

The Viking Chronicle

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The World Turned Upside Down *by Luna Vance*

The year 2020 was a rollercoaster ride with more downs than ups. Not long after the new year, the first dip in the ride was a worldwide pandemic called the Coronavirus, otherwise known as COVID-19. The second dip was the death of Breonna Taylor, followed by George Floyd, and other people of color due to police brutality. While their deaths were horrible, people started to realize that there is racial injustice in America and protests soon followed. Another drop on the rollercoaster was that people were told to stay at home since there was no known vaccine for the contagious virus. The ride kept turning lives upside down.

Katie Metteer, an eighth-grade student, shared how hard the year was for her. "It was really sad and lonely for me," Katie said. "I am extroverted, so not being able to see people was hard. The state said that quarantine would last for a week last spring. But then they said a month. Then it lasted the entire summer. I hit my breaking point, and it was really hard to be in my house. I didn't know how I felt about everything. The black lives matter (BLM) protests and COVID-19. The BLM protests were a big awakening for our country. There has always been injustice. I saw my privilege, and I saw other people hurting. There are things to stand up for. It has been a big wake-up call for our country. I

think it was a hard time, but it taught me not to take things for granted and enjoy time with my family. Even though hard things come, good things can come out of it. I hope people will become more grateful and feel blessed. People have been more distant. It is sad how people don't really talk to others."

Lexi Salazar, a ninth-grade student, said this about last year. "It was lonely. It was different seeing people through a screen compared to in person. Not being able to see my friends for a long time made me feel cut off from everyone. This summer I didn't reach out to my friends as much as I could have. If I could tell my past self something, it would be to make the most of life pre-COVID-19. Like going to the grocery store or being around people without them being worried about being around you. People's boundaries will change. Some people will be stricter about wearing masks and being sanitary. Others will just let this time period go. I think it scared people."

They both thought that this year deserved a three out of ten. They commented that 2020 wasn't as bad as World Wars One and Two. Also that there was a little bit of good if you really looked for it.



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What's Changed? *by Genevieve Shemwell*

This year has a lot of firsts, however the main one is COVID-19. How has this been changing our normal routine? The pandemic started affecting us in March, 2020. Maya Smith, a seventh-grade student, had some great comments and opinions on this subject. These questions are specifically on how this has been changing a student's point of view. The first question was "What ways does COVID-19 affect your relationships with your fellow peers and teachers."

Maya said, "This year we don't get the same connection with new kids and new teachers as we did in past years. There is obviously more physical distance between us but there's also more emotional distance. It's harder to get to know people because you can't be close with them. There are a lot of new people and people you don't know because of the change in schools." To summarize her response the physical and mental distance creates a barrier between new friendships.

The next question was "Is it harder to communicate?"

Maya said, "Probably. Before you could be with your friends at school some of them didn't have phones or computers or stuff like that so you would talk at school, but then now with that issue some people still don't have phones and people are not always on Microsoft Teams. For the people who have less access to online chatting and or a way of communicating online it's harder."

The third question is "How does online school affect your learning, motivation, and productivity?"

"Obviously it's hard. It's harder than online school. It definitely makes a change on everyone's day because when I wake up I usually get dressed, brush my teeth, eat, then go to school and so it's a different morning because I go and sit at a screen rather than sitting in front of people. It's obviously a different environment." She over all hinted that there is less engagement between students and teachers so it's less exciting and makes you want to do less during the day. You also are open to many more distractions.

Overall, the common theme was that a lot has changed and altering our normal routines is hard because we do not know what normal is anymore. Has normal changed or is it going to go back? We do not know. All we know is that God has a plan. This year has brought a lot of new things and change, but one thing we can keep the same is family. This year we have spent a lot of time at home with each other. We may be a little sick of it, but it has given us a lot of time to bond and get a lot of new pets. Even though the world may seem like it's ending, a lot of good has happened. The environment has had a lot of time to replenish itself with less cars and litter.

It's been tough but we can get through it. I know that in-person school has helped a lot with all the extrovert students finally getting the proper engagement they needed.

