

# THE PLATINUM PRESS

Volume 8 - Issue 4

Chaparral High School

Temecula, CA 92591

May 27, 2021

## The PLATINUM PREVIEW

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## Mrs. Kristan Morales Named “Teacher of the Year”

Skylyn Roman '24  
Staff Writer

As it nears the end of the year, staff members take the time to recognize the teachers this year that have shown their hard work and exemplary teaching skills, and nominate them for the “Teacher of the Year” award. This year, Mrs. Kristan Morales, geometry and precalculus teacher, was the recipient of this award. Not only did Morales win teacher of the year for the school, but on Wednesday, May 26, she was also awarded “Riverside County Teacher of the Year.” Morales is the fourth teacher from the Temecula Valley Unified School District (TVUSD) to be given this award, and her continuous dedication to teaching has shown that she is deserving of it. These are both very prestigious, and through her passion for educating students, she proved to the district that she was the right person to receive it.

Morales has worked as a math teacher on campus since 2007. Though teaching is clearly a passion of hers, she started off on a different path. Morales has a degree in quantitative economics and decision science, and initially wanted to be a corporate executive when she graduated from college. For a couple of years, she worked in retail, but this experience only led her to realize that what she really cared most about was people.

Teaching has allowed her to really go forth with what she had a passion for: educating people while also forming connections and leaving a lasting impact on students. Morales’s main focus has always been on students, and while she is there to aid students, she also encourages students to figure things out, and allow them to grow as individuals. “I love students, and the excitement. Especially in math, the way I teach, I try to let them do the discovery and let them feel empowered,” Morales stated. “What wakes me up in the morning is students, and learning and helping young individuals grow.” She has taken on several other roles during her time on campus. She has established herself as a technology coach for both the district and the school, an instructional leader, and an advisor for the Super Smash Bros. Club. Through these positions, she demonstrates her passion for not only supporting students, but also for supporting other staff members and colleagues. Morales continuously uses her expertise and knowledge

on technology, the math curriculum, and more to have a positive effect on the campus. Throughout her years of teaching, she has gained the respect of many of her colleagues who all certainly commend her passion and dedication to her roles on campus. Many

people seek out her advice because of her incredible knowledge on different subjects. Principal Mrs. Tina Miller, stated, “Mrs. Morales provides tremendous support to students, administration, and staff. Her commitment to doing what is best for students is always evident in her decisions and actions. She effectively collaborates with all the stakeholders involved with the success of our students.” Throughout the years, she has shown her incredible determination in her career through the success of her students and the growth of others around her. She truly cared about her students, which is why many staff members think she is the perfect fit for this prestigious award. In addition, math teacher Mrs. Justine Van Gaale attested to this, “Through her professional development training, technology coaching, and powerful lessons, she helps students and staff to better understand and collaborate to be more successful.” Her leadership roles have benefited everyone that she works with, from students to staff members and faculty. Furthermore, her knowledge of technology as well as her especially been

helpful during the pandemic, considering during this time, many students and teachers have had to rely on technology much more than they used to. Learning about how to use all of the technology in such a short amount of time could have been difficult, but Morales was able to master it and help those who were having issues. Counselor Mrs. Mary Campo stated, “I think, especially now, during these times she’s really been an incredible resource to our staff. I think with her teaching technology not only to students but to staff members, is she tries to make it palpable for everyone.” She is incredibly patient and has made it understandable for everyone. Since she taught it in a way that was easy to understand, it made the transition to virtual learning much easier on the staff, and she found ways to use technological tools to benefit all of the students on campus. Next year, Morales is looking forward to connecting with her students in the classroom once again. “Nothing replaces the one-on-one connections you make with students,” she stated. She is hoping to rebuild the school culture, and bring everyone together again. However, even through this abnormal school year, Morales has continued to uphold an important role on campus, inspiring both students and staff alike with her passion and dedication to teaching.



Credit: Kristan Morales

Mrs. Morales is honored as “Teacher of the Year.”

## New ASB President and VP: Dew and Weldon

Emily Pham '21  
School News Editor

With the 2020-21 school year coming to an end, the elections for next year’s Associated Student Body (ASB) leadership concluded last month, which allowed students to have a say in who the leaders on campus should be. All candidates ran with thriving integrity, perseverance, and determination, but the elected winners, ASB President Junior Jaden Dew and Vice President Junior Ethan Weldon, are now anticipating the upcoming school year as they continue to fuel their enthusiasm towards new projects and events.

Weldon and Dew both initially joined ASB because they hoped to be part of an effort to make the school a better place for students on campus. Weldon stated, “To

me, this means that I get to be even more involved in my school. I get to be on the committees who get to make the ideas for events and executive them. Jaden and I have a lot of plans and dreams for improving the school.” After the long months of planning, the work has finally paid off as they will now get to create a positive school culture where students will then perform their best abilities and build a continued future. Ever since, Weldon and Dew have been hosting Instagram Lives where students have the opportunity to ask any questions they may have regarding the duo’s future plans, campaign, and feedback. As president, Dew hopes to lead their classmates with positivity with the ideal goal of connecting students with one another by holding polls and Instagram Lives in order to have more

participation in future events. Dew elaborated, “I am excited to get working on all the things [as] we would like to implement starting as soon as possible, starting with Instagram lives.” On top of this, he also has to balance this important role with piling schoolwork, but Dew is determined not to let anything stop him from making a positive change on the school as well as the community. Weldon, as vice president, shares similar values of goals of Dew in improving the school, and creating vast opportunities for students to express themselves in. With the passion for ASB, he aims to use his power to bring students together for events and ideas for the future on campus. Weldon mentioned, “We want to have more audience participation in rallies and we want to

make them more interactive as a whole.” With the inspiration from a friend and a mentor from middle school, he continues to follow their footsteps with plans to give students a variety of opportunities. With the rest of this year planned ahead of them, Weldon and Dew’s dedication and passion will

allow them to work together to create a one of a kind experience for all students and staff. Weldon and Dew are both excited, and would like to thank their voters for putting their trust in them as they are truly honored to implement a positive change within the community as the newest 2021-22 ASB President and Vice President.



Credit: Ethan Weldon

Dew and Weldon have many exciting ideas for next school year.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Principal Tina Miller



Pumas,

We are coming to the end of our 2020-21 school year. I can't believe that an entire school year has gone by. It has been great seeing many of our students and staff return back to campus the past two months. Together, we have navigated through online distance learning, cohort hybrid learning, social distancing, and much more. Regardless of all the changes this year, Pumas have stayed strong and supported one another.

I am so happy to see students this semester getting back on campus for extracurricular activities such as athletic events, visual art performances, and award ceremonies. Extracurricular activities are opportunities for our students to demonstrate their talents, achievements, and hard work. I am especially looking forward to our graduation ceremony and activities for our seniors. The class of 2021 is an amazing group. They have been strong through all of this and even put their own feelings aside to be there to support our underclassmen. They have shown courage, strength, and PRIDE in many ways through this year.

Please stay safe in the coming weeks and take care of you and your family. Pumas will always remain together and be there for each other. Even in times of hardship, we will continue to remain strong and push through together.

Go Pumas!

Swinging Table Debut

Eugenia Hernandez '21  
Staff Writer

After simply being told they would make an interesting podcast duo, Seniors Camryn Friday and Macy Mora pulled out a white board and began planning for what would soon be known as "The Swinging Table" podcast. The duo began recording last month and they are set to release their first ten podcast episodes sometime in June.

The atmosphere of the podcast is laid back for the most part, with the girls discussing topics including friend groups, mental health, current events and even the duo's plans for their futures. For them, planning an episode consists of late night brainstorming and writing their plans in a shared Google Document in which they simply use bullet points to help them continue conversation while recording an episode. During recordings, Mora and Friday are given plenty of creative freedom. "We have our own little corner. . . We have our mics set up and he [the producer] just tells us, 'do what you do,'" Mora elaborated. The episodes are recorded in a studio located in Inglewood, California where the idea of starting the podcast was first born. "I work with a producer. . . and I think I called Macy one day and we're just talking and he was like 'you guys are, like, funny; this would work as a podcast,'" Friday said, and that very same day, the two got together to begin planning. To set the idea in stone, "The Swinging Table" podcast Instagram account, @theswingingtable, was created and they post frequent updates about their progress on it.

Apart from just wanting to share their entertaining dynamic, Friday and Mora felt that they had stories they wanted to tell, specifically ones that would be relatable to their audience. With an overwhelming amount of podcasts featuring celebrities or well-known figures, "The Swinging Table" stands out by featuring these two unknown friends as they sit down and talk about their lives. Along with building a platform, the duo's biggest goal is for listeners to use their personal experiences as a way to deal with their own. "We were lucky that with most of our experiences we've gone through it together, but most people can't do that. . . We just want to help people." Mora elaborated. They hope this will be a fun, safe space for their listeners.

With a pair as fun and eccentric as Friday and Mora, "The Swinging Table" is bound to take off quickly. Set to release sometime around June, the much-anticipated podcast will be available on YouTube, Spotify, and the Apple Podcast app where viewers can tune in, watch or listen to their podcasts.

A Letter of Gratitude from Co-EICS

Dear Pumas,

You have just made it through one of the weirdest and possibly most challenging years that we have ever faced. This was a year of far too many let-downs, losses of motivation, and urges to somehow keep a smile on our faces through the entire thing. And you still managed.

We want to personally thank you for supporting *The Platinum Press* since the lockdown began. We know that our paper is not nearly as personal or tactile as it once was. We continue to put out our best

content, despite the conditions, and we are glad to see that we still have people seeking out our latest issues.

However big or small, you have all achieved something great this year. Whether it was scrounging up the drive to complete an assignment, or trying your best to participate in the programs on campus that are still active, you all deserve to give yourselves a pat on the back. We're proud of you.



Alexa Neal '22



Siena Soffer '21

Selfless and Spirited Mrs. Gandy Wins Award

Emily Pham '21  
School News Editor

Every year, a well-deserving and supported classified staff member is recognized for their diligence with the "Classified Employee of the Year Award." For the 2020-2021 school year, this very honor has gone to the Counselor's Secretary Mrs. Christina Gandy, who reflects on the true meaning of pride and motivation.

Gandy has been the Counselor's Secretary on campus for six years years, and previously worked as an attendance clerk at Erle Stanley Gardner Middle School. With that said, she has been serving as part of the family since her first day in which she has gained the respect and admiration from her peers and students. As for receiving this award, Gandy stated, "I was shocked. It is truly an honor to win this award because there are so many well-deserving people that make a difference here." From helping students in every possible way to assisting the counselors, she continues to get involved and make a positive impact with her vibrant presence and support. She added, "Normally, when students come into the office, they



Mrs. Gandy (right) represents PUMA Pride with other peer leaders in order to make a positive change.

the chance to be around people, especially students and staff." By constantly being involved around campus, she believes that these small yet meaningful gestures can further create a long-term positive impact on others which shows the importance of being available to students

has gained the respect and admiration of many for her dedication and motivation. Principal Mrs. Tina Miller stated, "Gandy is committed to supporting all students and staff. Her work ethic and determination never go unnoticed, and she is always open to learn and implement new ideas that benefit the school community." Additionally, Gandy has been helping others stay connected especially during this time when many are struggling. Assistant Principal Mrs. Ingrid Taylor shared, "Gandy is willing to roll up her sleeves and help anyone with anything. She took the lead on helping students get connected, became a Zoom and Canvas expert during online learning, and even helped many teachers as well. She does all of that with a smile and radiates puma pride." Alongside helping those in need, there were a number of challenges Gandy went through as a Counselor's Secretary, especially in time of the pandemic. Gandy mentioned, "What I do regularly in a school year did not exist anymore due to the pandemic so we couldn't meet the students or anybody, and ended up being isolated in the office. My job basically involved tech[nology] support so I was learning how to use

Canvas. . . I also had to answer questions from students, teachers, parents, and others." Despite this, she continues to represent as a classified staff member with radiant and thriving energy by getting involved in most aspects of school. On top of that, Gandy brings light and a positive smile to the counseling department on a daily basis. Outside of work, she is active in a variety of activities from being a choir director in her church's music department to playing the piano. She elaborated, "I'm a mother so I try to do everything. I am a choir director, play the piano, drive my son back and forth to taekwondo, and make dinner. . . just to try to spend time with my kids." She grew up in Riverside, and worked as a substitute for years within the district before taking on the Counseling's Secretary role on campus.

Gandy continues to help students in every way possible, and guide them on the right path to success. She believes that she could create a culture of helping one another and make a positive impact on the students' lives and the community. As a beloved member of the Chaparral family, she continues to encourage students to strive for the best and make right decisions.



Mrs. Gandy brings a positive smile and radiant energy to campus.

usually ask me about schedule changes, college enrollment, and other guidance support [so] I get in any way possible. In these years, Gandy has been adored by those around her in which she

## Farewell to Retiring Pumas

Jillian Flack '22 and Eugenia Hernandez '21

### Ms. Sky Anderson



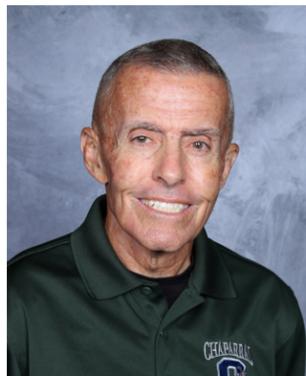
Advanced Placement (AP) Biology, chemistry, and Science Olympiad Coach Ms. Sky Anderson first had planned on working for the Department of Fish and Game as a biologist in her home state of Alaska, but as unexpected as life is, she was unable to. She decided instead to return to school and earn her teaching credentials. "After teaching biology for a few years, I thought chemistry would be more fun. I was right—chemistry provides more opportunities for students to engage in hands-on activities. Besides AP biology, chemistry has been my favorite subject to teach," she added.

Anderson has enjoyed coaching the Science Olympiad team. The team found great success over the years, winning three second place medals in two years—something no other Inland team was able to accomplish, and what she truly enjoyed

was seeing her students succeed. "It was so incredible to see students get truly excited about science and to perform at such a high level of achievement in a competitive environment," Anderson stated.

She believes that the most important thing for her students to take away from her class is a love of learning. The thing that Anderson will miss the most upon her leave will be interacting with her students as she believes they have made her feel young. During retirement, Anderson is planning on moving to San Diego for a couple of years before moving to Costa Rica and hopes to travel as much as possible.

### Lieutenant Colonel Paul Bishop



After working on campus for over twenty years, Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC) teacher, Lieutenant Colonel Paul Bishop will be retiring. Even though he will be missed, he knows his experience on campus has been worthwhile and an important part of his life.

Before developing the NJROTC program on campus, Bishop served as an officer in the United States Marine Corps for twenty years. He then proceeded to implement NJROTC programs into other schools and ended up staying at Chaparral after creating its program in the year 2000. Though he may be retiring from his work on campus, Bishop is still planning on continuing with his other careers. He teaches at the University of Phoenix and he works at a naval academy as an officer.

Though he may be busy after his retirement, he also wants to take some time to volunteer and travel. He is interested to see what retirement may lead him to, but he will still miss the school. "Just coming to work here every morning for the past twenty-one years and spending so much time here. . . It becomes part of you after a while so it was tough for me to pull the cord, but now is the time for me to go and give somebody else the chance to have as great of an experience here as I've had." Bishop is sad to be leaving the school after being here for so long, but he is ready to move onto the next phase of his life. He will be missed, but students and staff are grateful for the opportunities and experiences he has given his cadets.

### Mr. Dan Madera



In his time teaching different math courses on campus, Mr. Dan Madera has made an impact in the lives of his students and fellow staff members. Though he will be retiring this year and will be missed, he is happy with his time teaching and is looking forward to what lies ahead.

Madera currently teaches Precalculus, Accelerated Precalculus and Accelerated Advanced Placement (AP) Calculus AB. Because several of his family members were teachers and he had a degree in math from Long Beach State, he was inspired to begin a career in teaching himself. After graduating, he taught at a school in Cerritos for eight years before working at Temecula Valley High School (TVHS) for three years. Eventually, he began to teach at Chaparral the year that

it opened. "It was definitely the best part of my career, being able to open this school and, you know, be here the whole time right up until, you know, I get to retire," he explained. With all of his time working at school, Madera has gotten to experience everything that has happened in the school's history and has gotten to form bonds with students and teachers.

After he retires in the summer, Madera plans on being a substitute teacher on campus while simultaneously traveling and remodeling his house. Madera has truly enjoyed his time on campus and the ending of it is bittersweet for him.

### Mrs. Barbara Mueller



Beloved English 9 and Advanced Placement English Language and Composition (AP Lang) teacher Mrs. Barbara Mueller will be retiring after working on campus for nearly twenty years. Although students and staff are sad to see her go, they are happy to have had the opportunity to work with her.

Mueller first fell in love with teaching when she was volunteering at a preschool. She then decided to get a bachelor's degree in English Literature and a Masters of Education degree at Southern Oregon University. Before working on campus, Mueller taught at a middle school in Oregon for two years and a high school in Oregon for six and a half years. She then moved to California and began working at Temecula Valley High School (TVHS) for a year before being moved to campus.

During her retirement, Mueller plans to hike, travel, cook, garden and spend some time with her granddaughter. Even though she is looking forward to having time to herself, she will also miss the school and her students. She explained, "[The students] are, you know, what makes the job interesting. . . Every year, you know, people say, 'aren't you bored of teaching the same curriculum?' That's not true because, every year, I have different personalities in the classroom and everything changes." Clearly, Mueller is dedicated to her students and the classroom and will still miss them during her retirement.

### Ms. Joann Paris



After working on campus for seventeen years, campus supervisor Ms. Joanne Paris will be retiring. Though she will miss working at the school, she is excited for the next phase of her life that retiring will constitute.

Paris began working on campus after being told by her neighbor that there was an opening at the school for campus supervisor. Before that, she had been a stay-at-home mom. She explained, "It's been a wonderful experience because I had never worked before." Currently, her days consist of ensuring students follow school rules and keeping the campus as safe as it can possibly be. These duties are vital to the function of the school and her time here has truly been impactful to everyone on campus.

After retiring, Paris plans on eventually moving to Florida to be with her grandchildren. Even though she loves having worked on campus, she is ready to move on to the next phase of her life. "There's a lot of good people that work here that I'm going to miss and that's going to be the hard part," Paris expressed. She will truly miss many aspects of her job, but she has fully enjoyed the time she has had working on campus.

All in all, Paris is grateful for the time she has had on campus and the people she has gotten to know. Though she will be missed by students and staff members alike, they are happy that she gets to retire and spend more time with her family.

