Is Strange: Before the Storm*, this comic book series will hit you right in the feels! More comics are reportedly on the way from *Multiversity Comics*, and I wonder what's in store for Max and Chloe next!

# Horoscopes

By: Abigail Kurtz, staff astrologist

**Aries:** This month will be a good month, time to relax and take some time for yourself. You deserve it! Indulge in self-care, escape into your imagination, or just relax and do nothing for a while.

**Taurus:** It's finally time for you to breathe easier Taurus; it'll be a good month for you. You'll be given good career opportunities and will continue on a path for good long-term plans.

**Gemini:** Make sure to stay on your toes this month; it will be filled with motivation and many opportunities for you to take! Also make sure, though, to not let your plans be disconnected from reality.

**Cancer:** This is your month to try something new, to step out of your comfort zone and explore a little! This is also your month for fresh starts, whatever they may be. Make sure to take care of yourself, especially if you're feeling depleted.

**Leo:** Take this month to reconnect with your most cherished people and old friends. This is also your month to concentrate and power through any difficult work you may have. Make sure to make time for important relationships too.

**Virgo:** Focus on your relationship growth; make sure to keep any relationship you have strong. Make sure you resolve any issues you have with anyone close to you but make sure you resolve any issues you have with yourself too.

**Libra:** The urge to follow your heart will be very strong this month; make sure you follow it because it will lead you to great things. Make sure not to make your goals too big and burn yourself out, take things slow right now, you need it.

**Scorpio:** This month will bring a lot of happiness, so make sure you have fun this month! Use this month to establish healthy boundaries and to resolve the tension between you and your family. You may come into money this month, keep an eye out for it.

**Sagittarius:** Be comfy in your home this month, rest, and let your creativity flow! Maybe create some gentle daily rituals for yourself. Focus on setting a solid foundation for yourself, your personal life, and your plans for the future.

**Capricorn:** Use this month to make new connections, make new friends, meet new people, maybe get a dog or a cat. Be talkative, get a bit out of your comfort zone and be social this month but don't forget about self care!

**Aquarius:** Be productive this month, get projects done and follow your goals! Make sure to stay grounded, though, or you'll risk losing yourself to pressure. Get out of the house, maybe go for a walk or get some exercise.

**Pisces:** Focus on yourself this month, maybe do a small wardrobe update or treat yourself to a style update. Maybe make a new small change in your daily schedule. Get yourself stabilized this month amidst the chaos of the surrounding world. Make sure to decompress this month, too.

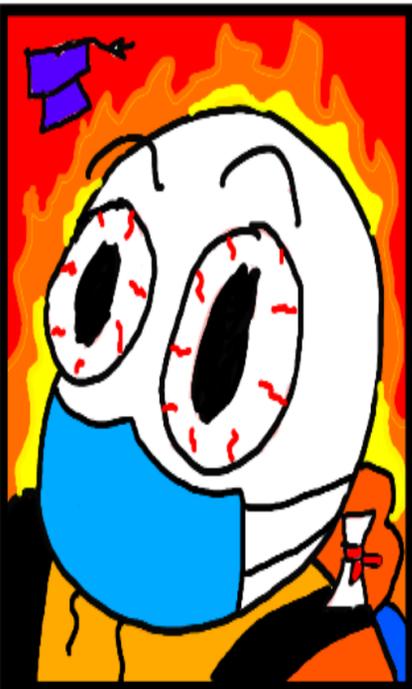


I'm graduating soon

I'M GRADUATING SOON

Grad Day: June 1st

Decision: May 1st



Comic by Ashlea Oakum, managing editor

## Amusing Articulation to Apply

By Terry Post, staff writer

Tongue twisters tear our thoughtful minds to terrible shreds when we try them. Lesser known ones know no bounds when it comes to hitting our pronunciation hard. Here are some hefty twisters to make you seem heroic in your English. Enjoy!

Terry tiger tickled Tina tiger who tickled Tigger.

How can a clam cram in a clean cream can?

I saw Susie sitting in a shoeshine shop.

Lesser leather never weathered wetter



### Join Mass Media!

Mass media is not only a group of close friends who lift each other up, but is also a class that can help develop your literacy skills, writing skills, and interviewing abilities! It can also be useful for when you apply for jobs, for employers look for people who are confident in their speech, show leadership skills, have good organizational skills, research skills, and are competent with modern day technology. Mass Media can do wonders for you, all you have to do is sign up!

- Stop by room C-216 for more info!

## Question in the hall

Questions in the hall is a section continued from a previous edition of *The Signal* where someone in our staff asks questions to people in the hallways. Here, students were asked:

**“What’s your favorite animal and why?”**

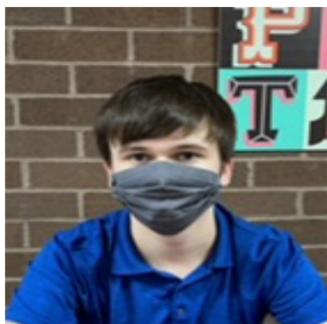
**Gabby Wagner, junior**



I would choose a zebra, because I think they look very pretty.



**Brenden Rogers, junior**



It's gotta be monkeys. I mean, just look at 'em!.



**Mark Kiracofe, senior**



A horse. They're useful and you do better in battle when on one.



## THE SIGNAL

*The Signal is an entirely student-run publication dedicated to informing the school and surrounding community in a truthful and ethical manner.*

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The thoughts and opinions reflected on the Opinion Page are exclusive to the writers and do not reflect the entire *Signal* staff's.