A COVID Thanksgiving

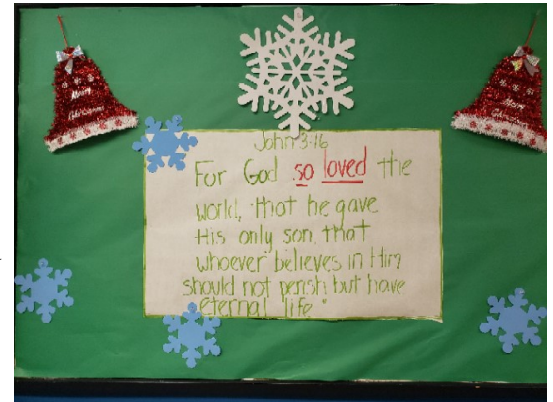
by Boden Chapman

In 2019, most people expected to gather for Thanksgiving in a traditional way. Sadly, many families were forced to break their Thanksgiving tradition this year in 2020. People did not gather in the same way as they did on previous Thanksgivings. Some families chose to travel because they have been trapped at home for months. Others felt sad and even depressed due to the isolation and the worries of the Coronavirus pandemic. To gather information, several people were interviewed about how they celebrated Thanksgiving.

Both people I interviewed were not able to gather with their family this 2020 Thanksgiving. George Hermann had dinner with his family "and still had fun." Derek Lowry did find an alternative way to celebrate Thanksgiving too. Both Derek and George said Thanksgiving 2019 was better. George liked 2019 Thanksgiving better because he went on a trip to California with cousins. Derek simply said "because COVID sucks." They both had a traditional meal over Thanksgiving. Derek and George did not travel over Thanksgiving. The people I interviewed both said they said grace and what they are thankful for. Both 2019 and 2020 year they were thankful for the same things. They all watched the football games on Thanksgiving. They both agreed on appreciating this year's Thanksgiving and George said, "I would appreciate Thanksgiving no matter what."

Christmas Time in 2020 *by Emily Wagner*

Christmas 2020 at Bellevue Christian was very different for everyone. Bellevue Christian had some events for Christmas time. The JH Student Council and the HS Senate spent a whole day decorating the school. The B hall and gates were decorated so that BCS could spread holiday cheer. A *Kahoot!* game was played and the link was sent by Mr. Olson. Everyone who signed up got added to a call. Another Christmas event that might happen is care packages in January 2021. Don't forget about the Christmas trees! It was fun to put decorations on it.



Ms Steffen, Ms. Fiechtner, Mrs. Schmer, Mrs. Graves, Mr. Thomas and Mr. Teng Photo: Ms. Meredith



BHall Locker Presents



Mrs. Harris, Ms. Bennett, & Mrs. Hoffman
Photo: Ms. Meredith



Back row: Mrs. Hoffman, Dr. Alsbury, Mr. Phillips, Ms. Dunn, Mr. Steel, Mrs. Saburi, Mrs. Baker, Mrs. Kinnan, Ms. Fox
Front Row: Mr. Thomas, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Ramquist, Mr. Wishart, Mr. Hedin Photo: Ms. Meredith

Turkey Grams Took the School by Storm!

by Nolan Cox

“Turkey Grams” made by the High School Senate were new to Bellevue Christian School this year. Zach Goo, a high school senior on the Senate, was kind enough to share some information about them. This idea was very intriguing and fun for lots of people at BCS.

Turkey Grams are small pieces of paper that have a lollipop and a personalized message sent from one student to another, as a very fun thing to send to friends or other people at BCS. The High School Senate came up with this idea by using the Candy Grams idea that they use for Valentines’ Day, but with more of a fall/Thanksgiving theme. Zach said that it wasn’t just one or two people that came up with this idea -- it was a collective idea from the Senate as a fun idea for students before Thanksgiving break.

The Senate decided to aim this audience to the general high school population. Turkey grams could be personalized to you or your friend’s hobbies with message in the Turkey Gram. The main purpose of these Turkey Grams was to bring students together and allow them to show how much they appreciate each other. The special meaning behind this program was to develop friendships here at BCS.

Preparing Turkey Grams was much more complicated than it seems. First, you need to sell the Turkey Grams, which at the start are just pieces of paper with a space to write a message. Then the members of the senate add the lollipops and sort them

into the rooms where they need to go. Then, they visit the classrooms and hand out the Turkey Grams to the right people.

Zach is very proud of this idea and the success of the Turkey Grams. His favorite part of the program was when he got to see the people get an unexpected Turkey Gram and it brightened their day and made them happy. His least favorite part was taping the lollipops on the Turkey Grams because it took a long time to prepare. These Turkey Grams are a great idea because not only are they fun, but they also develop friendships further.



Donuts for Donations

by Madison Erisman

BCS food drives are a big part of helping people in need and the Student Council was a big part of making the food drive that happened on November 19th and 20th to be successful. Proceeds benefited Maltby Food Bank.

