



Tech tips help students avoid problems that could affect their work

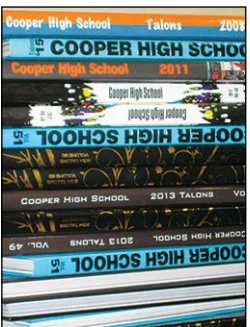
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# The Quill

Mon., March 22, 2021 Vol. 57, No. 6

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Cooper players are preparing to take on area rivals in the game *Rocket League* as part of their inaugural season in the Minnesota Varsity League

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## HAWKS RETURN TO COOPER FOLLOWING SPRING BREAK



Photo by DOMINIQUE WILLIS

Many students will be seeing the Cooper sign at the school's entrance in person for the first time beginning on April 6.

By MAX REKELA-JASPER  
*Quill* staff writer

Robbinsdale District 281 will be moving to the long-awaited, in-person learning model for high school students. Starting on April 8, all students in grades 9-12 who have elected to do so will transition into full, in-person learning.

This decision, announced on February 26, was a shift from a previous

plan introduced on February 3 that would have seen high school students returning on a hybrid model with only 50 percent of students in the building on any given day. Prompting this change was a February 17 decision by Minnesota Governor Tim Walz to update the Minnesota Safe Learning Plan. The announcement stated that school districts would no longer be required to have rolling start dates and could instead bring students

back to the same buildings, either in a hybrid learning model, or a full in-person model, beginning March 9.

“[We] had several meetings with various stakeholders, including families, district staff and school administrative teams,” Robbinsdale Interim Superintendent Dr. Burrage said. “After gathering feedback, the Incident Command Team discussed the recommendations and we have also reviewed our plan with our regional

team of health experts.”

For students who want to remain in a full-time virtual learning environment, Distance Learning Plus is still an option. Families were required to send an email to the district to sign up for distance learning due to the state requirement that requests are made in writing. The deadline for signing up was March 12.

For students opting to stay home, the most common feedback the district

While many students are headed back to the building, others have elected to remain in distance learning

received from the meetings about the model shift was that distance learning students wanted to remain with their current teachers. According to Burrage, the district was able to honor this request by offering a concurrent teaching model. In other words, students who are in the building, and students who are remaining in distance learning, will be taught by the same teacher at the same time.

Students returning to the building must follow safety protocols, such as wearing a mask, social distancing and washing hands frequently. Adding to the safety issue is that a large number of staff members in the Robbinsdale Area School District have been vaccinated, and the remaining staff members who have not received the COVID vaccine yet are projected to have at least their first dose by the beginning of April.

Given the fact that this school year has been anything but normal, Cooper Head Principal Mr. Herman and other staff members are excited for the return of students.

“I am looking forward to reconnecting with students and meeting many ninth graders in person for the first time,” Herman said.

Herman also said stu-

**HAWKS RETURN** continues on page 8

## School staff gets vaccinated against COVID

The addition of K-12 educators to the state's vaccine priority list has made it possible for Cooper's staff to obtain shots before the return of students

By SANDY VUE  
*Quill* staff writer

COVID vaccination opportunities have been presented to Cooper teachers and staff members to prepare them for the start of in-person learning on April 6.

“From the current research, those who are vaccinated have very low chances to get the virus and or getting the serious illness characteristics that come with COVID-19,” Cooper Head Principal Mr. Herman said.

For the entire state of Minnesota, approximately 60,000 doses of the vaccine are received each week. At this point in the state vaccination process, the available doses are being administered to health care workers, long-term health care workers, older people and individuals in priority groups, which includes adults working in K-12 education.

Currently, teachers, school staff members and childcare workers add up to 250,000 people in the state of Minnesota. While there are not yet enough vaccinations for every educator, school staff member and childcare worker in the state, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz is continuing to acquire and provide more doses for Minnesotans in these groups.

“It would be great to be able to get all those that want the vaccination to be able to get it,” Herman, who said has been fortunate enough to receive the vaccination, added.