### Ms. Diana Portillo



Esteemed staff member Ms. Diana Portillo has made an impact on the lives of students after working on campus for sixteen years. At the conclusion of this year, she will retire and move onto the next part of her life.

Portillo currently assists Mr. Mark Motluck, who teaches Algebra 1 Extended. She helps his students with questions they may have about the material and helps them to better understand it. She stated, "[I am going to miss] students most definitely. Especially my students that need additional help." By being bilingual, Portillo has been able to assist those who had a difficult time speaking English and help them to complete their work to the best of their ability. This has helped her presence on campus be truly impactful to students who were unable to

speak English and they, along with her other students, will miss her when she leaves.

After retirement, Portillo is not totally certain what she is going to do with her freetime. She does plan to travel some with her husband, but other than that, she is looking forward to being able to do whatever she wishes. Though she will miss being on campus and being with her students, she knows it is her time to retire and allow someone else to take her place.

Portillos' time at school has truly been memorable for both students and staff members alike. She will be missed when she leaves, but her time here made an impact on those around her.

### Mrs. Sandra Skeith



Education Specialist Mrs. Sandra Skeith provides support and guidance to Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) students to succeed. "Basically, our job is to assist students to access the curriculum in a way that they could be college ready. . . We really support the student to be successful in the [general education] setting," she explained. Skeith had realized teaching was her passion when she was young. It combined her love for learning with working with people, making education the perfect fit for her.

During her first years teaching on campus, Skeith was asked to coach freshman volleyball. Although she had no coaching experience, she remembers it as an interesting opportunity. "I've been here long enough that I feel

extremely comfortable with just about anything that's going on," Skeith said. In all her years

of teaching she has mostly enjoyed being able to work closely with students. "It's actually an amazing job because you have a chance to get to know people more personally and kind of just guide students to the place where they want to be," she explained. Furthermore, she hopes her students learn from her that they have the ability to adapt and persevere, especially through the challenges this year presented. Skeith finds it important that students do not just attend campus to learn and memorize, but to work through real-world problems.

In retirement, Skeith is going to spend time in Arizona playing golf, fishing, hunting, riding bikes and staying active overall. She is also planning to travel and visit family as much as possible. Along with this, Skeith has close ties to the campus as all her children have attended and graduated from the school, one of them being her oldest son, Mr. Andrew Ramer, who returned to coach football. "Chaparral High School is a great school; they [my children] all went to college and are very successful," she said. Upon leaving the campus, the thing she will miss the most will be the students and the staff she has created lasting connections with.

Opted not to be included: Ms. Jennifer Callahan

# The Marvelous Show!

ASB celebrates our 'Marvelous' students from the IMPACT (Bridge Program) in a series of virtual talent shows and interviews. Each year, contestants in 'The Marvelous Show' are given awards and representation by ASB members, including Elizabeth Brown, Junior Gulgulian, Jessica Piercy, Zoey Davidson Nash, and Jaydean Thompson.

*Kaylee*



Kaylee is almost 16 and was born in Arizona. She has lived in Texas, Florida, and California. Kaylee likes to dance and listen to Carrie Underwood and Taylor Swift. She also loves going to the beach or pool and visiting with her family in Utah. Kaylee loves watching tv, playing games, and face-timing friends and family.

*Natalie*



Natalie was born in August, and is 15 years old. She has a huge family and is always on the road, going places like Las Vegas and Colorado. Natalie loves to sing and dance, and can even put her leg around her neck. Whenever Natalie walks in a room she lights it up with her smile and laughter.

*Ryla*



Ryla Amor Espineli is genuinely the sweetest person you will ever meet. Her favorite things to do are dance, sing, and draw. She loves Tails and Sonic the Hedgehog and can talk about them all day. She never lets any disability stop her from doing the things she wants to do. Ryla is goal-driven and won't stop until she achieves it. She will be your best friend and will care about you .

*Ethan*



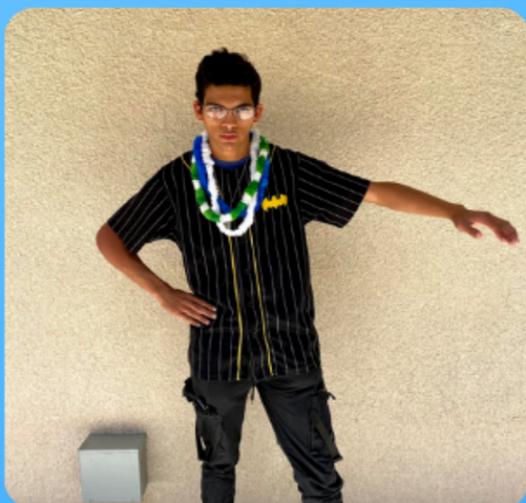
Hello My name is Ethan Crownhart and I'm a junior at Chaparral High school I'm 17 years old. In my free time I love to build legos. My favorite thing to build is elevators. I also love visiting buildings that have elevators and riding them! I'm a huge 80's fan and love listening to music.

*Nathan*



Nathan was born on December 19, 2002. He was born many weeks early and very small, at just 1 pound and 5 ounces. He stayed in the hospital for 7 months before he came home. He loves different types of music, going to the movies, swimming, and eating pizza. Nathan is going to be a senior next year and can't wait for football season to start.

*Nathaniel*



Nathaniel was born in October. He loves to draw train tracks, maps, and spend time with his buddies from NJROTC. His mom and dad are always keeping him and his siblings on the go. Nathaniel's favorite trip with his family would be the time they went to Colorado. Nathaniel loves to make new friends, so if you see him around say Whats up.

*Andre*



Andre was born in Hemet California on December 4, 2003. It was the greatest day of his fathers' life. Andre's favorite thing is going to the beach far meeting up with his friends at baseball, basketball or soccer. Andre loves to go to Cancun and swim in the ocean. Andre's favorite food is in and out and red Robin. Andre can't wait to go back to school 100% in person

## Top Three Seniors

Emily Schwank '21  
Copy Editor

Photos by Studio 94

### Rikhav Shishodia



The class of 2021's valedictorian Rikhav Shishodia has worked tirelessly throughout his high school career, taking over twenty Advanced Placement (AP) and college level courses while participating in multiple clubs and sports. As a senior, Shishodia is an officer for multiple clubs, including California Scholarship Federation (CSF) and National Honor Society (NHS). "Taking on so many clubs and hard classes can obviously be overwhelming at times, but it's important to just focus on your goals and future, and work hard to make those goals reality," Shishodia explained. Regardless of the number of AP courses taken or how many clubs one is participating in, life can be hectic. It is important to remain grounded and focus on the future.

Shishodia now plans on attending the University of California, Berkeley where he hopes to study business and computer science. "My dad taught me about management and finance at a very young age, and I've been investing my own money for about five years now," Shishodia said. "I aspire to become a Venture Capital investor or entrepreneur in the future, applying my passions for both business and technology." Shishodia is ecstatic to be attending college in the San Francisco Bay Area where he plans to engage in the budding startup scene in Silicon Valley. Shishodia explained that there are many misunderstandings regarding AP students. "I think a big misconception is that really advanced students spend all their time studying," Shishodia remarked, "We really don't. The important thing is that we set time aside for family and friends, so we don't go crazy. Of course we study hard and spend a lot of time doing schoolwork, but there's definitely a balance that every student needs to find for themselves." Finding that balance can be difficult but it is ultimately worth it to achieve success and general happiness.

### Harrison Hinman



The 2021 salutatorian, Harrison Hinman is not only a gifted student, but also a talented artist and skilled athlete. Along with maintaining almost perfect grades while taking eighteen Advanced Placement (AP), as well as attending English 101 classes at the college level, Harrison pursued his passion of making art while simultaneously running for the varsity track and cross country team. "My advice is do something and stick with it outside of just school work," Hinman explained. "For instance, if you are taking six AP's and want to pursue more of an outside activity but you can't due to time, I would just say drop one or two AP courses if its too much, because being much more mentally happy, having skills outside of just studying,

and having an outlet to enjoy yourself and spend time away from work feels much more worth it, in my opinion, than spending the entirety of your high school experience studying." Hinman was also able to take AP Studio Art, which allowed him to pursue his passions without his Grade Point Average (GPA) or other statistics being affected. While AP Studio Art is undoubtedly a very difficult course, Hinman explained that the work assigned in the course did not feel like real homework to him, simply because of how much he enjoyed art prior to taking the class. "You will be sacrificing some things, especially time, by taking AP classes, but you shouldn't have to feel like you're sacrificing everything for a grade," Hinman commented. It is undoubtedly important to prioritize mental and physical health before a grade, and Hinman did an excellent job of balancing difficult classes, athletics, and personal interests. Hinman's hard work, academically as well as athletically and artistically has definitely paid off in the past four years, as shown by his commitment to the University of California, Los Angeles.

### Kaylie Fukumoto



Kaylie Fukumoto's hard work over the past four years has definitely paid off. She is graduating third in the class of 2021 in a group of over 600 students. She took part in Science Olympiad, which on its own is an incredibly demanding club requiring hours of work weekly, as well as many other clubs to maintain good academic marks, but also to grow as a person and give back to the community around her. She participated in fourteen Advanced Placement (AP) courses, from AP Chemistry her freshman year to multiple levels of AP Calculus in her later years. "Overall, I think that advanced classes served as a good challenge for me and helped teach the importance of time management," Fukumoto commented. While the classes were difficult, they not only taught her a

great deal of content, but also a great deal about her own work ethic and learning style. She was able to become better at studying, which helped her succeed in AP courses later on in her high school career. As a senior at the top of her class, Fukumoto has a great deal of knowledge to pass down to underclassmen who are also looking to achieve high academic success. She has also taken nearly every AP class offered. "I'd recommend taking the AP Calculus classes and computer science CTE courses if someone is planning to go into a STEM field. AP Environmental Science and AP English Literature are also good classes," Fukumoto explained. There is a diverse array of AP courses and every student is bound to find a course they enjoy. She also noted the importance of spending time with friends and family, so as to maintain balance. Fukumoto has committed to the University of California, Irvine where she will spend the next four years of her life. The skills she developed during high school will help her not only during her college career, but also when she enters the workforce as she has the drive to succeed.

**Summa Cum Laude**

Harrison Hinman

Anthony Agnew

Joshua Enriquez

Kaylie Fukumoto

Skyler Han

Emily Schwank

Vedanth Talla

Ivana Ron

Bryce Mey

Rikhav Shishodia

Luke Trinh

Reece Kirkpatrick

**Class of 2021**

Chaparral High School - The Platinum Press - May 27, 2021

# The Class of 2021: Expectations for the Graduation Ceremony

Skylyn Roman '24  
Staff Writer

As the school year starts to come to an end, it gets closer to the important day for the class of 2021: graduation day. While students get prepared for this exciting day, it is important to keep in mind some of the graduation changes this year.

Graduation will be on Friday, June 4 at 7PM. Due to the pandemic, there have been many safety guidelines implemented to keep students, families, and staff safe. One of those changes is that seniors are only allowed four tickets to the event in order to reduce the capacity in the stadium, which is half of the tickets allotted in previous years. However, the graduation will be live streamed so family or friends who could not attend graduation are able to watch it online. Students will also be required to wear masks this year, which will be matching blue ones that say "Class of 2021" on them. This year, there are less graduates

than in previous years which leaves more time in the ceremony. Because of this extra time. Assistant Principal Mrs. Ingrid Taylor "added two speakers this year, normally I have four or five. I wanted them to be able to hear from more seniors." Other than those things, graduation will be the same as it is in normal school years. The format will still be the same where there is a blue section, green section and platinum section for students and seniors to walk across one of the three stages. Taylor stated, "We're trying to keep it as traditional as possible because it has been such an untraditional year."

An exciting part of graduation that students can look forward to is the firework show after the graduation ceremony. This is the first year that the school has decided to have a fireworks show. "Our seniors have lost so much this year that we wanted to make their graduation special in some way," Taylor stated. It is no doubt that this year has been challenging considering most of the school year was virtual and so many of the final school events that seniors had been looking forward to were

anceled. The fireworks will be a great way to make graduation even more memorable for students and their families. Furthermore, they have also been planning to do senior messages, where students will record goodbye messages to other students and staff to be played during the ceremony. It is encouraged for students to record and submit theirs to the school website if they have not yet in order to make graduation more personal for them and the other seniors.

Graduation practice will be held the day before graduation on Thursday, June 3. It is important that students attend graduation practice in order to walk the next night on actual graduation day because they do not receive their tickets until after graduation practice.

Though graduation might not be the same as it has been in the past, the staff members on campus have been working hard to make it special for the class of 2021. It is important to give them a memorable graduation. These seniors have not only worked hard all throughout high school, but also through this pandemic, and deserve to be recognized.

## Class of 2021

### Pre Graduation

- June 1st (Tuesday) - Period 1 Asynchronous Check in with teacher.
  - Get pink check out card stamped at school from 7:30-3:00
- June 2nd (Wednesday) - Senior movie night in the stadium from 8 pm to 10 pm.
  - Get pink check out card stamped at school from 7:30-3:00
- June 3rd (Thursday) -
  - Senior check out - 9 am to 11 am
  - Graduation practice - 5 pm to 7 pm
  - Senior sunset - 7pm to 8pm

### Graduation Day

FRIDAY JUNE 4TH - CHS Graduation Ceremony

- 5:45 pm - Seniors report to the CHS GYM
  - Seniors park in senior parking lot, bring cap & gown ONLY
  - Report to your check-in table in front of the GYM
- 7:00 pm - CHS class of 2021 Graduation Ceremony begins

### Post Graduation

- June 7th (Monday) - Asynchronous check-in during period 1
- June 8th (Tuesday) - Senior Diploma Pick up
  - Between 9 am - 11 am
  - Outside the welcome center
  - Student pick up only - must bring a valid ID
  - Grad gown donations accepted

## ROTC Instuctors Leave Legacy

Michael Tan '21  
Video Manager

At the end of each school year, the Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC) conducts an end of the year change of command ceremony. During this time, each platoon marches out onto the football field and lines up in formation. The outgoing staff cadet announces their departure, and formally introduces the incoming students for



*Credit: Abigail Johnson*  
Senior Chief McGovern (left) and LtCol Bishop (right) with predecessor Senior Chief Mike Hodell.

the upcoming year. Next year, the program will consist of an entirely new personnel lineup for the first time, as both Naval Science Instructor Senior Chief McGovern and Senior Naval Science Instructor Lieutenant Colonel (LtCol) Bishop will be leaving the school.

Senior Chief McGovern served in the

United States Navy for twenty years. While on active duty, his first assignment after boot camp was at the Naval Air Station in Whidbey Island, Washington. He worked with the Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department (AIMD), Electronic Attack Squadrons VAQ-137, and VAQ-128 where he worked on EA-6B Prowler aircrafts. Later on, he went to school to become an Intelligence and Imagery Analyst in Dam Neck, Virginia. Subsequent to school, he was assigned to the Joint Intelligence Center Pacific (JICPAC) in Oahu, Hawaii. After his retirement from active duty, he was later hired by the Temecula Valley Unified School District (TVUSD) to teach as an NJROTC teacher alongside LtCol Bishop in 2012.

LtCol Bishop served in the United States Marine Corps for twenty years as an officer. In the course of his active duty, he was assigned several operations throughout his career. Succeeding his duty, he later then served as an executive officer for the Marine Barracks and Ground Security Forces. He helped in operations to support the Philippines government against an attempted coup, and helped clean up the damages caused by the eruption of Mount Pinatubo. Following his retirement, he opened the Marine Corps JROTC program at Eisenhower High School in Rialto, followed by Pacifica High School in Garden Grove. He was then hired by the TVUSD to start the NJROTC program at the school in 2000.

Despite the transition to new teachers next year, the core values and mission of the program will remain unchanged. Senior Chief McGovern stated, "I hope that the same foundation [stays the same]. . .of cadets first, and then program second." The cadets plan to uphold the traditions that both Senior Chief McGovern and LtCol Bishop upheld throughout the years in order to honor their legacy that will be left behind.

## Updates to Education Options

Emily Schwank '21  
Copy Editor

After over a year of learning virtually, students are finally able to come back on campus full time for the 2021-22 school year. At this point, many students have been vaccinated and coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases and deaths have been decreasing for multiple months. However, there will be different accommodations to support students who do not want to go back to school, partially or full time.

The school district is allowing students to take multiple courses online while simultaneously participating in in-person learning. Students are able to take two virtual courses, which are completely asynchronous except for a few of the exams that must be proctored. These courses are taught by teachers on campus, and many teachers have decided to teach one or two virtual courses while also teaching multiple in-person classes. While it is possible to take six in-person courses and two virtual courses, it is highly discouraged and freshmen students are not given this opportunity. However, students are able to take virtual

classes in place of their regular courses. Students are able to substitute two virtual courses for first and second periods, fifth and sixth periods, or first and sixth periods. If a student only wants to take one virtual course, it can be substituted for either first or sixth period. Students are allowed to go home during this time and are not required to be on campus at all for their virtual courses. This way, students will have more time to work on their asynchronous classes outside of in-person school. This virtual format will include courses like Physical Education (PE), various English courses, and even some Advanced Placement (AP) courses. Homeschooling will also be provided at the high school level, and students will still be able to enroll in entirely virtual learning programs taught by teachers also virtually employed full time. This way, students who do not feel comfortable attending in-person school in any form still have the option of remaining virtual. This option is also available for students of all grades, opening up options for all students.

The school district is also providing summer school for students who need to

make up credits, or just want to get ahead. These courses run from June 14 to July 7 and provide an accelerated learning experience for students that are interested. The courses are provided in person from 8AM to 10AM and virtually from 10:15AM to 12:15PM for students not comfortable with being on campus. Registration has been opened, and the deadline for submitting summer school registration forms is Tuesday, June 8. These courses are completely free for TVUSD families, but the spots do fill up quickly for many courses.

There are many options for students in the upcoming year. Mrs. Gandy, the counseling secretary on campus, commented, "I would say. . .the option to have a flexible schedule is a great opportunity for students who think electives, such as ASB, Peer Leaders, drama, or journalism, cannot fit into their schedules. It can also provide a little wiggle room in their day. Students can work on their asynchronous work whenever they have some free time." Whether a student is interested in participating in virtual classes or not, the option is open for all students so that no one feels as though they are not given adequate options.