Maya Smith, a member of Student Council, shared her thoughts. Maya said that she likes to give to others and help people that are in need. She likes to make sure that they have a meal and that they are not starving. Helping others also makes her feel good and happy. Maya said donating to a food bank is easy and a great way to donate. There should be more people trying to help hungry people that need food.

This is the first food drive that BCS has done this year and Maya said she’d be happy to help with one again. Maya said, “I love how they can change peoples lives even in the smallest way.”

JH Student Council and the HS Senate helped collect non-perishable food items.



Cayden De Haan & Ryan Salazar hand out donuts for donations in the breezeway.
Photo: Yearbook staff

Bringing Spirit to the Week *by JR Collins*

In the midst of COVID-19, the Student Council brought spirit to the week, letting us bring characters to the hallways of BCS. Why do we do Spirit week? Ms. Steffen has an answer, "It was happening long before I started working with Student Council or Senate for sure. I do know that the primary reason the student leadership wants it is to create a fun atmosphere and school spirit." When do we do Spirit week? "Sometimes it happens around a school activity, like having a blackout because one of the teams made it to state or is having a big game. Sometimes Spirit Week will come around a specific holiday, or outside of school event for example a Seahawk game or the College final four. And then there is the time it is just random and just for fun."

Samuel Barrios, a student council member who worked on spirit week, says "Spirit week is an idea to bring fun to the week and to

be creative." But because of COVID some of the fun activities are now limited. "How COVID affected spirit week in my opinion was the rule that we had to be six feet apart and that it limits of what we can do," as Samuel puts it.

Though there were restrictions, there still was fun activities like "inside out day, white out day, Pajama day, etc." In previous years Sam's favorite day was "wacky hair day" and his favorite outfit he ever wore was "Indiana Jones, and having the whip. It's fun going around the school and seeing Rudolph or Mickey Mouse skipping through the hallways. The restrictions kept us from other fun activities, but COVID didn't stop us from having a blast.

New Website

by Derek Lowry

Aidan Morlock said, "The Student Council website is a place where you can find information on everything that is going on." You can access this website through <https://www.bcsstudentlife.com/junior-high.html> or via the email sent by Mr. Olson, the Assistant Principal on 10/26/2020.

On the website you can find information on new projects and events that the Student Council is working on, along with important announcements. The designers of the website were Bennett Schwartz and Aidan Morlock. While this article exclusively talks about the Student Council/Junior High portion, there also is a section to see what is going on in High School. When you first open the website, you will see the website home page which has the links to the several Student Council projects that are in progress. To find more info, hover over the link labeled Junior High in the top right and you will see three differing categories named Announcements, Events and Faith. Each of these will have information on that category. The person who updates the website is Bennett, a member of the Student Council. Bennet will update the website about once or twice a week depending on the events going on. This website is an excellent resource for seeing different events or looking at all the bible verses that are featured every week.



Senior Citizen - Sanae Loutsis

COVID Conferences *by Luke Agdeppa*

BCS conferences are normally simple, but in the year 2020 they were a whole lot different. When COVID-19 started to rise, we did not know what our education would turn into, and likely most kids did not care. COVID-19 made us all go into online learning. With a spike of 1,000 cases, we would have to go hide in our homes and wait for the numbers to drop. Mr. Mike Olson, the Assistant Principal, said “Technology is great ‘til it’s not!” Now, education is one thing, but how well children are educated and how well they learn, well, that is what conferences are made for.

Conferences were between November 22nd, 2020 and November 28th, 2020. This year it was likely a lot harder for the educators at BCS to do conferences and online school, generally. This is mainly because most of teachers and students had never experienced a situation like this. Most of the ideas concerning conferences and technology in general were handled by Mrs. Jessica Ahnert, the current “Technology Coach”, according to Mr. Olson. Conferences had three main challenges: how to do conferences without the spread of COVID, notifying all of the parents at BCS, and finally, what to do if there were technical difficulties.

Limiting the spread of COVID was fairly straightforward: the educators at BCS simply did ten-minute increments online on a site called WebEx. Why not Teams? That is because BCS already had an account with WebEx, and BCS would have to pay money to utilize any other platform. Notify-

ing the parents was easy, as all they had to do was email them and have them sign up. Mr. Olson confirmed, “It was pretty easy to do once you found the right page,” and it was. Coming into problem three, some of the families had technical difficulties. If the average person had to guess, at some time or another, we all have had technology problems. Some of the families who did conferences had their entire screen as a “Green screen”, others had microphone issues, and many more problems.

Although students can take conferences and all of online school for granted (they can at least eat something in online class,) people should not take it for granted. There are kids who do not have internet at home and some kids live in challenging situations at home. According to a USA Today article, “At the time, the district didn’t have enough laptops for all of its students, so elementary students were given paper learning packets.” Some public schools cannot afford laptops with their meager budget, so people that have access to online school should be grateful for the learning environment at BCS, as that could be their opportunity for a greater future. All in all, conferences at BCS might have been different in the year of 2020, but they were still a great way to learn about how students are learning in class despite COVID.

Check out SAS

by Margaret Moore

At Bellevue Christian School there is a program called Student Academic Services (SAS). This program is a way to help students one on one and work on strengthening their brains in learning. Mrs. Cheri Saburi, who is one of the SAS teachers here, has been teaching in the SAS program for 4 years. The SAS program started in 1983 and has been going on since.

Mrs. Saburi explains that she loves the aspect of having one on one time with students. She also explains that it is awesome to see their growth in learning and how they process their information in learning. As Mrs. Saburi says it can be hard at times, but it is well worth it. Her favorite part is to work with students one on one and seeing their growth as they develop as independent learners. The SAS program is a great place for students who might need additional help to strengthen their learning.



Mrs. Olson, Mrs. Hoffman, Ms. Dunn, Mrs. Saburi, Mrs. Harris - a few of the SAS teachers.

Photo: Courtesy Ms. Dunn—photo pre-pandemic

Want some competition? *by Kaden Kivett*

H.S. class competitions are taking all the school by storm! Members of senate put in a ton of hard work to make these class competitions. H.S. Senate competitions have always been a big part of kid's highlights in their year. These events create a lot of competition and bonding between classmates. Class competitions are a way to stay active and build the BCS community.

According to senior and HS Senate member, Ben Douglass, class competitions are not that difficult to plan. "The hardest part is coordinating with Ms. Bennett if we can use the gym and getting people to partic-

ipate." Badminton was the last competition the Senate did and the two winners were seniors Jared Whitton and Davis Franklin. The Senate likes hosting all types of events, from spirit week to competitive events. For Ben, being the leader of the competitions takes a lot of planning and a lot of his free time especially when he must be at the events to make sure they go well. Luckily for Ben, he has other members of the Senate to help to make his job easier. "Listening to everyone's ideas is very important when it comes to planning these

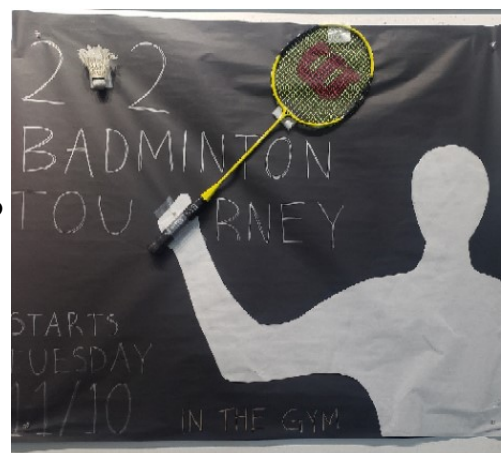
events," Ben says, "Through collaboration is where the best ideas come from. They usually come up with 30+ ideas and only end up using 5 of them." Senate does not have a specific leader; they all work together which leads to better ideas. Ben's favorite event to run and organize is the school - wide dodge ball tournament which usually happens in the springtime. There are usually 10+ teams and everybody loves watching. "When being a senator the most important trait a person can have is a heart of a servant. The willingness to sacrifice time to benefit others," said Ben.

"Being a part of Senate is worth all the hard work because you get to directly help your classmates." Ben has been in senate all 4 years of High School and has been running the competitions since his freshmen year. His favorite thing about Senate is making the school a better place and "doing that with my classmates is very rewarding." "Senate is the perfect place to make our community a better place."

Building Community with Student Council Events *by Emily Eggers*

Are you interested in meeting others and building community? Then taking part in Student Council events is just right for you. Ms. Steffen says that she enjoys teaching Student Council because she loves to see the kids' creativity and seeing them eager to serve others. She also says that she enjoys when the kids share about their faith and talk about how Jesus would lead. Maya Smith, a seventh-grade student, says she loves Student Council because, "It's a loving community and it's a class that you get to have fun in." She also says how she loves that it's a class where you get to put your ideas together and collaborate.