## NAMES IN THE NEWS

Portraits by Studio 94



**Terry Han '22 and Shaye Phung '21**  
Cadet Commander Shaye Phung was relieved as cadet company commander by Cadet Ensign Terry Han



**Senior Chief Steven McGovern**  
Leaving CHS after nine years and is going to Idaho to work for Amazon



**Mr. Randy Thomas**  
Headed to Corona-Norco Unified School District to be the Coordinator of Instructional Support and Counseling Services



**Savannah Schmidt '21**  
Emerald Puma Winner



**Tyler Schmidt '21**  
April Student of the Month



**Ivana Ron '21**  
Student of the Year

# Congratulations!

Marc Abayhon, Palomar College or MSJC  
 Odeh Abedsalam, UC Riverside  
 Carson Aguilar, MSJC  
 Samantha Aguirre, Palomar College  
 Yalena Aguirre, MSJC  
 Rachele Aisporna, UC San Diego  
 Rania Alabbadi, UC San Diego  
 Angelina Alarcon, MSJC  
 Aviu Alefosio, BYU Utah  
 Daniel Aleksak, UC Irvine  
 Zayba Alemi, Palomar College  
 Nolan Alexander, MSJC

Jacob Alfaro, Gallardo San Bernardino Valley College

Samuel Alkhatib, A 2-Year college  
 Maria Alvarado, MSJC

Crystal Alvarez, Paul Mitchell The School Temecula

Breeann Amat, CSU San Marcos  
 Zack Ames, North West College  
 Brandon Anderson, CSU San Marcos  
 Luke Andresen, CSU San Marcos  
 Lihong Ang, CSUF

Brandyn Anglin, CSU San Marcos  
 Bryan Anglin, CSU Fullerton

Jailene Angulo, Los Angeles Pierce College

Brayden Ankeny, MSJC

Aljon Apilado, CSU San Marcos  
 Nicole Arambula, Palomar College  
 Jason Arana, Military

Haley Arias, Palomar College  
 Kai Arnold, Riverside city college  
 Alexis Arreola, U.S. Navy

Janella Asistio, Palomar College  
 Burgess Austin, MSJC

Hannah Avila, MSJC  
 Travis Ayres, MSJC  
 Izellah Bagby, MSJC  
 Alain Bantolo, Army

Eulices Banuelos, CSU San Marcos  
 Alejandra Barajas, UC Santa Cruz

Amber Baranek, Boise State University  
 Christian Barba Bernal, UC Riverside

Ryleigh Barraza, Technical/Trade School

Seth Battenschlag, Los Angeles College of Music

Miranda Becerra, University of hawaii manoa  
 Eryn Bell, UCLA

Samuel Benedict, BYU  
 Kassandra Benjamin, MSJC  
 Charles Berger, UCSB

Madison Bjorstrom, CSU San Marcos  
 Nathan Bolanos, UCR

Molly Boren, Riverside City College  
 Max Bosworth, CSU San Marcos

Jacob Brant, Palomar College or MSJC  
 Christopher Bruton, MSJC

Adam Bryant, Cal Poly Damon  
 Jordan Burr, University of Utah  
 Jocelyn Bussey, Marine Corps

Jacob Bustamante, UCI or San Marcos  
 Isaac Calangan, CSU San Marcos

Leec Calixto - Morgan, Mt. San Jacinto  
 Ezzriell Kaden Callanta, Daytona State College

Gavrie Capili, University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
 Kasey Carr, MSJC

Ethan Carreon, SFSU  
 Emma Carrero, UC Merced

Naidelyn Carrillo, CSU San Marcos  
 Alaysia Carter, RCC

Emilio Castaneda, The United States Navy  
 Abigail Castillo, MSJC

Evelyn Castillo, Palomar College  
 Olivia Cate, University of Montana

Erick Cedillo, MSJC or Palomar College

Nathan Cervantes, Santa Monica College  
 Neal Cha, UC Merced

Mark Chapman, Oregon State  
 Olivia Chapman, CSU Channel Islands  
 Karen Chavez Navy  
 Junrui Chen UC Irvine

Robert Choate CSU San Marcos  
 Emma Choi UC Irvine

Abigail Christakis Navy

Jeremy Christofferson Palomar College  
 Morales Christopher CSU San Marcos

Alessandra Cisneros Cal Poly

Vianne Cocco CSU University Fullerton  
 Abram Colio Trade School

Alex Collins Air Force

Daphney Contreras CSU San Marcos

Malia Corcino Palomar College

Kevin Cordova California Army National Guard

Edgar Corona Electrical trade

Carmella Cortez MSJC

Lyric Corwise Palomar College

Christina Cosgrove UC Santa Cruz

Emily Covarrubias MSJC

Sofia Covarrubias Palafox CSU Fullerton

Tianna Cox University of California, San Diego

Paige Crawford UC Davis

Gracie Cross CSU San Marcos

Fatima Cruz Hernandez Riverside Community College

Juan Cuervo 2-Year Junior College

Morgan Cunningham UCR or CSU San Marcos

Joe Currie Barry University

Caleb Dale CSU San Marcos

Joseph Davis LA film school

Emma Davis San Diego State University

Andres de Pereda Cal Poly SLO

Elizabeth Dean MSJC

Angel Dean Mt. San Jacinto College (Public 2-year College)

Deana Deberry Alabama A&M University

Angelica Dela Cruz San Diego State University

Alyssa Delayo California Baptist University

Alessandra Delgado San Francisco State University

Autumn Dennis MSJC

Anelani DeSantiago CSU San Marcos

Madison Desrochers MSJC

Reagan Dew CSU Northridge

Zyon Dolias MSJC

Emily Dornseif Palomar College

Aliyah Dotson California State University Long Beach

Justin Duhamell CSU San Marcos

Isabella Duhamell Grand Canyon University

Kobe Ehmke Arizona state university

Salvador Elacion Junior College

Emily Elias Point Loma Nazarene University

Carlos Elizondo CSU fullerton

Zuri Elliott CSU San Marcos

Gavin Ellison Northern Colorado university

Joshua Ryan Enriquez UCSD

Zachary Ernisse UC San Diego

Haylee Eslinger Texas Women's University

Valeria Espino UC Berkeley

Kimberly Espinosa Perez CSU San Marcos

Gracie Estrada University of Utah

Jasmine Eugenio, Palomar College or SDSU

Grayse Fa'asua Walla Walla University

Ambar Faba MSJC

Estevan Felix San Fran State University

Fabian Fernandez coast guard

Nicole Fernandez CSU San Marcos

Verginia Ferreira Marchi MSJC

Leslie Fierros Palomar College

Christopher Fish Navy

Zachary Fliear CSU San Marcos

Kaleb Florendo Military

Dara Flores Mt San Jacinto College

Alondra Flores CSU San Marcos

Riley Ford-Contreras MSJC

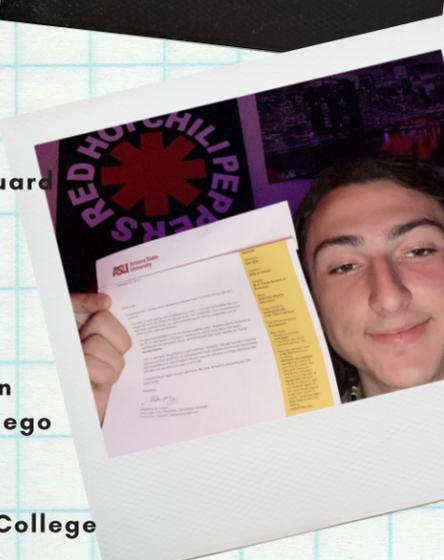
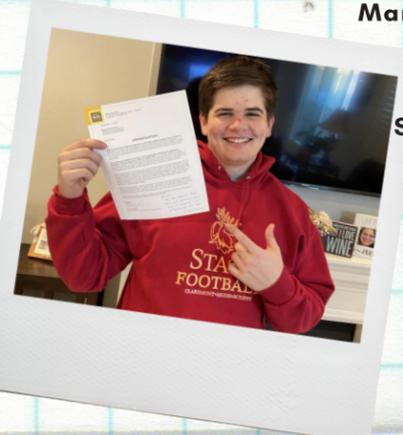
Casey Forhane CSU San Marcos

Nory Fornias CSU Long Beach

Niaomi Foronda san diego state

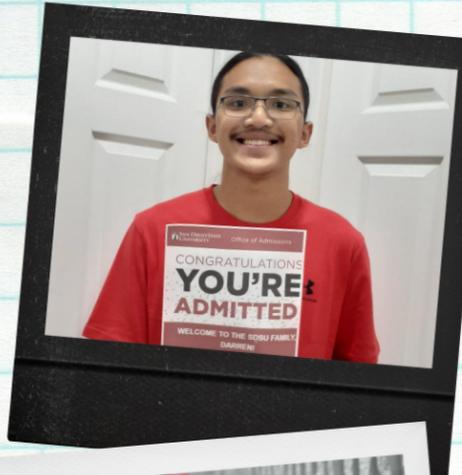
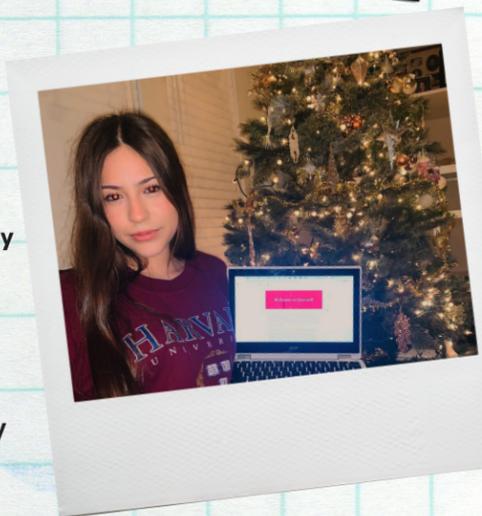
Spencer Foto MSJC

Mikey Fraire MSJC



# Class of 2021!

- Gavin Francis MSJC  
 Mia Franks MSJC  
 Brooklyn Frederick Weber State University  
 Natalie Fuentes UCD  
 Oscar Fuentes CSU Chico  
 Kaylie Fukumoto UC Irvine  
 Jadon Furubotten USAFA  
 Jonathan Gallegos Temecula  
 Diego Garcia CSU Fullerton  
 Eduardo Garcia CSU San Marcos  
 Gabriel Garcia Bakersfield  
 Logan Garcia Military  
 Salma Garcia CSU San Marcos  
 Vivianne Garcia CSU San Marcos  
 Andrea Garcia MSJC  
 Andrew Garriz CSU San Marcos  
 Lily Gatzke MSJC  
 Andres Geronimo Palomar College  
 Mitchell Godfrey University of Oregon  
 Kelsey Godina NYU  
 Sebastian Godina UCR  
 Samantha Gomez Chico State University  
 Kendal Gonzales Palomar College or MSJC  
 Nicole Gonzalez UC Berkeley  
 Olivia Gonzalez MSJC  
 Valerie Gonzalez Paul Mitchell Beauty School  
 Kassandra Gonzalez UEI  
 Macy Gracy Navy  
 Sharlene Granada Army or MSJC  
 Amanda Gromko MSJC - Mount San Jacinto Community College  
 Soraya Guerrero CSU San Marcos  
 Xavier Guerrero CSU San Marcos  
 Makenzie Guiliano CSU San Marcos  
 Vreige Gulgulian Palomar College  
 Samuel Gunawan Babson College  
 Jazmine Gungon CSU San Marcos  
 Jeffrey Gunn SDSU  
 Anjelo Guthrie Institute of Culinary Education  
 Angel Gutierrez Palomar College  
 Audrey Guzman MSJC  
 Stephanie Ha UCSD  
 Arielle Hackmeyer Mt. Janinto  
 Lily Hakola University of California: Riverside  
 Jared Hale Mt. San Jacinto College  
 Max Hall MSJC  
 Skyler Han Siena/AMC Program  
 Ashlyn Harrington MSJC  
 Christopher Harris Northern Arizona University  
 Noah Harrison Military  
 Avory Hart San Diego State University  
 Nathan Harvey MSJC  
 Anna Hawthorne CSU Fullerton  
 Laurence Haya CSU San Marcos  
 Thalia Hayes CSU San Marcos  
 Ingrid Heidemann University of Oregon  
 Sierra Hennessey Mount San Jacinto  
 Madison Hensley U.S. Navy  
 Samantha Heredia CsuF  
 Amy Hernandez palomar College  
 Eugenia Hernandez CSU San Marcos  
 Joseph Hernandez Cal Lutheran or Arizona State University  
 elizabeth Hernandez-Ambriz CSU San Marcos  
 Nicollette Hill southwest technical college  
 Harry Hinman UCLA  
 Duy Hoang University of California, Santa Barbara  
 Jaydon Holk AirForce  
 Madeline Holley MSJC  
 Guile Hua UC Riverside  
 Jakob Hudson Westcliff University  
 Kimberly Hudson MSJC  
 Jessica Huff MSJC  
 Christina Huynh Mount San Jacinto Community College  
 Megan Irwin UCI  
 Jonathan Jabbour Ottawa University of Arizona  
 Anthony Jacobo community college  
 Victoria Jalomo Palomar College  
 Sam Jimenez UCR  
 Rahmani Johnson Riverside community college  
 Jayson Joshi CSU Fullerton  
 Michaela Justiniani Boise State University  
 Gurkaran Kaler CSU San Marcos  
 navkiran kaler CSU San Marcos  
 Kayla Kampa Long Beach Community College  
 Jeremy Keb Texas  
 Sara Kenney UCSD  
 KC Kilroy MSJC  
 Reece Kirkpatrick Yale University  
 Mayson Kobell Cal Poly SLO  
 Katelyn Koeper Northern Arizona University  
 Jacob Krachmer Navy  
 Olivia Kramer Mount San Jacinto College  
 David Kvanvig MSJC  
 Jaelynn Lambert Brigham Young University  
 Daniel Landgraf Palomar college  
 Nathaniel LaPorte-Marques Mt. San Jacinto  
 Haylee Law Southern Oregon University  
 Samantha Ledbetter MSJC  
 Brian Lee MSJC  
 Hannah Lee UC San Diego  
 Lauren Levine CSU San Marcos  
 Lance Lewis Orange Coast Community College  
 Elza Lindemans Rcc  
 Daniel Linderman EMT training  
 Trenton Lindquist Grossmont or MSJC  
 Amaya Lockwood MSJC  
 Chellman Logan MSJC  
 Riley Lopez NOVA Community College (VA)  
 Macaranas Luis Navy  
 brian Luna Marine core  
 Hannah Lundy Arizona State University  
 Sean Lutz Technical/Trade School  
 Jasmine Ly CSU San Marcos  
 Connor MacDonald Palomar College  
 Genevieve Maczko UCSC  
 Kailyn Madruga MiraCosta  
 Gage Mahoney Virginia polytechnic institute  
 Matthew Majel Palomar College  
 Heilan May Manipon UC Riverside  
 Jason Mannino Arizona State University  
 Nathaniel Marble UC San Diego  
 Kayla Mariano MSJC (Mount San Jacinto College)  
 Alexis Martell CSU San Marcos