Student Council comes up with different event ideas by brainstorming in small groups or as a whole class. They plan out the events by assigning a group to do a specific event if multiple are going on. Ms. Steffen says that, "Even if only a few people are in charge of a specific event everyone comes to support that event." So far this year Student Council has put on a badminton tournament and a Mario Kart tournament. If you're looking to get involved in these events sign-up lists are posted in the B hall under the Student Council board or in the Commons. On the sign-up sheet it will tell you how long you have to sign up for that particular event. Ms. Steffen also said that COVID-19 has impacted Student Council events because they wanted to do some evening events but COVID-19 makes it so less people can be together. Student Council events are super fun so look for sign-ups and get involved because it's a great way to make community and meet people. Congratulations to Levi Bengelink and Garrett Bold for winning the badminton tournament.



HS Ping-Pong Tournament starts January 19.

HS Football Practices Restart *by Caden De Haan*

Will High School football ever start? One of the most common sports to play in High School is football. Most young football players or players who do not play football at all want to be on their High School team. The High School BCS football team practices Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 3-6pm on the BCS field. They start with a lot of stretching to get their muscles loose. Then they do a group activity called “Viking check” and that seems to get them really hyped up for the rest of practice. They then break up into offensive individual group or team offense. Then the same for defense. They end with kicking or punting. There is a possibility of the 2020-2021 season not to happen which means only practices but no games. That means the season is going to keep being pushed back because of COVID-19. I interviewed Justin Parsons for this. He is a wide receiver and corner back for the BCS football team. He says, “The purpose of practice is not to get bored and tired, but it is supposed to make everyone on the team better and work even harder before game day.”



Above: Football Practice after school
Photos: Mrs. Graves



Left: The sun peeks through the mist at a Saturday practice.
Photo: Rev. Dan Rogers

Normandy: A book review *by Raffi Turner*

Normandy: A Graphic History of D-Day, the Allied Invasion of Hitler's Fortress Europe

by Wayne Vansant is an amazing graphic novel that talks about the events leading up to D-Day with 101 pages you're sure to be entertained in this amazing history book with pictures.

This book is great for readers who like graphic novels and like history “What a glorious book vivid, accurate, utterly bewitch-

ing.” said Alex Kershaw author of *Bedford Boys*.

These stories are very true with simple but very expressive graphics for everyone of all ages to enjoy while learning about WW2 and how the axis powers eventually fell to the allied powers.

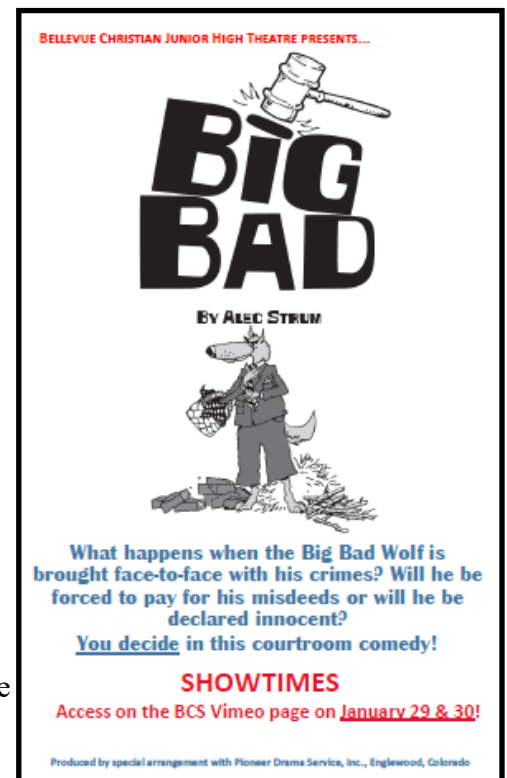
Deliciousness on Wheels *by Matthew Kidd*

Did you know that the last Friday of June is National Eat At A Food Truck Day? Also, at the Clyde Hill BCS campus on January 19 there will be another food truck. The BCS Senate started bringing food trucks to campus because of COVID-19. Usually, on Tuesdays, the high schoolers can go off campus to get lunch. But since they can't anymore the food trucks are a way to eat out, but not, at the same time. Eventually the Senate wants to have more than one food truck - to have a drink and a meal or a dessert and a meal. To get the food trucks here they go to the website seattlefoodtrucks.com and type in the type of food they want and send a request to one or more of the food trucks. The ones that get back to them are the ones that come. The reason the Senate chose to bring food trucks is that it is like catering and it provides business for the trucks. All the money the food trucks makes go to the trucks to support them. The Senate plans to do this for the rest of the year.