**Justin Martin UCSD**

**Karson Martin Life University**

**Jadeyn Martinez MSJC**

**Samantha Matro CSU San Marcos**

**Thomas Mazerll New Mexico military institute**

**Tesla Maxwell Stephen F. Austin State University**

**Hayden McClure MSJC**

**Rheego McIntosh 2-Year Junior College**

**Avryl Mckim Mount San Jacinto**

**William McKinney DeVry university**

**Phoenix McMahon McMahon Engineering/PoPeyes**

**Hailey McNabb University of Hawaii at Manoa**

**Maya Medina University of Massachusetts Amherst**

**Antonio Mendez MSJC**

**Bryce Mey Harvey Mudd College**

**Enoka Migao BYU**

**Elia Migao BYU**

**Rhayne Miller São Paulo MSJC or Palomar College**

**Maite Molanes Mount San Jacinto College**

**Cameron Montijo MSJC**

**Nyah Moore San Jacinto**

**Macy Mora MSJC**

**Sebastian Morales Western Oregon University**

**Sairy moran MSJC**

**Stephany Moreno Vanguard University**

**Dominic Morgan U.S. Navy**

**James Morin MSJC**

**Amelia Morrison SFSU**

**Lloyd Daniel Muncal Eastern Gateway Community College**

**College**

**Louie Muncal Eastern Gateway Community College**

**(EGCC)**

**Victor Munoz MSJC or Palomar College**

**Maria Naranjo MSJC**

**Christian Navarro UCR**

**Jason Navarro MSJC**

**Karissa Neilson BYU**

**Nathaniel Nono UC San Diego**

**Aaron Nuqui MSJC**

**Christopher O'Neil MSJC**

**Giselle Ochoa Pennsylvania State University**

**Fernando Ochoa CSU San Marcos**

**Terrance Ockletree MSJC**

**Lesley Ortega UC Riverside**

**Skyllir Overholt MSJC**

**Joel Pacia MSJC**

**Yiselle Padilla Richard bland college**

**Lyon Paez San José State University**

**Edward Pai Sdsu**

**Saige Palmer MSJC**

**Karina Pandher Grand Canyon University**

**Sarina Pandher Grand canyon university**

**Timothy Park SDSU**

**Allison Parra UC Berkeley**

**Kaylah Parsons MSJC**

**Aspen Payne Colorado State University - Fort Collins**

**Grace Peebles San Diego State University**

**Armando Pena Cal Poly slo (aerospace engineering)**

**Jasmine Perez University of California, San Diego**

**Lilian Perez CSU San Marcos**

**Jordan Peters UW La Crosse**

**Sarah Peterson MSJC**

**Emily Pham UCR**

**Stephanie Phan MSJC**

**Kole Phillips MSJC**

**Shaye Phung San Diego State, Honors**

**Gia Pina MSJC**

**Isabel Popiela MSJC**

**Elise Prince MSJC**

**Keelan Prude MSJC**

**Annalise Puccini-Romero Westmont College**

**Madelyn Pulido CSU Northridge**

**Trystan Punsalang US Air Force**

**Alexandra Ramirez CSU San Marcos**

**Julian Ramirez Cal Poly Pomona**

**Yasmin Ramirez MSJC**

**Chase Ramos CCC**

**Katie Rawson MSJC**

**Aidan Read California State University of Fullerton**

**Felicity Reddy Ottawa University**

**Jordan Renner Mira Costa**

**Audree Rensch Paul Mitchell**

**Noah Reyes MSJC**

**William Carlos Reyes CSU San Marcos**

**Taylor Reynolds Palomar College**

**Jhonas Richards Arizona State**

**University**

**Nathan Rios CSU San Marcos**

**Isabella Ritchie Arizona State University**

**Ruby Rivas CSULA**

**Alexander Rivera San Francisco State**

**University**

**Anthony Rivera San Joaquin Valley**

**College**

**Conner Robinson University of Utah**

**Dejah Robinson MSJC**

**Karina Rocha UC Riverside**

**Elliot Rodriguez Navy**

**Sofia Rodriguez Loyola University**

**Carizha Rodriguez MSJC**

**Jaison Bryan Rojas MSJC**

**Claire Rollins MSJC**

**Joshua Romero MSJC**

**Kate Romero Moreno Valley**

**Ivana Ron Harvard University**

**Tyler Rourke MSJC**

**Alejandro Ruiz Military**

**Katie Rutherford Palomar College**

**Victor Sabater CSU San Marcos**

**Mohammad Sadegi UCSD**

**Dominic Salazar CSU San Marcos**

**viviana salazar MSJC**

**Raul Salazar Schaefer Mt. San Jacinto**

**Justin Saldivar UCR**

**Diego Salinas Mt. San Jacinto College**

**Ryan Sampson SDSU**

**Reilene Santa Romana Palomar College**

**Dante Santos CSU San Marcos**

**Sophia Santos Concorde**

**Victoria Santoyo UC Santa Cruz**

**Proffitt Sara The University of Oregon**

**Sarah Schechter MSJC**

**Savannah Schmidt Palomar College**

**Tyler Schmidt SDSU or CSU Long Beach**

**Katelyn Schmitz CSU San Marcos**

**Emily Schwank Ucla**

**Avion Scott CSU San Marcos**

**Reuben Self Ucsd**

**Ayla Selim Palomar College**

**Josia Sevilla CSU San Marcos**

**Amber Shafer MSJC**

**Kai Shaffer Woodbury University**

**Maddie Sheldon MSJC**

**Rikhav Shishodia UC Berkeley**

**Navkarn Singh CSU Northridge**

**Parampreet Singh Bakersfield College**

**Julianna Sisco Palomar College**

**Sabre Slattery MSJC**

**David Smith Virginia Wesleyan**

**University**

**Kaela Smith Mt. San Jacinto**

**Olivia Snodgrass UC Davis**

**Olivia Snyder San Diego Mesa**

**Community College**

**Siena Soffer Maryland Institute College**

**of Art**

**Samantha Solomon CSU San Marcos**

**Anthony Soriano Marine Corps**

**Aspen Souther UC Irvine**

**Bryton Souvanlasy University of**

**Colorado Colorado Springs**

**Isaiah Stacy-Sutton The American**

**Academy Of Dramatic Arts**

**Shannon Standing Warrior MSJC**

**Aaliyah Starke Arizona State University**

**Natalie Stegall Sacramento State**

**Jacob Stengel BYU salt lake center**

**Najae Stephens Air Force**

**Donovan Stoehr Cal Lutheran University**

**Bella Strohm MSJC**

**Ian Sullivan MSJC**

**Christine Surber Colorado State University**

**Derek Svizzero Bunker Hill Community College**

**Callie Swarouth California State University Chico**

**Vedanth Talla UCSD**

**Alaina Jane Tamayo UCSD**

**Michael Angelo Tan MSJC**

**Grace Tapia CSU San Marcos**

**Sarah Tarin SDSU**

**Jackie Tat Palomar College or MSJC**

**Raphael Tayco Cal Poly Pomona**

**Daylen Taylor Hussian College Los Angeles**

**Miguel Tejada-Marinez National Guard**

**Robert Tellez UC San Diego**

**Karen Thomas MSJC**

**Jaydean Thompson CSU San Marcos**

**Genevieve Tichy California Lutheran University**

**Elise Tinh UC San Diego**

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**\*Information gathered from Senior Survey on 5/20/20**



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# How to Be a True Ally to Marginalized Groups

Megan Irwin '21  
Staff Writer

The word ally is often thrown around in any conversations regarding the current climate of the world and country. But how should society choose to define an ally? Far too often, especially in the era of social media, there is a superficial meaning behind allyship. The lack of understanding of what being a true ally is has led many down the path of superficial allyship. It is this trend that has misconstrued the importance of allyship when it comes to the weight of recent movements.

In a climate that appears to urge people to get involved and take action, many dance the line of conflict in fear of not knowing exactly what to say; so they avoid saying anything at all. Alicia Garza, principal of the Black Futures Lab and co-creator of #BlackLivesMatter, argues that this is not a problem at all, rather, "If you share the value that everyone should live with respect, and the idea that people are being left behind enrage[s] you and break[s] your heart, the only way to fix it is to become part of the solution." There

are a multitude of things that people can do to become better allies, but most importantly is to dedicate time to it beyond perfunctory concern.

Time dedicated to reflecting upon oneself and individuals subconscious biases, properly educating others regarding current movements that need their voices amplified, donating money, and even joining the frontlines of protests are just some examples of actually taking action and being a true ally. Allyship goes beyond reposting a single black square only to delete the post hours later, it is beyond signing a few petitions and posting about them as to fit the role of the poster child of performative activism. This short lived activism on social media is a far cry from true allyship. "True allies begin to think of themselves as more than allies," Fatima Goss Graves, CEO of the National Women's Law Center. "They start to realize that their lives, their fate, their futures are actually bound up with others."

There needs to be a change in the way society is currently choosing to define allyship. Shifting from a social media presence to an in person presence felt by activists who dedicate themselves to these movements is important. To be

an ally, there should be attention paid to those who have the voice to speak on certain issues and to amplify the voice as needed; to be an ally means to have conversations that inspire growth and change. A balance needs to be learned, that of learning when to speak on an issue and when to hold back. It is only when these conditions are heard that all parts of a nation, and even the world hear the

voices of the Black Lives Matter Movement, that of climate strikes, those in support of LGBTQ+, and Women's rights; all voices that need to be heard to start change.

Learning what true allyship means is a step in the direction of justice and it takes courage to change from outdated conceptions of how to support others to that of understanding and empathy, a driving force towards equality.



*Being an ally goes far beyond social media to amplify voices that must be heard.*

# Anti-Transgender Legislation Threatens Youth

Emma Horwood '22  
Staff Writer

Throughout the past year, we have seen an uproar in anti-transgender legislation, transphobic hate, and opposition against inclusive gender education in the United States. With bills proposing bans on medical care for trans youth being among the most prominent examples of current LGBTQ+ discrimination, it seems that this display of bigotry in both politics and day to day life stems from harmful misconceptions about transgender individuals. The battle against transgender inequality is one that only serves to cause unnecessary suffering

and no benefit to society as a whole. Ignorance and hatefulness towards the trans community can have severe consequences and therefore must be combatted.

Many who preach opposition against the prosperity of the trans community do so out of ignorance. There are many who believe that providing gender affirming medical care to transgender youth is damaging towards these children as they fear minors are at risk of making permanent, life changing decisions that they will regret down the line. This notion is simply false. Most gender affirming care provided to minors is entirely reversible and preceded with months or years of gender therapy and professional guidance before any procedures

are taken. Many transgender youth start with hormone blockers, a safe, reversible treatment that can delay puberty in pre-pubescent individuals for the duration that they are being taken. This allows for trans individuals to avoid going through the puberty of their assigned gender at birth which could cause them severe discomfort and gender dysphoria. If minors were to undergo more permanent medical procedures such as Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT), they would have to undergo years of gender therapy and assessments to determine that this was in fact medically necessary. To put it simply, there are many steps to ensure that those receiving transgender healthcare do

it out of medical necessity. These miraculous procedures have saved the lives of those who, without medical intervention, would suffer from severe gender dysphoria and suicidal ideation. All of this is evidence that a ban on gender affirming care for trans youth would only harm their emotional and physical well being, not save them from making regretful decisions.

The anti-trans bills that have been introduced in 2021 range from ID restrictions, trans people's ability to use the properly gendered bathroom, and even trans students' right to participate on sports teams of their identified gender. Since the start of 2021, thirty-three states have introduced over 100 anti-trans bills, breaking records for the sheer amount of such legislation. The main target of these bills and most affected are minors. On April 6, Arkansas became the first state to outlaw gender affirming care for minors. Arkansas, Mississippi, and Tennessee have already signed bills that ban trans athletes from competing in sports consistent with their gender identity. Florida politicians have even gone as far as proposing a bill that would have schools inspect the genitals of students suspected to be trans, essentially creating a form of legal child molestation. The list goes on and on. At this rate, 2021 is slated to be the most devastating year for transgender rights in US history.

The basic human rights of marginalized communities and minorities is something that should never be up for debate. The overwhelming suppression of transgender rights is cruel, inhumane, and another blow to an already shattered American democracy. The legislative attacks on transgender citizens, especially transgender youth, foster ignorance and hate towards the trans community that will only grow if not combatted with activism, support, and political advocacy.



*Many activists have rallied in protest against the introduction of anti-transgender bills in order to protect youth.*

Chaparral High School - The Platinum Press - May 27, 2021

**BLIND PATRIOTISM**

Credit: Kirk Anderson

The common blind belief that the United States is the best country takes true meaning away from patriotism.

## Avoid Blind American Patriotism

Sophie Hall-Schorn '22  
Copy Editor

The overt expression of patriotism is certainly one of the U.S.'s most defining characteristics. Just simply walking down a city block or traveling through a neighborhood will garner the image of multiple U.S. flags hung proudly on various buildings, American patriotism being the one message that seems to defy all regional and state differences. However, despite the hope and pride that such a patriotic attitude can bring about, it needs to be understood that there is a difference between complete submission to one's country, including the subsequent immediate denial of its wrongs, and a healthy sense of patriotism in which a country's attitudes and ideals are celebrated, but are not without criticism.

The strengths of a country are not its sole factors, and it is important to recognize that pride of one's country should not overshadow the need to improve, nor should it discourage the desire to move forward. There is always room to become better, and the customs, ideals, or actions of a country adhere to this rule as well. Excessive patriotism prevents one from seeing the flaws of one's own country, seeing as the overt amount of trust put into the existing system disallows for any criticism to thrive healthily. Thus, moving forward and improving upon existing structures within the country becomes inherently difficult the more that those who disallow such progression continue to advocate for the flaws of a system to remain.

Some may argue that excessive amounts of patriotism are needed in order to ensure national

unity and promote a uniquely American attitude and culture. While it is true that unity among Americans is a hopeful outcome of the connections that patriotism brings about, ultimately overt patriotism does more harm than good. While patriotism is acceptable, even helpful, in some situations, becoming blind to a country's flaws simply for the purpose of creating unity is a weak standpoint that does not address the consequences of submitting to the already existing systems of the country. True patriots should want to strive for a better life for the citizens of their country, not keep it in the same place and halt any movement forward. By becoming blind to what could be improved upon within the U.S. simply because of the desire to create unity, Americans, perhaps accidentally, take an extreme approach which ultimately harms the country.

Many have become discouraged from patriotic attitudes altogether because of those who claim to be patriots but then hold harmful or extreme views of patriotism. Young Americans should not feel they can not be patriotic or proud of the U.S. due to such factors. Those who perpetuate false ideals of patriotism often have misplaced trust in their country, which often leads to ignorance of its issues. The goal of every young American should be to educate those around them who lean towards these viewpoints that although it is healthy to keep a positive outlook on one's country, the good qualities of the U.S. do not outweigh its weak points. Patriotism is not inherently negative, of course, and to all young Americans who are concerned about expressing patriotic views, know that it only veers into unacceptable territory when one ignores the flaws of a country in order to keep a soft, comfortable view of their situation.

## Phones are Not Depressants

Mason Dearie '23  
Social Media Manager

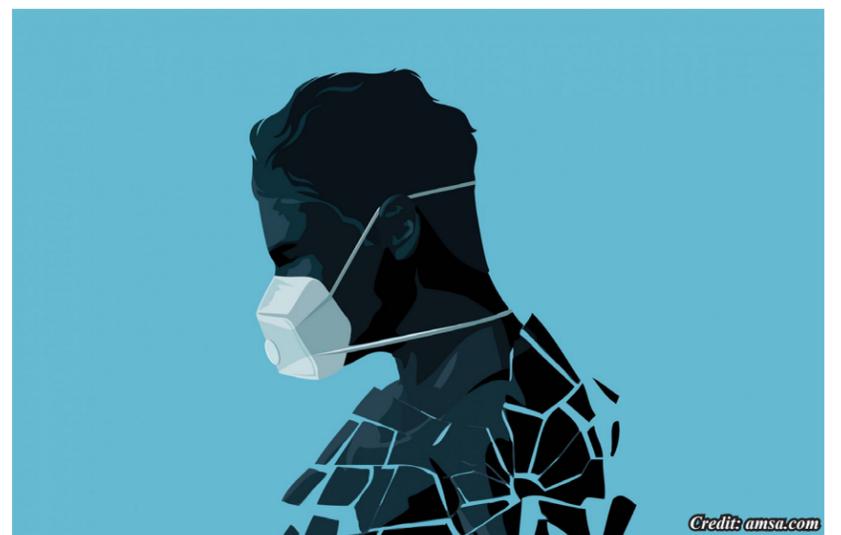
Within the past decades, there has been exponential development in technology, especially with phones. Phones have been made a daily staple in almost anyone's life. For some, a phone is a convenient way to talk to others, whether it be friends, family, or business associates. For others it is a source of entertainment. For teenagers, phones are usually both, and some teens will spend hours everyday on their phones. Many people, especially parents, have come to the conclusion that spikes in depression in teens are intertwined with their phone usage. While there are negative side effects of being on one's phone a lot, depression is not one of those.

The scope of entertainment on phones has expanded greatly as coding and technology has developed and this fact has had a greatly positive impact on teens. Especially during quarantine, the app TikTok was really used to get teens' minds off the crazy events going on in the world around them. However, the amount of hours spent on the app was getting to an unhealthy amount as the app reached approximately 90 million users only three months after its stable release date. Now, the rate of teens diagnosed with depression may have gone up during this time, however many of the teenagers were depressed because of the events around them. This statement is true with almost any other depressed patient. One's phone does not directly make

them depressed, it is the circumstances they find themselves in. The phone may, although, add to these negative emotions.

Watching the world practically fall apart around you is a hard event to get through, and having something to get your mind off it is a healthy thing. Teens found this "something" in their phone and on entertainment apps, however these same teenagers used their phones to suppress their emotions, not just "get their mind off it." Seeing how sad everyone in the world looked around them, teenagers did not want to share their emotions as they felt as if they would be burdening others. With the algorithm of TikTok, and the "For You" page, teenagers were able to, indirectly, find videos and people that they identified with. So, they used these videos to almost escape to a different reality where life was happy and normal. But, when they came back to reality, they realized there really is no escape, and so, this way of life and thinking is truly what caused the spike in depression during the pandemic. Phones on their own are not the problem, it is the circumstances and trials one is put through that truly damage a person's mental health.

A misconception has been formed in today's society that has made cell phones the 'cause' of depression. While phones may make the symptoms of depression worse in some cases, they are not the direct cause of them. At the end of the day, parents will parent their kids in the way they find best, however they need to realize this fact and stop being so negative towards phones. Phones are a convenient tool, especially in our state.



As the pandemic continues on, screen times increase, but are students really to blame for this?

## For Society's Sake, LGBTQ+ Representation Should Do Better

Chloe Vande Kamp '21  
Editorials Editor

While the rise in LGBTQ+ representation in the entertainment industry is worth acknowledging, there is still a long way to go to be able to consider this inclusivity as appraisable. There are still many ongoing issues and faults to be addressed and remedied.

Most nameable of these faults is the pure inaccuracy of a good portion of queer representation. Modern media often whittles down queer characters to their basic stereotypes. This is different than a general character archetype, as it only targets queer identities, and as such generalizes minority groups that already suffer at the hands of others' ignorance. These stereotypes pick from the plethora of queer characteristics and sell them as the center upon which those identities revolve. This would be, for example: the 'mean, man-hating lesbian' or the 'flamboyant gay man.' Whether or not a queer person does fit into these stereotypes is

irrelevant, because of how profusely the stereotypes are used and abused within American media. Additionally, the entertainment industry heavily relies upon tropes and plot devices simply as a way to market their content towards straight audiences.

Among discussions of gay-representing films such as *Love, Simon* and *Happiest Season*, was the popular notion that many of these movies "felt straight," in that the audience felt as if they were watching queer characters through the eyes of a straight person. Films and TV that depend on cliché plots (such as the infamous coming out story, as featured in both previously mentioned movies), stereotyping, and a clear lack of understanding of the queer experience, are flaws most easily fixed by the inclusion of queer writers and advisors on staff of these projects.

It is also well known in the LGBTQ+ community that queer entertainment suffers from a lack of vivid diversity within its pitiful corner of the so-called representation. This is a problem many lesbian movie-goers have taken note of, as

the most well known and popularized lesbian-centered movies tend to be period films with solely white leads, such as the recent *Ammonite* and french film *The Portrait of the Lady on Fire*, which both serve as examples to the reliance on tropes and white-centered narratives.

Despite the focus from queer audiences being placed on reaching more authentic inclusivity, there has still been plenty of pushback on media representing queer people at all, be it by homophobes or homophobes

pretending not to be. One of the most widespread notions is one that has also plagued female representation: that "the entertainment industry is pushing representation to earn 'equality points.'" In some ways, this idea holds merit—but the mentality behind it does not. Shallow and inaccurate representation, especially without the hire of real queer people, serves as a way to market queer experiences to straight audiences, while attempting to entice a queer audience into buying in and "settling"

for gross misrepresentations of queer people for the sake of having any representation at all.

Proper representation of the LGBTQ+ community does not have to come only in the form of media specifically marketed as queer. In the same way that queer people are integrated regularly into society, the inclusion of well-written characters would theoretically work in any fictional setting. Unless the purpose of a movie or show is to be historically accurate, the way it represents

groups of people is not confined to the discrimination of the past. Queer characters in widespread media can and should improve not only for the sake of pleasing LGBTQ+ audiences, but as a way to dismantle stereotypes and harmful rhetoric that any audience may be consuming.



Love, Simon is a movie that is often criticized for its lack of meaningful LGBTQ+ Representation.

## Fiction Should Create Dialogue, Not Warrant Artistic Erasure

Sophie Hall-Schorn '22  
Copy Editor

When a problematic piece of fiction arrives, whether it be a film, novel, or song, the uproar that such a piece causes can usually be deduced to a misunderstanding. One of the largest issues facing modern society, who form many opinions because of the media they consume, is the fact that fictional pieces are often taken as fact or reality, which in turn can create a harmful air around the art. In this article, a case will be made that encourages audiences affected by large amounts of media consumption to distinguish fictional pieces from what reality actually reflects.

Throughout history, fictional art has been designed to break the rules, and to produce new thoughts and discussions that have possibly been taboo or "off-limits" before. Many of the populace tend to take fictional art pieces such as novels or movies and label them as problematic because of their uncomfortable or unique take. It is for this exact reason why art is so beautiful and intriguing. It takes a certain sense of bravery to detach from what the majority believes and invoke a new thought or opinion in the otherwise settled collective

judgement.

By criticising fictional works based only on its problematic or uncomfortable nature, those who advocate for the removal of such works indirectly state that having their views our outlook on life challenged is not something they exactly welcome with open arms, which therefore perpetuates further decline into the desire to experience things only if they are safe and without substance.

Some may say that it is troublesome to disallow criticism from some art simply because it is simply fiction. For instance, what if the



Credit: DC Comics

Joker is often the punching bag for movie critics for portrayals that are 'harmful'.

art instigates harm? What if it contains ideas that are seen as damaging or hurtful? To counter these claims, it is first important to acknowledge that those who take fiction as an invitation to perpetuate harm in their daily lives are more of a rotten individual, rather than a result of a fictional work. Those who already have many troubling issues in their daily lives will latch onto anything that makes an impact on them, meaning the art has done its work, but has been put in the wrong

hands. In short, any harm done by a person as a result of an attachment to a fictional work falls more on the individual than the work itself. As for the claim that fictional art could possibly contain harmful ideas, to that it is easy to rebut by stating that that is precisely the purpose of fiction. Fiction is not doing its job if it does not lead to new dialogues and new thought. Those who criticise fiction simply for its premise or the discussion it opens are too insecure in their own beliefs to imagine that a work could rightfully debate their said view without dismantling it.

Fiction, of course, is not free from any analysis. In fact, that is probably the most important part of a fictional work that will determine its impact on its audience. However, analyzing fiction for the wrong reasons leads to further disillusionment and an overall negative air that leads to fictional works being seen as more of an enemy than as a catalyst for new discussions and change. It is important to keep in mind, however, that there was never such a thing as a healthy society that burnt books. Fiction is necessary for open discussion, and it is for the exact reason that art imitates life that it should not be censored, removed, or disregarded due to its uncomfortable or taboo nature.

## Greenwashing Gets us Nowhere

Megan Irwin '21  
Staff Writer

Society has been marked with hyperconsumption for decades. With such normalized disposability, everything is valueless. It is in this environment of single use items and marginal ease, that greenwashing thrives. Greenwashing is the process in which companies mislead consumers by providing inaccurate information about how products are environmentally sound. So as increased awareness is brought to the dire need of sustainability, greenwashing has been utilized by companies who cower in the dark side of a positive movement to turn a profit based on deceit, lies, and false realities.

Greenwashing has become more prevalent with the rise in focus on environmental sustainability, but it is far from new. Greenwashing has been around since the 1960s, driven by the need of nuclear power to stay competitive during the anti-nuclear movement. They marketed nuclear energy clean, and good for the planet and the future, ignoring the effects of its pollutants in the air, water supplies, and

ground. All to appeal to the public eye with intentions, "to shift the customer focus from a company's appalling behaviour to something that's peripheral" according to Jason Ballard, CEO of TreeHouse, a sustainable home improvement retailer. Greenwashing by large companies in order to manipulate consumers is a complete misdirection, making consumers believe that a company is doing more to protect the environment than it is. So why is it that companies are able to get away with this? Green sells. People are more willing to pay more for eco-friendly products according to a 2015 Nielson poll, with fifty percent of purchasing decisions being influenced by sustainable features. So companies prey on this weakness by superficially appealing to green demand, allowing for them to keep most environmentally conscious consumers without actually changing business practices.

As society approaches a critical time in the climate crisis, more organizations and individuals are adopting sustainable design, and it remains of value to be able to identify instances of greenwashing and replace them with truly sustainable

practices on both behalfs, the companies who produce goods and the consumers.

A truly sustainable lifestyle is not cheap, nor should it be. It should be accessible and a viable option for all, whether that be through government or individual actions. A sustainable lifestyle may be expensive but it is to last a lifetime. Sustainable products have to be more expensive because they have to last years instead of weeks like most advertised products. They have to spend more on packaging that is truly disposable, with less or no plastics ending up in a landfill or the ocean. Sustainability is expensive because the planet is invaluable, there is no tangible price for the health of the planet. The shift needs to happen now and there needs to be counters to greenwashing and awareness brought to it.

Greenwashing can no longer go ignored by the public, there needs to be a response on public behalf, research into truly sustainable companies, and demands on big corporations to actually start environmentally friendly practices and production. There can be change for the planet, but a drastic shift in consumptions and production is needed.

## Aging Should be Embraced



Credit: agecutter.com

People are often unable to age in peace due to beauty standards and the obsession with youth.

Mason Dearie '23  
Social Media Manager

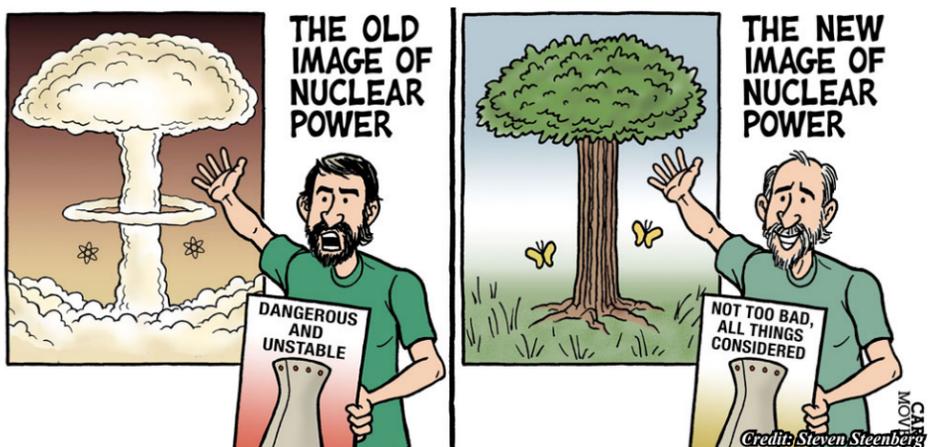
American culture has formulated a dangerous ideal that has the general public under the assumption that their beauty and happiness will only remain while they are young. This belief is very unhealthy for people both young and old as the young believe they can only have fun while they are the aforementioned age and the old become fixated on regrets they might have had from their youth. However, there is not a fixed amount of happiness in one's life; happiness is an emotion that is present throughout all life.

The common belief is that a person will have their best years between the ages of twenty to thirty seeing as this is around the time most people are living on their own, are of legal age to do lots of different activities, and, overall, subscribed to their own rules. While this may be true, what is stopping oneself from being happy and having fun after this specific age range? This misconception of happiness leaves some people with feelings of unmeasurable regret and a belief that they did not do all that they should have when they were still young. Furthermore, this false ideology has the older community constantly longing to be young again, or to just simply look young again. Some elders wake up in the morning upset with themselves because they may not look pleasing to the eye or they did not cross off everything on their "bucket list" that they possessed when they were

much younger. This damaging, idealistic way of looking at one's happiness is unhealthy and needs to stop for the sake of the older community's health.

To continue, many companies have taken advantage of this ideology by creating products that promise customers that they will look young again if they use the product. However, while some of these products may work, how can one truly move on with life if they are constantly bound by the past? If one were to become so heavily obsessed with these beauty products, there is room for the possibility wherein the customer could begin to feel constrained by the way they look. When body positivity and having self-confidence are already so hard for some to obtain, it is not healthy for one's mental health to feel confident solely when under the effect of a product that, in a sense, "turns back time." Society's hyper-fixation on youth has paved a way for marketers to create products that should not be used for the sake of keeping one's mental health stable.

With advances in science and beauty marketing, an obsession for youthfulness has come to true fruition. This is seen in beauty products that promise one to look young again, as well as the idea that people will only find true happiness when they are young. However, this idealistic way of interpreting happiness and beauty is unhealthy for both society itself and the mental health of those who have been swayed into this way of thinking. American culture needs to reevaluate its understanding of beauty and happiness altogether.



The difference in opinion on nuclear power lies in its marketing, which leaves room for a lot of uncertainty.

Chaparral High School - The Platinum Press - May 27, 2021

## Dance Returns Live on Stage

Siena Soffer '21  
Editor in-Chief

Performing arts programs have had one of the most challenging years ever. Being off campus questioned whether or not they could continue demonstrating their talents to the rest of the school. Artists were disheartened and often unmotivated to continue in these conditions, and yet they grounded themselves with patience. Dance was one of the many groups that stuck it out, and were rewarded with reunion and the chance to perform together once again.

For the majority of the year, being online had its challenges. So many plans intended to expand the reach of this program were cancelled, and dance teacher Ms. Alyssa Gallegos had to return to the drawing board. Working closely together, the teams were able to collaborate and learn their choreographies from both google meet and pre-recorded videos. "We did have issues sometimes with, like, music lagging, you know, internet connection [issues]. . .," Ms. Gallegos explained, highlighting that ". . .they continued to show up for themselves--for the better--and they never quit." All of this work led to their performances; the half-time show at the homecoming game, their recent performance in the PAC, and their ability to not only compete, but for Junior Varsity and Varsity to win first place in their division in the SHARP International competition online.

Like many programs this year, however, there were times when it was necessary to help the teams regain their motivation and drive to continue with their programs. "Yes, it was really unmotivating and disappointing at times," Ms. Gallegos admitted, "but they still. . .persevere and they are getting through it together." Team

captains had a huge hand in keeping the spirit alive as well. One of four varsity captains, Senior Vianne Cocco, described her role as a leader this school year. Trying her hardest to maintain the order of the team, she said that her responsibilities still include ". . .making sure everyone is always prepared for their next performance as well as trying to remain positive." Cocco held her end of that deal, admitting that she was proud of herself and other teammates for being able to prepare for the halftime show, which was their first live performance since school shut down. After being able to work very hard from a distance and between different cohorts, the teams were able to bring their best to their shows.

Entering into a newer scholastic model where students are able to interact with one another in an improved, yet safe way, dancers on campus have been able to better support each other and their end goals. Though this year students have not seen much of dance due to coronavirus disease 19 (COVID-19) regulations, there is a lot of time that is put in behind the scenes. "I just think people may not know how hard we're working. Even though we don't perform much, we are still always working and prepping for emergency performances," Cocco shared. She opened up about the captains and their methods for keeping everyone going describing a "balance of criticism and praise," which paved the road for a constructive environment that drove success home.

These amazing athletic artists look forward to another year where more of their work will be available for the student body to see--whether it be at future rallies, halftime shows, rivals, or any other type of performance. They are excited to return to tradition. Until then, they will continue to work hard and put their best foot forward every single day.



Credit: Emily Schwank

After a year of patience and uncertainty, these dancers were able to perform to a live audience once again.

## Notable Performers



### Jun Angelo Cabugas '22

First Place in Graphic Design for creating a poster for "The Good Doctor." Awarded at the virtual Fullerton College High School Theatre Festival.

### Amy Wong '22

Second Place in Contemporary Dramatic Monologue "Agnes of God." Awarded at the virtual Fullerton College High School Theatre Festival.



### Makenna Hitch '24

First Place in Hip Hop Division Awarded by SHARP International's Virtual Dance Competition.

### Natalya Delgado '24

First Place in Lyrical Dance Division Awarded by SHARP International's Virtual Dance Competition.



Credit: Alyssa Gallegos

Showing off their uniforms with pride, dance rejoices being able to see one another after a hard semester.

## Choir has a Passionate Comeback After this Challenging Year

Jillian Flack '22  
Copy Editor

After waiting for over a year to perform in person, the choirs on campus, Platinum FX (PFX), Women's Ensemble and Concert Choir finally got the opportunity to perform and showcase their spectacular talents. They may have gone a long time without performing in front of live audiences, but they clearly showed the viewers that their musical talents were not lacking despite the time they had apart from one another.

After spending so much time away from campus, the choir students were very eager to return to the music room of Mr. Rob Hodo, who is the choir director. There, they began the difficult process of practicing in person while also simultaneously working with the students who remained in school virtually. Senior Amber Baranek, president of Women's Ensemble, expressed, "We've been waiting a long time to have something we can do together and now, everyone's so

excited that the energy is higher than it would have been if we weren't stuck at home." With unique themes, such as pirate, Hamilton and La La Land, all three choirs performed in the Performing Arts Center (PAC) on May 20 as their last event of the school year, while PFX members got the opportunity to showcase their singing and dancing throughout the months of April and May as well. During this final event, the choir students were able to bring the in-person and online audiences into a night filled with intriguing songs and engaging entertainment. It was truly a night for audience members and choir students alike to remember.

Before going back on campus, the students in choir had to fight through the nonstop challenges that they faced due to the pandemic. For them, it was difficult to practice via Zoom since much of their work together requires them to sing in unison. "It's been really hard for people to collaborate and feed off of each other's energy, so not only has it been harder to establish social connections, but at the same time, you're singing to

yourself for most of the year so you don't know what other people sound like," Baranek explained. Though the pandemic clearly brought on challenges for the different activities on campus, choir was determined to make the best of it and to not allow it to effect the quality of their music and performance. Even so, it was difficult for the choir students to work together in the virtual format. "A lot of people who weren't necessarily as committed didn't want to be in that online setting, so now, we kind of have to build from the ground up, but at the same time, I feel like the people who got through this will be a lot stronger for it and will appreciate the chance to perform more," Baranek stated. Now that the choirs got to perform in-person, the students are happy with the work they did and are looking forward to more,

knowing their hard work paid off.

Next year, choir is sure to be back in full swing and will continue to be as entertaining as it currently is to watch. The students actively involved in choir are grateful to have had the opportunity to showcase their

talents, even if for a short time, and are eager for more performances next year. Even though this year was a bit challenging, they exhibited adversity and fought for what they were passionate about and it greatly showed in their performance.



Credit: Jillian Flack

In this final performance, all choir groups on campus end the year reunited with one another.

## This Summer, Marvel Studios Depicts the Adventures of Loki

Joshua Flack '24  
Staff Writer

Marvel has for years dominated the box office. Now, they are beginning to dominate Disney+ with series such as *WandaVision* and *The Falcon and the Winter Soldier*. These shows both had fans raving for them. With the first two series being so successful, it is no wonder that fans are already anxiously awaiting the new series, *Loki*.

*Loki* is set to be released on June 9 on Disney+. The show will feature Thor's brother Loki, a well established Marvel villain and hero. The show takes place in an alternate reality created by Loki in *Avengers: Endgame*. Junior Angelo Cabuguas expressed, "I think the thing that makes it the most interesting is that this isn't the Loki that we've seen in the past couple movies and it's the

one that we see from 2012. . . in the original Avengers movie, so I think seeing him without the character development that has happened over the past couple of movies is going to be really interesting." In the show, Loki will embark on his own



Follow Loki's Journey Starting June 9.

journey throughout the universe. This season will include six episodes, with another already in development. The show's cast will spotlight names such as Tom Hiddleston, Owen Wilson, Chris Hemsworth, Sophia Di Martino and many more notable cast members. Moreover, fans are excited to see what new adventures await Loki, after his death in *Avengers: Infinity War*. Cabuguas stated, "All of the past *Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU)* shows have been vastly different in tone. . . [*The Falcon and Winter Soldier* was very different, same with *WandaVision* and *Loki* just seems to be something very similar." The success of the previous shows have led many fans to be excited to see what other storyline *Marvel* could create for a dead character. If the show is very complex, then fans will immediately start trying to decipher what is really going on. Many *WandaVision* fans hope that

*Loki* will be just as complex because the complexity is what makes the show mysterious. If the true plot is hidden, then fans will constantly have to await the next episode, therefore maintaining the viewers excitement. The plot will feature a part of the *Marvel* universe that the MCU has yet to explore: the agency that prevents time anomalies. The trailers feature characters such as Loki and Agent Mobius, played by Owen Wilson. *Loki* will add more to the already well-established universe. Even though the show will not fit into the normal *Marvel* timeline, it will still perfectly fit into the universe. It will set up a world that the filmmakers at *Marvel* could only create with a series.

Furthermore, *Marvel* has been one of the highest-earning movie studios for years. They have created a movie almost every year since *Iron-Man* in 2008. Until now though,

they could only tell a story that was around two hours. With the creation of original series on streaming platforms, they can now tell very large stories because they now have a higher maximum screen time. Cabuguas further stated, "Generally, it's proven that you can do big budget, super-high quality shows that are on the same level as the movies and tell these stories that wouldn't be able to be told in one or two hours, so I think it shows a bright future for what we can see achieved in the future." They are creating shows that have the same quality as movies. Now, *Marvel* can come out with the same amount of movies per year, but now they have the opportunity to release even more engaging content.

Fans are already excited for new episodic content, but they also do not really know what to expect. Anything can happen in the show. Only time will tell if they fix the time anomalies.

## Disneyland Reopens with New Features

Emma Carrero '21  
Copy Editor

As a little more than half of adult Californians receive their vaccine doses, the sunny state slowly began reopening businesses and lowered coronavirus disease 19 (COVID-19) restrictions. When it comes down to which businesses were allowed to open, theme parks were not left out giving some thrill-seekers hope for an eventful summer. Moreso, people have been greatly anticipating the main popular nationwide and global reopening attraction of Disneyland.

After announcing that the famed theme park will close back in March 2020 due to COVID-19 outbreaks, fans were under the impression that it would spring back up in a little less than a month. That was not the case as the park remained closed for the rest of that year. As the announcement spread across the country, die hard fans were heartbroken and left with dreams unfulfilled. Although main street was still left available to the public, it was not the same as wandering through ToonTown or taking a trip to TomorrowLand. It was not until April of this year that the park decided to open up only to California residents as Governor Gavin Newsom permitted. However, getting a ticket to the attraction was not easy. When tickets first went on sale online, people were left waiting hours to even reserve space to purchase tickets. Senior Emma Choi who enjoys the park expressed, "My favorite part about Disneyland is the ambiance. Once you enter the park, you are instantly



The Avengers Campus is a new area of the happiest place on Earth that is being built now.

happy!" The idea of the park being open to specific residents made several people interested and willing to wait in line. That and the brand new Avengers Campus at California Adventure park which had been highly excited for since last year.

Although the new part of the park will not be open yet to visitors until June 4, 2021, *Disney* has been giving hints and clues as to what it will look like and what guests should expect on opening day. Choi commented, "I have been waiting for the campus to be built since it was announced [awhile back], so I am really excited to see what new attractions there are!" So far one main ride attraction that has been revealed includes "Web Slingers: A Spider-Man Adventure" which centers around the humorous teen hero taking riders on a trip to show them what having spider abilities

is like. However, Spider-Man will not be the only hero or villain guests can meet at this recruiting campus. Lovable characters like Thor, Iron-Man, and Captain Marvel will be walking around the park looking for new generation Avengers to train. Now the second part of the campus will feature Doctor Strange and focus more on his ancient sanctum. Revolving around spells and the arts, the place is hinted at being a beautiful sight at night.