**Food Trucks
Tuesdays
Long Lunch**

The Show Must Go On *by John Rohleder*

Junior High is hosting a play this January! The play is called *Big Bad* and is a fun twisted fairy tale. It is about a notorious villain in the fairy tale world, the Big Bad Wolf. His crimes have finally caught up to him and he is in court. All odds seem against him, but he makes a pretty good case for himself. Will he convince them he is innocent or will he be deemed guilty? This play will be different because of COVID-19. It will be livestreamed on January 29th and 30th. This gave them a great opportunity to do this play because you choose the ending. That is right there are multiple different endings. This makes it a lot more interactive than past years. At the time of writing this newspaper, they are only in the early stages of the play production. Many students are memorizing their scripts. Although it is far away, students are thinking about it. They are excited but a little nervous. George Hermann, a seventh grader who plays the boy who cried wolf says, "It's going to be nerve-wracking but I just want to get it over with." The play isn't all fairy tales though, it may teach you a valuable lesson. "This play helps us think about whether we are judging people without knowing them," Mrs. Shockey, the drama teacher says. I hope that you can see this play because I know I am going to. Sounds like lots of fun!



Everything You Need to Know About Yondr Pouches *by Tristan Oslund*

Have you ever heard of the Yondr pouch? What are they and why are students using them? What is the purpose? I will be answering all that and more with the help of Mr. Olson, the Assistant Principal. He is very knowledgeable about the subject and is the source of this information. How does the Yondr pouch work? The Yondr pouch is a locking pouch. It is made of a padded material to protect the phone. It locks your phone so you can not use it. It cannot be unlocked unless you use the unlocking station.

The purpose of the Yondr pouch is to help and create a more focused and social environment. How does the Yondr pouch affect the student's accessibility to RenWeb? Now that we have laptops it does not at all affect students. When would be an appropriate

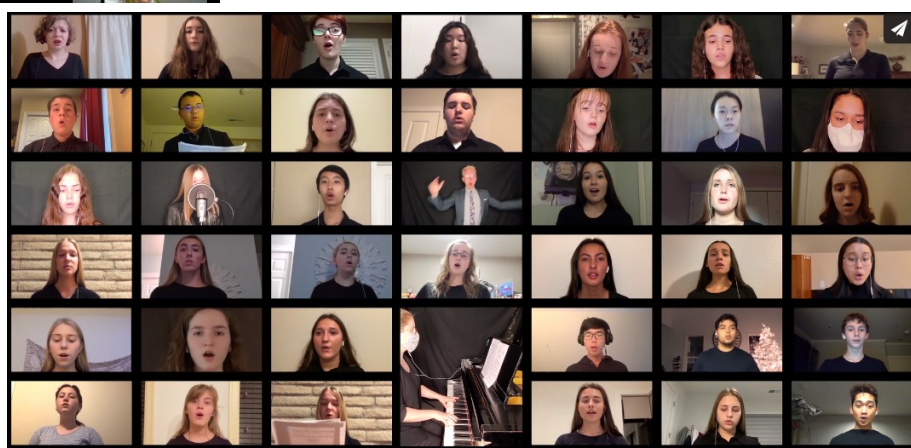
time to check RenWeb at school? The only time that is not appropriate to check RenWeb is in class. What happens if a student does not use their Yondr pouch? If they only forget to use it once they are asked to put their phone away. If it becomes a habit you can go to detention and have your parents called.

What happens if a student loses their Yondr pouch? If a student loses their Yondr pouch, they get a new one. If it becomes a habit you will get detention and have your parents called. What are the advantages of using a Yondr pouch? When everyone has their phone put away you are more present. The fear of missing out is gone because everyone is missing out. What

are the disadvantages of using a Yondr pouch? The disadvantages of using a Yondr pouch is that there are none. What is the estimated wait time for the line to unlock the Yondr pouch? At the end of school, the estimated wait time is 30 seconds to a minute depending on the size of the class. How does the Yondr pouch line at the end of school to unlock it effect their time to catch the bus? No one has ever missed the bus due to unlocking the Yondr pouch. Teachers will finish up the class before it is time to go so students have time to unlock the Yondr pouch.



Instrumental Christmas Concert 2020



Choral Christmas Concert 2020