During a visit to the land where dreams come true, one is still expected to follow COVID-19 guidelines like wearing masks and social distancing. However, this should not be much of a problem as the usual waiting in line for three hours will be shortened a bit with less crowds. For more information on what to expect, visit [disneyland.disney.go.com](https://disneyland.disney.go.com).



### Jillian's Top Netflix Picks for May

Jillian Flack '22  
Copy Editor

As the warm, summery weather makes itself comfortable in Temecula, *Netflix* is releasing new content for people to enjoy during these next few hot months. Titles such as the movie *The Ice Road*, the show *Katla* and the documentary *Penguin Town* will be added to the collection of *Netflix* original content and many fans are excited for their arrival.

The *Netflix* original movie *The Ice Road* highlights an ice driver's mission to save miners trapped underground. There are many challenges he faces with his team as they attempt to get the miners out unscathed. Because of the captivating nature of this film, audiences are intrigued to see how it will pan out and how the challenges will be faced. Luckily, viewers will not have to wait long to see it since it is being released on June 25.

Through the interesting tale of a town dealing with the aftermath of a volcano's eruption, the show *Katla* is sure to be a fascinating *Netflix* show. Audiences are interested to see how this volcano will affect the town and what it will end up costing the people who live there. The first season will be released on June 17 and viewers are patiently awaiting its arrival.

Releasing on June 15, the documentary, *Penguin Town*, features groups of endangered penguins that live in a South African town. It will take viewers through a day in a penguin's eyes and talk about the challenges they face in their journey to thrive. This documentary is one that people are truly looking forward to because of the interesting truths of penguin survival and the interesting tale it tells.

During June, students should be sure to check out this intriguing viewing material on *Netflix*, especially when it is too hot outside.

If these titles are not of interest to some, in July, there will be even more content, such as a documentary series called *Naomi Osaka*.



Mickey Mouse welcomes California residents back to Disneyland after a year since closure due to the COVID-19 restrictions of 2020.

Chaparral High School - The Platinum Press - May 27, 2021

# Abraham Diaz Collects and Reviews Films and Music Online

Joshua Flack '24  
Staff Writer

Passion is the element that encompasses many people's lives. Collecting is fueled by a passion for another person's work. Freshman Abraham Diaz is a student on campus who has an igniting passion for creating YouTube videos about his collection of films and vinyl records.

Diaz loves movies and music, hoping to one day be a director. Because his passion is stronger for movies than it is for music, he loves collecting movies and has an ever-expanding collection of DVDs and Blu-Ray disks. He expressed, "All I remember in my childhood is putting in the disc. I don't remember going through Netflix or Hulu. It's just like having the physical copy, knowing that it's safe. . . where I place my Blu-rays." He is able to grab any movie whenever he wants because he collects the DVDs. To him, experiencing a film is not just about seeing it once, it is about enjoying the film in all ways possible, which

includes collecting them. He further stated, "It makes me escape the realism of the world. . . even a movie like *Se7en*. . . It's very dark, but I like it because. . . it's a story. Nothing has to do with the real world, although it is very dark like the real world." To him, movies are more than just mindless entertainment; they are a story that matters. Every story gives him a unique experience that he can enjoy forever. This is because he gets to explore the filmmaker's mind. Moreover, his favorite film is *The Dark Knight*. His favorite albums are Nirvana's *Nevermind*, Depeche Mode's *Violator* and *The Outfield's Play Deep*.

Diaz does not just collect films and vinyls for fun, but also to share his overall thoughts on the movies he sees, which he loves to do. That is why he created a YouTube channel, entitled *ThatNerdBotDiaz*. On this channel, he makes jokes while he reviews movies and talks about his collection of films and songs. He started this channel so that he could talk to an audience that cares about film and music just as much as he

does. Diaz's videos are not for himself though, but they are for his audience of over 100 people. These videos help people from around the world understand his true passion for film. He wants people to understand what he saw in the film, not just what everyone else saw. Diaz wants to give his insight, so that others can

describe what the movie meant to him. Despite the joy that creating content can bring, it is not always an easy and simple task. Diaz explained, "I used to use my phone to make my videos, my personal phone, but now it's garbage. It has no more storage, so I use my mom's phone and she's, like, always at work and she gets home late. . . I can't really have time to make a video, edit it, then post it." Regardless, Diaz perseveres and creates content for fans that share his passion. Diaz will continue to love films and music for his entire life. He expressed, "I think my future will always. . . have something to do with movies." As the scenes of his life unfold,



Freshman Abraham Diaz shows off a few of his favorite movies in his current collection. Credit: Joshua Flack

## Disney Shares Cruella's Story

Emma Horwood '22  
Staff Writer

From its release in 1996, the hit Disney family movie, *101 Dalmatians* has taken its place among the fan favorite Disney movies that shaped childhoods. While the tale following the adventures of a family of energetic Dalmatians was overall optimistic, the antagonist, Cruella de Vil added a truly disturbing element to the film. Now with the long awaited cinema release of *Cruella*, the storyline continues with the audience finally discovering how this adorable puppy slaying, fashion designer came to be. On May 28, 2021 crowds can expect to be deeply disturbed once again, and enhanced with this epic, twisted villain backstory.

Nearly twenty-five years after the initial release of *101 Dalmatians*, the grim character of Cruella is once again gracing the screen as her tragic past unveils to audiences worldwide. Once known as Estella, a teenage wannabe fashion designer finds herself thwarted by her sad, misfortune reality. As a poor, struggling orphan, her dreams of being among the top fashion designers in London seem out of reach. Instead she seeks to make ends meet by committing petty crimes with her best friends and amateur thieves, Horace and Jasper. This life of crime appears to be all Estella is destined for until a once in a lifetime chance encounter catapults her into the world of the elite rich and famous. With an uprising famous rockstar commissioning her for a signature piece, her dreams seem to be coming true. However, this opportunity comes with tribulations. As she struggles to keep up with the fast paced lives of the rich and famous, the audience sees her villainous character begin to unfold. As the

story progresses the true events that turned a petty criminal teen into a cold-blooded villain is further developed, giving context to the character we first met in *101 Dalmatians*.

With actress Emma Stone as Estella "Cruella" de Vil, the expectations for this film are high among eager new and old Disney fans. In the past, with villain based movies such as *Maleficent*, there is less of a developed version of the villain's life before meeting the protagonist and entering the original storyline. In *Cruella*, viewers are given the unique experience of gaining a better understanding of the upbringing and in-depth view of the unfortunate events that ultimately manifested the antagonistic character seen in the original family storyline. Junior Niko Shay explained, "I'm definitely looking forward to the new movie. I think Disney started exploring the path of the villains' perspective and general story. . . I definitely prefer movie paths like this because often remakes don't live up to the original nostalgia." This featurette is a perfect opportunity for fans to revisit what they knew about this cruel villain and give it more context. Avid fans of the original *101 Dalmatians* hope to see their childhood comfort movie brought back in a spectacular way. One can only hope that the upcoming film, *Cruella*, does the original storyline some justice.

Whether being viewed from the newly reopened cinemas or from the comfort and safety of one's home, fans can expect to indulge in the nostalgia that accompanies any dream Disney film. Whether or not this addition lives up to the expectations of viewers is still unknown, however it is sure to be a thrilling film on its own. With the deeply intricate backstory being presented, Cruella de Vil will be portrayed in a new and refreshing light.



Disney's portrayal of Cruella De Vil starring Emma Stone will offer a new perspective on her character. Credit: cnn.com

## DC Comics Leaks Film Plans

Athena Ebuon '24  
Staff Writer

The superhero genre has become one of the most popular and profitable movie genres worldwide. With so many superheroes being released at any time, it can be difficult to keep things straight. A few months ago, *Detective Context* (DC) Comics released a new, improved movie called *Zack Snyder's Justice League*: *Justice is Gray*. After the movie's success, Warner Bros. officially released their ambitious plans for a DC extended universe.

Before Warner Bros. announced the 'supposed' release dates of the new, upcoming movies, they released Zack Snyder's version of the *Justice League*. The previous *Justice League* movie in 2017 left many DC fans disappointed with how it resulted after Snyder's absence. After four years of fans convincing Snyder to do a remake, he and HBO Max released his movie on March 18, 2021. The movie is about how Bruce Wayne is fueled by his restored faith in humanity and inspired by Superman's selfless acts, he enlists an ally, Diana Prince, to face an even greater threat, Darkseid. Together, Batman and Wonder Woman quickly recruit a team, including Aquaman, Cyborg, and The Flash, to stand against a newly awakened enemy. Although Batman prefers to fight alone, he realizes that to accomplish some victories, they would have to work together to achieve it. This lesson can apply to the students, however, perhaps not now with the current circumstances. Yet, in the past, there would be group projects where each student would do their part to achieve a good grade. While the movie has given the fans some relief after the last *Justice League* in 2017, there are more exciting adventures to seek in the DC universe.

As far as Warner Bros. has confirmed, *The Suicide Squad* is said to release on August 6,

2021. Harley Quinn, acted by Margot Robbie, and her team of assembled supervillains take the audience on high-risk black ops secret missions, in exchange for either parole, work release, or reduced prison sentence. The producer, Peter Safran, claims to release the movie as a reboot film, in hope that the franchise is better set up for success compared to the 2016 version. The company has confirmed, at the moment, a few DC movies to release in 2022. One of them being *The Batman* releasing on March 4,



A rebooted version of The Suicide Squad will come to theaters on August 6, 2021. Credit: comingsoon.net

2022. The casting choice has settled that the story would revolve around a younger Batman, setting the time to Year Two where a mystery thriller follows him investigating a series of crimes committed by The Riddler. Meanwhile, *Black Adam*, starring Dwayne Johnson and Noah Centineo, is another upcoming movie that focuses on the antagonist of *Shazam!* Originally, Black Adam was supposed to appear in the movie *Shazam!* Johnson decided to make two movies instead, letting *Shazam!* be a success. The movie's release date is on July 29, 2022. Furthermore, *The Flash* is another DC film to release on November 4, 2022, starring Ezra Miller as Barry Allen. The story focuses on Barry's attempt to save his mother from the wrecks of the universe. One final DC film to mention is *Aquaman 2*, which will be releasing in upcoming years.

These superhero films are popular and some students use them as a form of escapism from the troubles they face in reality. They mirror human experiences which makes them more relatable and closer to home in a unique way. Hopefully, upcoming releases can also embody this.

## Lil Nas X Continues to Make Hits Despite Criticism and Hate

Emma Horwood '22  
Staff Writer

After releasing two new singles in 2021, Montero Lamar Hill (Lil Nas X), has once again taken the spotlight. While there has been controversy and criticism of some of his artistic expression, the overwhelming excitement and support from his fans overshadows the negativity. With the release of "Montero (Call Me by Your Name)" in March of 2021 and "Sun Goes Down in 2021" Lil

perspective on his experiences with being an openly gay black man and the struggles that accompany that. Fans across the world could not be more happy with this new content and many consider these songs to be among the most honest to date. Lil Nas X's new singles further expand his fanbase, sheds light on his personal struggles, and brings a refreshing amount of honesty to his work.

Throughout his career, Lil Nas X has broken numerous records and combatted a lot of stigma and stereotypes. With the release of his

song spent nineteen weeks atop the US Billboard Hot 100 Chart, breaking records for the longest-running top song on the chart since its debut in 1958. At the height of "Old Town Road"'s popularity, this sensational artist came out as gay, becoming the only artist to do so while having a number one record. Upon his coming out, he was met with both enthusiasm and pride from LGBTQ+ fans and allies as well as homophobia by bigoted critics and even other fellow artists. Lil Nas X kept his head high and stayed true to himself as he continued to shatter records, becoming the first openly homosexual black artists to win a country music association award. To this day, Lil Nas X continues to produce viral content and directly combat the stigma around the LGBTQ+ community in the music industry.

This already impressive music career reaches new heights with the recent releases of his hit singles, "Montero (Call Me By Your Name)" and "Sun Goes Down" whose lyrics feature a lot of brutal honesty of Lil Nas X's struggles and triumphs with his queer identity. His release of "Montero (Call Me By Your Name)" immediately reached the top of the charts. The music video accompanying this single artfully employed biblical and satanic



Credit: soundcloud.com

Lil Nas X' has a record of singles that immediately hit the chart upon their release.

imagery to illustrate the major source of homophobia the Christian religion has become. This decision received backlash from the Christian community for its "offensive" depictions of hell and satan. Junior Josh Pierce said, "The music video doesn't deserve hate at all because Lil Nas was simply poking holes in a religion that has oppressed queer people for centuries. If anything it's liberating." Standing by his decision, Lil Nas X's response to their complaints was to release an unofficial pair of "satan nikes" that contain a drop of human blood. His music continues to perfectly encapsulate the queer experience,

serving as an inspiration to his audience. It is clear to see that this iconic artist is bringing the same brutal honesty, masterful expression, and unique personality to his creations is what allows him to keep shattering his listeners' expectations.

Lil Nas X is truly one of the most sensational and daring artists of this generation. He brings a refreshing, queer perspective to mainstream media, allowing his message to personally touch the hearts of specifically black LGBTQ+ fans on a larger scale. As he keeps on reaching new heights of popularity, Lil Nas X will surely continue to grow his record shattering music career.



Credit: depauliaonline.com

Lil Nas X has received both support and backlash for the use of Satanic imagery.

Nas X has expanded on his already impressive array of works with a new song, "Old Town Road" in 2019, he first achieved viral popularity. The

## Billie Eilish Opens Up to Audience

Yalena Aguirre '21  
A&E/Lifestyles Editor

As time progresses so does the music industry and the artists and their content that thrive within it. In the course of heading into summer vacation soon multiple artists are releasing new hits to kick off the hot season with one of those artists being none other than young rising star Billie Eilish, who has released her new single from her upcoming album that has completely taken generation Z aback.

Eilish's new album *Happier Than Ever* will be the second studio

TikTok's popular song for a time "Therefore I Am" as well as "My Future" and "Everything I Wanted", has been speculated by fans on TikTok to carry a message when put into a sentence about where Eilish is in her life regarding her mentality and lifestyle, in which it says "My Future is Everything I Wanted, Therefore I Am Happier Than Ever [Eilish's upcoming album]. Regardless of the general meaning of her new album, fans are certainly excited about what the album has in store, especially after hearing the singer's new single "Your Power". "Your Power" was initially released on April 29 in which it was

with her partner at the time. The song perfectly showcases the abusive, controlling and narcissistic power imbalance that occurred as well as the emotional abuse that came from her ex-partner, who was twenty-two years old while Eilish was still a minor of sixteen years at the time they were "dating". In the music video, it shows how suffocating it was to endure such endless and infinite cycles of gaslighting and emotional deception in the form of a snake and the geographical location blends in with her tan attire for the video, which can interpreted to how a victim of mental abuse tries to lie low and not draw attention to themselves out

of grave fear. The amount of people that were instantly able to understand the painful lyrics as they were victims and survivors themselves truly show how much of an impact Eilish's work can have and how it helps people come to understand and cope with their trauma. Her new single sends chills down people's spine

and truly speaks to their soul in an angelic and mesmerizing way as she shares her own story through song.

Eilish will no doubt leave a significant impact, if not already on young teenagers today as a lot of her work is easy to resonate and relate to as they are common struggles they face in today's age. "Your Power" has left people hungry and eager to what awaits in Eilish's upcoming album if only one single holds so much power already.



Credit: Billie Eilish

Billie Eilish opens up to her audience and reveals more personal stories through her music.

connect with immensely since its initial release back in 2019. The message of the upcoming anticipated album *Happier Than Ever* has been widely speculated being about Eilish regaining her sense of power and finding freedom and healing from past events based on previous singles released prior to the most recent single, "Your Power", which made its debut on April 29 of this year. The previous singles released, which was social media platform

quickly picked up by active users on TikTok using the sound to react to the powerful message it holds. The song follows the extreme toxic relationship between Eilish and her now ex-partner "Q," who was mentioned frequently in the documentary *The World's A Little Blurry* that was released on Apple TV earlier this year that documents Eilish's journey throughout the *When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?* Era with constant ups and downs, especially

## CHS Virtual Art Show

Students of visual arts classes have shared their creations online. View their artwork on this link: <https://dwc1000.wixsite.com/chs2021artshow>



Bridget O'Donnell '22



Sierra Hennessy '21



Giuliana Zamorano '22

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# Your Path to Finding the Right College

Athena Ebuen '24  
Staff Writer

High school is not just about meeting the requirements to graduate, but to prepare to be a successful student and ensure to have a career pathway in the future. Meanwhile, college is a significant part of life as it helps ensure job stability, career satisfaction, and opens up more occupations to students requiring advanced education in most fields. It will be a whirlwind at first, yet with proper

preparation like developing good habits, it can lead to a successful first year.

Preparing for college is not simple as some students would think. Before even looking into colleges, students should find out what they are interested in becoming. When they have found something to major in, they should start taking courses that involve their major to give them more experience and an acceptable high school transcript. A student's high school transcript is going to be a vital document in a student's application. Once that is all taken care of, students can start researching colleges that offer their major.

Senior Isabella Ritchie-Irvin, who will attend Arizona State University (ASU), plans to major in Business with a concentration in Financial Planning.

She explained her first steps saying, "I first tried to get an idea of what I wanted to do

major in and where I wanted to go, geographically speaking." She became pretty interested in business and finance after taking the Financial Algebra class that was offered at the school. Ritchie-Irvin expressed, "It was pretty interesting and I've always been pretty good with numbers. . . I'm really excited to see what I'll learn in college!" Identifying interests, values, passions, and abilities can help give a student an idea of what they can major in as a career. If students are unsure, they can talk to their parents, guardians, counselors, teachers, or friends for advice on finding a major. With friends, however, the answer may not be guaranteed.

Afterwards, students should start looking into colleges that offer their intended majors. It is imperative to research colleges early on because not all of the schools will offer specific majors. Ritchie-Irvin expressed, "I didn't think about it too much. I kind of believed that almost all colleges offered the majors I was looking at. That was not entirely true." According to some college guides, they suggest creating a list, roughly about eight schools at least. Then, students can initially start their research. For starters, students can talk to their school counselors or their independent college counselor since they have a lot of knowledge about the schools. Plus, they can provide good recommendations based on the colleges students are looking for. College search tools are also a beneficial resource. Websites like California Colleges are tools students can use to put in their preferences and give them a decent list to view. Ritchie-Irvin added saying, "It was a lot of research and a lot of lists being made. I started off really broad and narrowed down my options." Tuition is another detail students will need to look at. The cost of a higher education can have long-term indications in a student's life, so it is a crucial factor when researching for colleges.

Earning a scholarship can benefit students as the college will pay for their expenses, depending on the scholarship.

College may seem far away, but time flies. Preparing for college will require academic and mental preparation, so it is very important to know where to start. Taking this into consideration, hopefully one now understands the steps to building a career path by choosing the right college first.



Credit: Crystal Ediyun  
Like other students, Senior Isabella Ritchie-Irvin invested time into research.

# Mandich's Message of the Month

## B is for Boundaries



*Elyce Mandich*  
MSW, LCSW, PPSC  
Temecula Valley Unified School District  
Licensed Clinical Social Worker | Chaparral High School  
Work Cell: 951.401.0533

Let's talk about boundaries. Think about when you've gone somewhere and there is some level of a physical boundary to keep you from going into another designated area. This could be on a hike, at a concert, on the road, etc. Boundaries with other people are very similar, except you're creating an "invisible" boundary. Here's the thing- if you DON'T establish healthy and appropriate boundaries in your relationships with your friends, family, and anybody else in your life- you may find yourself resentful, overwhelmed, or like you are pleasing everybody around you but feeling depleted inside. Something that has always resonated with me is- "If you are so busy keeping the peace around you, what happens to the peace within you?" -Some therapist, somewhere. "But Mrs. Mandich, isn't setting boundaries rude?" NOPE, not rude. In fact, you will probably enjoy your relationships so much more when you begin setting them. Setting a boundary is about communicating what you need. So where do you start? Stop saying yes to things you do not want to do, be direct about what you need, be specific, and most importantly, understand that somebody's reaction to you setting a boundary has everything to do with them and nothing to do with you. Think about this, if somebody is upset about you setting a boundary, they were probably benefiting from you not having any. The people that love and care for you will navigate those boundaries with you, even if they do not fully understand them. Take care of you, Pumas.

# New Technology Upgrades and Prices Increase VR Gameplay

Joshua Flack '24  
Staff Writer

There are so many different theories on alternate realities. While none of these theories can really be proven true at the moment, there is one that has been proven real. This new and adventurous world is virtual reality (VR).

VR is a popular way of gaming. Gamers wear a headset over their eyes and have two controllers in their hands so that they feel like they are really there in the game or open world. Junior Nathan Fraitag stated, "I think it's really cool to just delve into something that you're not really able to do normally. . . you can go in and you're actually, like, there in the video game." Some popular games include *Beatsaber*, *The Climb*, *Gorn*, *Half-Life: Alyx*, *Job Simulator*, *VRChat* and *Boneworks*.

*Gorn*, *Boneworks* and *Half-Life: Alyx* are fighting and shooter games, while *The Climb*, *Job Simulator* and *Beatsaber* are calm and sometimes fast paced games. These games are created specifically for VR, but there are many games that were originally created for traditional gaming that are now available in VR. These include *SUPERHOT*, *Five Nights at Freddy's* and even *Minecraft*. The more popular genre tends to be horror games too. While VR is primarily for gaming, it also has a multitude of ways to enjoy other forms of media. This means that the user can watch movies and even check their social media, all in the comfort of their headset.

Furthermore, this may seem like the perfect getaway, but there are still many downsides. VR headsets can cost over a thousand dollars. Gamers also already need to have a high speed computer that can run the applications. These computers

usually cost at least one thousand dollars. This was all until Oculus released *The Quest*. *The Quest* is an all-in-one system, meaning that you only need the headset. The headset, when released, cost around \$500. This was still seen as too pricey for many average consumers. *The Quest* was a major success, however, and *The Quest 2* was a huge game-changer. *The Quest 2* had a minimum

price of \$300. This headset was also stronger and better quality than the previous and the price is cheaper than many normal modern consoles. Moreover, the new technology is leading more people to get into VR. This is leading many to become obsessed with the gaming medium. With this major VR spike, many people are looking into developing games and technology that will better the experience.



Credit: The Verge  
This very screen became more accessible to gamers everywhere.

Fraitag further expressed, "I think it's really exciting because now that it's kicking off so much, I think there is gonna be a lot more games that are coming out, a lot that are equipment, and I'm really excited for the future when it's just a normal household item." Many people use VR mainly to experience new things, but one day, VR may be used for more things than entertainment. People have already started to develop ways to learn and explore the world in VR. Fraitag communicated, "I also think it's great for exercise, like. . . *Beatsaber* is a game that a lot of people use as a cardio exercise." While people develop new uses for VR, people also find new uses out of what has already been created. Video games were always seen as entertaining by many, but now they are being seen by many as a way to advance the modern world. It lets people have exciting experiences that stray far from reality. It also gives people the chance to think creatively as they try to make these experiences even better. As VR grows, so will the capabilities of gaming as a whole.

## Soccer Team Soars Into CIF Softball Builds Strong Bonds

Julian Stanfield '24  
Staff Writer

At the start of the season, with the normalcy of life prior to the pandemic returning slowly, the Varsity Boys Soccer team was ready to conquer this year's season. This year's team has performed exceptionally well and left an

impressive record behind them. They started the season off strong and were undefeated for the first four games and only allowing one goal to be scored by opposing teams. At the end of the season, the team had a

league record of 7-1-2 and an overall record of 9-2-3.

Due to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), many changes and precautions were put in place before the start of the season. Changes were also made to the scheduling of games and practices, with the season becoming shorter and being moved from winter to spring of this year. The season being moved to spring became a cause for concern due to different wind conditions, which could have affected the movement of the ball. In addition, the team only had one preseason game, whereas in previous seasons the season had started off with several scrimmages. Practices were held almost every day to get the athletes back into shape, with the exceptions being the weekends and Thursday. Nonetheless, the team was unfazed by all of these changes and adjusted well to this year's soccer season. The team's chemistry was barely affected by COVID-19 as well since many of the athletes on the varsity team are returning players who have played with each other before. However, due to social distancing, social



Credit: Kristina Rourke

events held by the players and coaches were canceled, making it harder for newer players to bond with the group. Luckily, despite these minor setbacks, the team was still able to have great chemistry. Unfortunately, the majority of the members being seniors has led to some to wonder about the team's numbers for next year. The coaches plan on trying to get more people to join the program and are moving some junior varsity players up to varsity.

The team had many talented players all over the field this season and according to Head Coach Mr. AJ Covarrubias, the team's talent and passion for the sport and program were the driving factors for their success. "They all love

the game. They love to play. . . and there's not one kid on that team that doesn't go to the park on their own [to practice]. . . They're always looking for opportunities to play the game and they love each other off and on the field. They're all friends. . . They fight for each other. . . [and] they really are a tight-knit group," he explained. The varsity team's main goal and expectation for this season were to become league champions for the Southwestern League and to make it to the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Southern Section playoffs. Although the team had to share the league championship title since they tied with Murrieta Valley High School (MVHS), they were successfully able to make it to the third round of the CIF playoffs with some junior varsity players playing for them as well. With the impressive performance, talent, and determination that the team showed off and their incredible record, it is safe to say that the Varsity Boys Soccer team had an excellent season, and hopes to continue with this success in upcoming seasons.

Alexa Neal '22  
Editor-in-Chief

Despite ending their season with no wins, Varsity Softball was able to come together as a team to have the best season possible amidst a pandemic. They faced each game with a positive attitude and were able to make new friends while creating long-lasting memories during a school year filled with uncertainties.

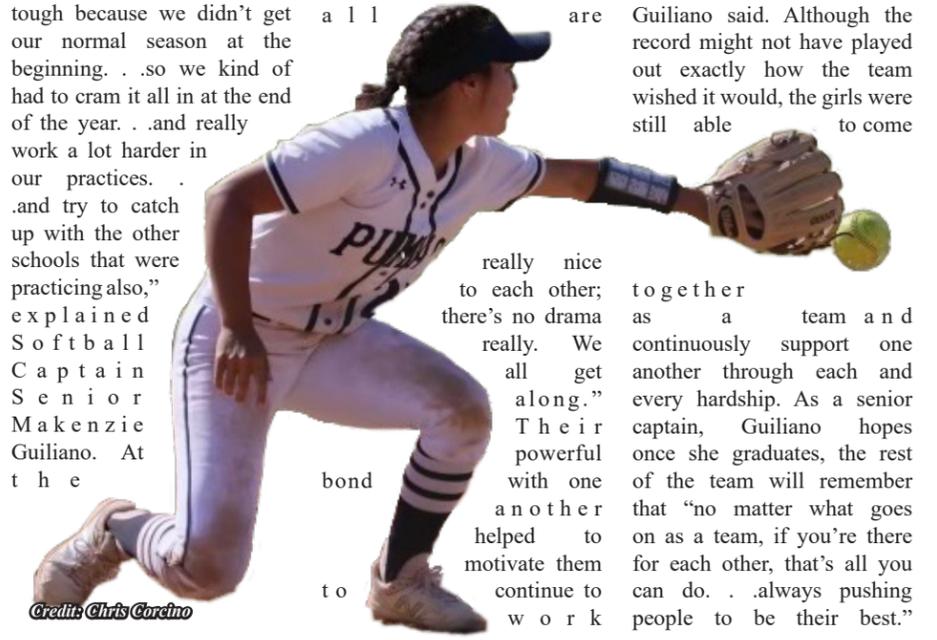
As with every other sport this school year, softball was held back by the effects of the pandemic. They were not able to practice at all initially, and they had to participate in health screenings and wear masks for a large portion of their practices when they were allowed to. "It was definitely tough because we didn't get our normal season at the beginning. . . so we kind of had to cram it all in at the end of the year. . . and really work a lot harder in our practices. . . and try to catch up with the other schools that were practicing also," explained Softball Captain Senior Makenzie Guiliano. At the

start of their practices, the team was not allowed to even incorporate softballs, an important aspect of the sport. They resorted to more conditioning and running in order to get back into shape and as protocols were lifted, were able to focus more on skills involving the ball during.

The team's chemistry proved to be their greatest strength, but building strong bonds with each other was not as easy as in previous years. "It required a lot more work to get to know each other," Guiliano recalled. In fact, the girls did not get to have their first team bonding event until the last few weeks of their season. However, the girls were able to grow close with one another despite social distancing requirements. Guiliano said, "We

hard at practices when there were no wins to show for their efforts. "If we're not winning, we just need to make sure we're having fun during our games. . . We just pick each other up and that's the best we can do," stated Guiliano. This attitude was reflected in how the team was most able to focus more on the good things they accomplished instead of what went wrong during games. They responded to the negativity by "letting loose and having fun, and staying positive, staying humble," mentioned Guiliano.

The team went into this season grateful to even be able to experience a season during a pandemic, and overall, strived to have as much fun as they could. "We just kind of had to take what we had and make it the best we could," Guiliano said. Although the record might not have played out exactly how the team wished it would, the girls were still able to come



Credit: Chris Corcino

As captain, Guiliano always strives to always pick up her teammates and motivate them to try their best.

## Varsity Football Ends their Season Crowned as City Champions

Julian Stanfield '24  
Staff Writer

On April 9, after a game against Great Oak High School (GOHS), the Varsity Football team brought back with them the incredible achievement of becoming Temecula City Champions. The team has put in plenty of work and effort into this season, and returned with an impressive accomplishment.

Their original goal at the start of the season was to win a Southwestern league title. However, due to the pandemic, the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Southern Section had to cancel its football playoffs. Because of this change, the team started looking towards becoming city champions to make up for being unable to play in the playoffs. The goal was personal to the team since Temecula

Valley High School (TVHS) had claimed the city championship title the previous season after beating Chaparral 42-31. "[The team] had revenge on their minds; they took it personal, and they took care of business [by winning]," stated Head Coach Mr. Andrew Ramer. The team felt confident that they were going to claim this year's title and were expecting to.

During the offseason, the team had put in much effort to prepare. They had their usual weight lifting sessions and, later on in the year, practices, but they also had Zoom Meetings to get around the social distancing issue during lockdown. According to varsity running back and outside linebacker, Junior Hunter Roddy, the coaches would remind the team that they needed to fight through adversity. "When hard times fall upon you, you have the choice to push through or give up, and for adversity, you gotta push through it. . . Luckily, for our team, we



Credit: Kelly Cullen

Freshman Stacy Dobbins runs down the field with the ball in an attempt to score a touchdown for his team. pushed through the hardships that came across to us," Roddy explained. Nearly every athlete experienced some sort of hardship in the past year, but the ones who persevered and made the best of a difficult situation, like these football players, are the ones who achieved success.

The main factors for the team's success and accomplishments comes from their determination to keep on working and passion for the game. "As cliché as it sounds. . . hard work and dedication [brought us to this point]," Coach Ramer stated. "[The team] were all working towards the same goals together. . . They continued to practice hard. They continued to do the weightlifting sessions. They took everything

serious in the sense that they wanted to go be city champs." The team's many talented players also played a key role in their achievements.

The program had an impressive team this year, and in the end, it paid off with a record of 4-1. The team was excited and felt incredibly honored to have won the city championships with the amount of work and dedication put into this season. The hours in the gym and on the gridiron paid off. After the incredible season they had and the effort that was put to reach this point, many believe that the team has earned this victory. Despite this triumph, however, the football team has begun preparing for the next season and hope to have a great season.



Credit: Kelly Cullen

Senior Tracy Dobbins runs past an opponent and in order to score a touchdown in a match against Great Oak.

Chaparral High School - The Platinum Press - May 27, 2021

# Varsity Girls Lacrosse: City Champions and Second in League

Nicole Gonzalez '21  
Managing Editor

The on-campus athletics have recently gained another amazing accomplishment for the records. With a league record of 6-4, the Girls Varsity Lacrosse team won the city champions title and placed second in the Southwestern league. After a tremendous game, the team won against Great Oak High School (GOHS), a recognized cross-town rival. Soon after, on Thursday, May 20, they won their final game of the season, granting the girls a spot in the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) tournaments.

These astounding and tremendous accomplishments are not only exciting, but also sentimental. Senior Angelica De La Cruz said, "It was surreal winning city champs. There was no doubt in anyone's mind that we were going to win. . . To win after missing a full season was just amazing." After the pandemic

hit last year, their entire season was canceled. Winning this title now feels like a tribute to that loss, and a title for the team forever. De La Cruz stated, "We beat both teams 9-2 the first time, so we as a team knew it was capable of becoming city champs if we continued to put in the work at practice and on our own time." This dedication grew from the very beginning, and gifted them with a head start that the other teams did not have. Beating rivals such as Temecula Valley High School (TVHS) and GOHS the first time around was only a start. To the Varsity Girls Lacrosse team, there was much more work to do in order to become city champions.

Both chemistry within the team and gameplay techniques were crucial in winning the title this season. De La Cruz explained how, as a team, they had to "collectively learn to trust each other on the field." She mentioned that it was not a problem off the field because of the bond that the girls had already created, but they had to learn to trust each other while



Credit: Jordan Burr

The Varsity Girls Lacrosse Team celebrates after winning the game that secured their place in the upcoming CIF tournaments.

playing. "In the beginning of the season, we wouldn't pass to certain players because we didn't trust their skills," said De La Cruz. Therefore, building on that trust during practices and drills was crucial, and definitely

worked out to help advancing in the season. The multiple practices a week were perfect opportunities to get comfortable making mistakes as well as learning from them. With the help of coaches and

returning players, this season turned out to be a success, and it was definitely one for the books. They learned to push each other to their full potential and will continue to win titles and fight like a Puma should.

# Ending Swim with a Big Splash | Baseball Swings Into Action

Julian Stanfield '24  
Staff Writer

When sports returned in spring of this year, the Varsity Girls and Varsity Boys Swim teams immediately dove into the waters and brought with them a new generation of swimmers. Both of the teams had undoubtedly put plenty of hard work and commitment into this season and ended the league season with a record of 2-3.

Like most sports this year, the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) has made some impact

at once. Furthermore, Varsity Boys Captain and Senior Austin Burgess stated, "[The younger players] always come to us and ask for help and they've improved in that sense. They take more responsibility in their events and they always look for ways to improve."

Although the younger players on the team have done well for their first season, the older players have performed well also. "The resilience that the seniors have shown [really stood out to me]," stated Head Coach Josh Stone, "They were stripped of their junior season and had a shortened senior year. [However,] they didn't let the negative. . . side effects of the



Credit: Jackie Schmitt

Junior Ryan Villalta performs his best butterfly technique in an attempt to win points for his team at a meet.

on the Varsity Swim teams. Of course, he teams were required to follow safety precautions in order to slow the spread of COVID-19 and while these precautions were somewhat frustrating and difficult to maintain at times, it did little to negatively impact the teams. The cancellation of the preseason games and a shortened season was also not enough to stop them as they had adjusted well and were trying their best to stay positive morally. Furthermore, the players were very committed to their respective teams and were determined to beat their previous swim records and times. Both teams were also very supportive to each other and to their own teammates as well, which helped make the abnormal season go more smoothly for them.

One of the notable aspects of this year's season was the new players on both teams. These younger players have performed incredibly well this season, with some even making it to the league playoffs. The majority of the Varsity Boys Swim team are freshmen while the Varsity Girls Swim team is "a small mix of [every grade]," according to the Varsity Girls Captain and Senior Allison Parra. With this variety of players, the team is sure to have talent even when the seniors graduate this year. This can help them in future years since they will not lose too many of their best players all

pandemic slow them down. They were great leaders to their peers and worked really hard with the limited time they were given." Despite the condensed season, the leaders did their best to keep the team's spirits up in order for the team to be at the top of their game. The teams had less time than usual to practice, but they still worked hard to be the best they could be. Both teams have been working on their flip turns and dives and have improved their chemistry and physical strength throughout the season.

Some of the swimmers on both teams are also Varsity Water Polo players, and while swimming was not majorly affected by COVID-19 directly, most of the water polo season was cut short due to the pandemic and some of the players getting COVID-19. "A vast majority of our swimmers are actually Water Polo players who do swim for conditioning. However, [they] do take swim very seriously and [they] take practice very seriously," explained Burgess. The changes made to water polo have indirectly impacted the swim teams, as some of the players were frustrated at the changes and could not improve as much as they could during the swim off season. Despite all the challenges presented by the pandemic, the teams were able to enjoy the season and show off their remarkable swimmers.

Jackson Gamero '24  
Staff Writer

As many schools have opened due to the decrease in coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases, the sport of baseball has recently returned to action on many campuses. However, because of COVID-19, there are protocols that have to be followed in order to keep all players, coaches, and attending fans safe.

The Varsity Baseball team had their first league game in over a year this season. Although there were restrictions in place, some of them requiring players to wear masks while not playing, to get temperature checks before every practice and game, and to have written confirmation they were not exposed to COVID-19, the team has handled them well all season. In fact, Senior Zack Ernise, who is a pitcher and outfielder on the team, said, "Honestly, right now, it kind of felt the same. . . When it came to gametime, everything seemed the same [as before the pandemic]."

Varsity Baseball Coach Mr. Chris Dress not only reiterated this point, but also explained that the only thing that he felt has changed since the beginning of practices in regards to COVID-19 protocols is that the team is wearing masks less since they are on the field more. Apart from the protocols however, practices now start

an hour later due to the new cohort schedule not allowing everyone to have their physical education (P.E.) class at the same time as they normally would have. In a normal year, the entire baseball team would be able to practice together not only during regular practice time, but also during the school day as a P.E. period.

However, though the games have felt normal to this point, COVID-19 has still had a major impact on high school sports. Because of this, Ernise, who is considered a leader on the team, stated that he felt an added importance to the building of team chemistry. "[Building up team chemistry] is even more important just because it's a lot harder for us to get together. . . [Team chemistry] allows for the team to all work together efficiently and effectively," he claimed. However, Coach Dress had a different perspective, stating that he felt it was just as important this year as in previous years. Nonetheless, to build a strong team chemistry, Coach Dress has been setting up fun activities such as "Over The Line" tournaments and cornhole tournaments, and

the players have been meeting up outside of baseball. Additionally, Coach Dress has made it a focus point to allow the different personalities to shine instead of trying to modify them so that the players can build a strong, genuine bond with each other. Whether it is a regular season or not, team chemistry remains important, as it allows the team to work together more efficiently and effectively.

Standout players such as Ernise, Senior Sebastian Morales, and Senior Ryan Sampson lead the team as they try to leave a legacy for the program. They do this by being role models for the younger players and by trying to be their best selves on the team. The team set its hopes high, aiming to win the league championship and advance into the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) playoffs. To help accomplish these goals, Coach Dress focused strongly on different game plans during practices. "The guys can play and we need that to shine whether we are bunting, moving runners, getting the other team in a rundown, etc.," Coach Dress explained.

Apart from that, other focus points include taking advantage of what the other team gives them and making the opposing offense earn their way on base instead of giving them free opportunities to score. The team had a challenging season with much growth, and looks forward to achieving higher success next year.



Credit: Braylon Doughty

Freshman Braylon Doughty swings for success during a baseball game.

## Girls Basketball Finishes Second in the Southwestern League

Jackson Gamero '24  
Staff Writer

The Girls Varsity Basketball team has completed their season for the 2020-2021 school year, along with many other sports teams at the school. As of May 26, the team had a record of 10-3, good enough to be in second place in the southwestern league, which consists of nearly all of the public high schools in Temecula and Murrieta.

Although coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) inevitably affected the season, the team tried its best to adapt and to limit its effect. Senior Grayse Fa'asua, who is a shooting guard and has been on the team for the past four years, explained, "We dealt with what we could and tried our best to adapt, so our situation did not affect what we were trying to accomplish. Of course, there were differences and tougher challenges in this time, but luckily it did not hold us back from being able to do our best." This season, the team was very adaptive to the circumstances that surrounded them, whether that be COVID-19 or plays used during games that did

not work. Fa'asua stated that despite COVID-19, her "experience on [the] varsity [basketball team] has been great. . . It is always fun, but this year it was special because we made the most of every opportunity," she commented. This season did not hold many serious ups or downs for the team, Fa'asua explained, but when something did go wrong, the team focused on making up for those mistakes in the next game. After a game, they would focus on what they did wrong and build off of it to make the team as a whole more successful. This year, the team aimed to change their reputation and shock others. They were able to do just that with their stellar performance throughout the season.

One of the things that made this year's team so successful was their chemistry. The girls learned to lean on each other and to work well together in order to accomplish their goals. "A majority of the players on the team have been playing with each other for a couple of years, so our chemistry reflects this bond, and it is one of our strongest attributes," Fa'asua commented. Team chemistry can allow for better passing

and more enjoyment, and it leads to more success overall. Other than the experience that the team had already had with each other, another thing that allowed them to work so well together was the fact that the team had common goals and a willingness to help reach those goals. Every member of the team was focused on succeeding at the league level and after over a year without competitions, the team was determined and focused. With this much success, it is obvious that many hours of practice were put into the season. When they practiced, they worked on drills, fundamentals, reviewing and revising plays, as well as practicing free throws and layups. Additionally, they would sometimes practice by scrimmaging.

In order to celebrate the seniors on the team as they moved on into the next chapter of their lives, a senior night was held at the first league home game. "It was cool to have it at the beginning [of the season] instead of the end to kick off the season and be able to get recognized," Fa'asua said. There were only three seniors on the team, but the night was extremely special to them.

Although the seniors will no longer be with the team next

season, the returning players will continue to strive to be

the best they can be so that the team can remain successful.



Junior Dorothy Elemento dribbles the ball up the court in a game against Murrieta Valley High School.

## Girls Soccer Pushes Forward

Dallin Grey '24  
Staff Writer

As the school year comes to a close, sports seasons have been winding down. Among these closing sports is Varsity Girls Soccer, whose season ended early on in May. Their schedule was a tough one, and they placed sixth in the league, but their determination throughout the season was quite impressive.

Looking back on their season, Varsity Girls Soccer Head Coach Mr. Kyle Robinson can see how it has been different, as well as where they have excelled and where they could have made improvements on the field. This soccer season was different from those in the past because of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. Coach Robinson said, "During a traditional

high school season, the players aren't allowed to train with their club team, but this year, they can. This limits what we can do as we don't want to over train the girls." Trying to keep the athletes in shape without



Senior Aspen Souther, a center back, gives it her all at a recent soccer game.

making them prone to injury, the team decided to hold practice only once a week on Monday mornings. Including preseason and tournaments, a normal season would be about two and a half months long, making for about three months of Monday through Friday practices. Though there was no preseason or tournament this year, the team was still putting five days' worth of practice into one ninety minute session, trying to prepare for their short five-week season.

The team had to cover the most important

pieces of the game in their practices so that they could be successful with so little time to prepare to play. "We have spent a lot of time working on set pieces and going over formation," Coach Robinson explained. "Throughout the season, we have seen a big improvement in our positioning as well as our defensive discipline." If players are not positioned well, they might miss out on scoring opportunities or chances for them to steal the ball, both of which can cost them the game. This is one of the most important aspects of the game, and though devoting their practice time to this left out other pieces of the sport, they had to use their time wisely so that they could have the best chance at success while playing on the field.

Coach Robinson is proud of the way that his team has handled this unexpected season, even though their record was not as good as they

had hoped it would be in the beginning. This year, they are losing plenty of good players, he said, as there are seniors on the team graduating with the class of 2021, and Coach Robinson commends them for their skill. "Senior

Souther is one of our best center backs, arguably the best in the league. Michaela Justiani is another great senior who plays center midfield. We have a lot of talented and wonderful seniors this year; it's so hard to narrow them down and give everyone the credit they are due." As next season approaches, the team looks forward to feeling a greater sense of normalcy in their games along with their practices, and they hope to build off of what they have learned this year so that they can do even better in the future.

## Cheer and Stunt Finish On Top

Claressa Zepeda '22  
Staff Writer

The cheerleaders on the Stunt team did not fail to impress this season as they were able to show their many talents to the audience. They project to having a winning season next year after defeating almost every high school in the tumbling and jump section this year. With the challenges and obstacles presented by the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, the cheerleaders and Stunt team came into the season not knowing what to expect, but they were ready to take on the season. The athletes did not expect to have a season this year, as they were not able to practice any stunts before their season began. When they were granted permission to have a season, new Head Coach Cristina Planchon, was surprised by the credible work ethic and goal-oriented mindsets the team brought to the table.

Since they started the season at a disadvantage because they were not able to practice any routines or stunts before the competitive season, the team dedicated most of their time to practicing every day of the week for up to four hours a day once allowed. Within a two week time period, the team was able to learn and conduct thirteen routines. Before becoming aware a season was going to occur, the style of practice was run very differently than years before. Coach Planchon stated, "We had to adjust by modifying our current practices. We

were not allowed to stunt so that threw a major wrench in our practices. Stunting takes months and sometimes years to perfect. I also could not spot them tumbling because of the no contact rule so that set us back in our tumbling skills. I just kept telling them that hopefully we will have a season and to keep training like we were going to. In the end it paid off." With their continuous hard work, which even included lifting weights in the weight room, the Stunt team was able to catch up relatively quickly where they left off.

In order to complete these tasks, the team relied on their bond and team chemistry. "Our team chemistry has always been great. The cheerleaders welcomed me and were receptive to my coaching and training style. I believe having practice throughout the year allowed them to really bond in a way that was unique. Cheer has been their outlet during this pandemic. Being able to connect with friends and create strong bonds has been so valuable in a time like this," Coach Planchon

explained. The continuous connection the team was able to maintain allowed them to push through this season with positive outcomes.

Although this season was difficult, as the team did not have nearly as much time to practice their skills as in previous years, Coach Planchon and the cheerleaders set goals for themselves. "We wanted to make sure we learned routines one through four and we did. Our goal was to do really well in our tumbling and jumps sections in the routines. We beat almost every school in the jumps and tumbling section. Next year, we plan on winning the entire thing of course. Our goal is definitely to go to the state championship next year," stated Coach Planchon. Even though the entire team worked hard and contributed greatly to their overall success, Coach Planchon specifically gave mention to Captain and Junior Isabella Lacey, who puts in work both in training and off training, and Freshman Flyer Taylor Crawford, who would work until a stunt has been perfected.



Freshman Savannah Fuentes cheers for the Pumas from the sidelines.

Chaparral High School - The Platinum Press - May 27, 2021

# Varsity Boys Lacrosse Team Goes to CIF for the First Time Ever

Dallin Grey '24  
Staff Writer

After over a year of being off of the field due to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, Varsity Boys Lacrosse was back on the field in March along with most other sports as they prepared for their upcoming season in April and May. After a few weeks of practice, they were playing their first games, and came up with impressive results, especially considering that they mainly played teams ranked two divisions higher than themselves. The key to their success has been hard work in the face of difficulty and worthy goals that are driving them through their season.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a dramatic effect on just about everything,

have fought for field space to practice. They have had to deal with daily check-in routines for practices. These issues have hindered practice, which Varsity Boys Lacrosse Head Coach Mr. Lance Hale explained. He also noted that remaining pandemic restrictions had an effect on their earlier practices for a while. Coach Hale said, "Our preparation has been limited due to the types of practice we can hold. For a while, we could only do simple practice drills with no contact between players. As time goes on, we have been able to increase the type of practice we hold and are now able to have full-contact drills."

These full-contact practices have been crucial in getting the team back into shape in preparation for their challenging season. "This year our schedule is the toughest in recent history," Coach Hale reported. "We are playing

the team is grateful for the opportunity to be playing so many highly-ranked teams. Most schools in their league back away at the chance to play a Division One team, but playing against these teams helps the athletes improve much more than by playing teams in their division and have a better chance at success in their own league. The team played pre-season games against Santiago High School and Newport Harbor High School, which are Division One teams, and though they respectively lost 10-1 and 18-5, those games were still good opportunities for the team to grow and learn where they could improve to prepare to play in their own division.

In the four games that they were able to play last year, they were able to win three, each by at least ten goals, which is undoubtedly a very promising start. They were right on track to win the league and get to the CIF tournament, until the pandemic hit and their chances were ruined. The team did their best to stay in shape in the long off-season so that the moment they got the green light to play, they would be ready. When they did, they were out on the field as quickly as possible, their common goal fueling their practices and games. The team reached their first goal in late May, to win league, with their first league title in school history. Coach Hale is proud of how his team has progressed from the start of the program to where they are today. They were close to a title last year, but the pandemic pushed it just out of reach. "We were the first team in [the Temecula Valley] to travel out of state for some games during spring break," Coach Hale said. "Although [COVID-19] took us out, our goal was the same as this year: win our league and move forward in the CIF tournament. I think we have carried this over from last year and a number of players carried this mantra going into this season. We had some unfinished business to take care of. This year we accomplished our goal and it was nice to see a couple of seniors get rewarded after being in the program for four years. . . It feels really good to set a goal, work hard over time and get to the finish line." As of May 26, the pumas had made it through the first round of CIF,



Credit: Kobe Ehmke

Senior Kobe Ehmke helps to guard the team's goal.

beating Canyon High School of Anaheim 21-7. Additionally, the Varsity Boys Lacrosse team has also been awarded the title of City League Champions, a very impressive feat. Despite the difficult season, the team gave it their all and has definitely been rewarded for their efforts. They will play again on Friday May 28 and the team will be sure to give the game their all and show the audience their outstanding skills.

With the school year winding down and sports seasons ending with it, Varsity Boys Lacrosse is giving this season their all. "This team is younger than those in the past," Coach Hale remarked. "Last year, we had thirteen seniors and this year we have three." He is optimistic though, and believes that his team has a bright future ahead of them. Whatever comes next school year, the team will put in their best work and aim high throughout the next season, and seasons to come in the future.



Credit: Lisa Sisco

The Varsity Boys Lacrosse Team charges onto the field excited to play in their first CIF games they ever had.

including sports. As pandemic restrictions have lessened, sports have started to play and more [Division One] teams than ever before and we are a [Division Three] team." Interestingly,

## Golf Finishes Successful Run | Boys Basketball Ends Strong

Julian Stanfield '24  
Staff Writer

Many people will often focus on the incredible success of players and teams, but forget what it took to build such a team. In a year full of obstacles, the Varsity Boys and Girls Golf teams have worked hard to produce a strong team and to prepare them for seasons to come.

At the start of the season, many players on the Boys and Girls Golf teams were still getting used to each other as the majority of players on both teams were new. However, over the course of the season, the players started working together and the chemistry within the teams started to improve significantly. As the chemistry strengthened, so did the morale and confidence among the teammates. "The improvement we see from week to weekend and match to match is exciting," stated Varsity Girls Head Coach Mr. Rob Hernandez. Both teams were mainly focused on building up a team and had goals of improving overall. The Varsity Girls Golf team, while they still wanted to improve, also had a goal to finish the season strong, which they were clearly able to do.

While both teams have been doing well and improving, there were still many concerns that the team had to deal with during the one tournament a week so they're missing out on a lot of experience," stated the Varsity Boys Head Coach Jonathan Mitchell. "The experience part



Credit: @ChapPumas\_GGolf

Senior Grayse Fa'asua prepares to hit the ball during a golf match.

season. The biggest issue they had faced was the amount of playing time the players got before the season. Due to social distancing and the stay-at-home orders issued during the pandemic, neither team could do much to prepare. The Varsity Boys Golf team members were unable to practice without a proper field to play on while the varsity girls could only work on their individual skills at home. Even during the season, the Varsity Boys Golf team struggles to find ways to make up for the lack of playing time. "There's not a ton [to do] during this time. . . [The team plays] one tournament a month, whereas vice versa, there's usually is the biggest downfall that happened with COVID-19." Despite all of the challenges that have been presented to them, the teams are still working hard to accomplish their goals and have adjusted well. As Captain of the Varsity Girls Golf team, Senior Grayse Fa'asua explained, " [There are] a lot of younger teammates that ask for advice and for experience. . . [these] golfers want to be better and [they have asked me] how do you do this or how do you do that. Being able to tell them that [has been] great." As the season comes close to the end, the next generation of golfers prepare to have an incredible season next year.

Dallin Grey '24  
Staff Writer

The Varsity Boys Basketball team got off to a rough start during the first half of this season, coming off of a yearlong break to go 0-5 in their league games, but they were able to get into a winning rhythm during the second half. They had a record of 3-2 and placed fourth in the Southwestern League.

The season was tough for a number of reasons. The team lost practice time, schedules were always subject to unexpected change, and though the team did their best to be flexible, these things definitely came with a cost. The first five games of the season were a challenge. Varsity Boys Basketball Head Coach Mr. Brad Smith said, "I think we had one practice during the first round of league, which is tough. . . [Say you're preparing for a test, and] they told you you could only go to class once a month and then you had to go take five tests, you probably wouldn't do too well."

There was more mental preparation this season than in the past, Coach Smith said. On days when the team was not able to practice in the gym, they met online to watch film from past games. If they had adequate gym time, Coach Smith said that the team "would practice, and then watch film, and then practice and walk through the stuff that [they] did the day before if [they] had two days in between games" in order to fix mistakes and clean up plays. They would also study how other teams played and go over specific strategies that would work against each team. By the next game, they would know exactly what kind of defense and offense their opponents ran, where the passes would go, what plays to run against them, and how to get open shots and scoring

opportunities. Though they did not always have the time and space to do this, they continued to do their best to prepare, and their work paid off in the second half of the season with a win streak against teams that had previously beaten them and were ranked higher than they were.

Coach Smith went into this season with goals in mind, but none connected to wins and losses. He wanted to give his athletes an outlet, something for them to look forward to after the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic had put restrictions on them for so long. Coach Smith has high hopes for the 2021-2022 season and believes that his team will compete for the league title. Four starters will be returning, and as long as the team does not fall into what Coach Smith calls "the learning gap for basketball" between now and December, they will be a top contender in the fight for league champions.



Credit: Jackie Schmidt

Senior Tyler Schmidt dribbles along the baseline.



# ATHLETE COMMITTS



**Brooklyn Frederick**  
Weber State  
Volleyball



**Anna Hawthorne**  
CSU Fullerton  
Volleyball



**Anna Johnson**  
Utah Valley  
Volleyball



**Elia Migao**  
BYU Football



**Enoka Migao**  
BYU Football



**Jaelynn Lambert**  
BYU Softball



**Zach Ernisse**  
UC San Diego Baseball



**Bryce Mey**  
Harvey Mudd  
Football



**Jakob Hudson**  
Westcliff Lacrosse



**Jonathan Jabbour**  
Ottawa Wrestling



**Karson Martin**  
Life University Wrestling



**Annalise Romero**  
Westmont Soccer



**Michaela  
Justiniani**  
Boise State  
Soccer



**Makenzie Guiliano**  
CSU San Marcos  
Softball



**Jadon Furubotten**  
Air Force Football



**Avory Hart**  
San Diego State Football