One tool the state has been using to get educators vaccinated came from the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE). The MDE initially shared information in January with educators across the state about the COVID-19 Vaccine Pilot Program, through which educators could find information on vaccination locations and sign up for the vaccination waitlist. Also in January were some opportunities for school staff



Photo by MR. ZUCCOLA

Vaccine recipients receive a card from the CDC detailing the date of their shot.

members to receive the vaccine on a first-come, first-served basis when extra doses became available. Then, during February, Robbinsdale staff members had an additional chance to sign up for a new contact list if an opening occurs to receive the vaccination.

English teacher Ms. Eisfelder is one of the Cooper staff members

**STAFF VACCINATED** continues on page 2

## Seven Dreams Foundation raises funds for district schools

The group's annual Bird Bash event, which took place on February 11, gathered more than \$50,000 in donations

By ANDREA TRIBBLE  
*Quill* staff writer

The Seven Dreams Foundation supports Cooper and other Robbinsdale district schools with hands-on learning grants, district-wide initiatives, teacher and staff appreciation gifts, food shelves, and many more helpful programs that keep students engaged in constructive activities. The group just held its eighth annual Bird Bash event on February 11, which helped raise more than \$50,000 in funds for the various activities the organization supports.

The Seven Dreams Foundation has played a major role in supporting the Robbinsdale School District during distance learning by providing funding to purchase Wi-Fi hotspots

for students, which makes it possible for many students to be present during distance learning. In fact, the group specifically donated \$16,802 to fund 70 hotspots during the 2020-2021 school year. According to Head Principal Mr. Herman, this technology support is just one example of the ways in which Cooper has benefited from the foundation's education initiatives.

“We have been very fortunate in that several teachers have written for hands-on grants for their classrooms. This has included the purchase of equipment, materials, field trips and other items that have been requested over the years. At Cooper, we also were the recipients of being able to purchase new furniture for our Media Center. This allowed us to get new updated furniture that was more conducive to learning and having a comfortable space to be

in,” Herman said.

The hands-on learning grants are arguably one of the Seven Dreams Foundation's most noticeable contributions. Teachers are able to submit a project idea that supports hands-on learning and encourages critical thinking to be considered by the foundation's committee. The committee then reviews the application and evaluates if it meets the requirements. If everything is approved, that project can receive a funding prize that ranges from \$500 to \$2,000. The grant money can be used to cover any cost associated with the project and is available to any Robbinsdale Area Schools staff member who gets approved.

**SEVEN DREAMS** continues on page 2

STAFF VACCINATED

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who has been vaccinated.

“I received an email from the district that vaccines were available at a local hospital on a first-come, first-served basis, so I took a chance and went there and stood in line for a few hours and got it,” she said.

Eisfelder received the Pfizer vaccine and feels fortunate to receive the vaccine early and be able to slowly move on to the next phase of the pandemic life.

“I hope communities and education leaders see the whole picture of what public school teachers across the country provide, aside from quality education, and make serious efforts to reform and support the teachers, the learners and the families that make up this system the public relies on for so many things,” she said.

Also getting vaccinated was AVID and physical education teacher Ms. Schaffer, who received her shots at Children’s Hospital in south Minneapolis.

“I only live about 10 minutes from there, so I figured I would give it a chance, and I was one of the lucky people who was able to receive it that day,” Schaffer said.

Much like Eisfelder, Schaffer was vaccinated with the Pfizer vaccine and had minor symptoms like a headache and soreness. She said she feels blessed to have the vaccine and it has calmed her anxiety about being around a lot of people in a small space.

“I’m hoping all of my colleagues have the opportunity to get vaccinated if they wish to prior to coming back,” Schaffer said.

For educators and people in priority groups who are still waiting to get vaccinated, the MDE reports that the state will continue to vaccinate people through the COVID-19 Community Vaccination Program. Hy-Vee and pharmacy locations are giving vaccinations for people older than 65 in Minnesota, while vaccines for school and child care staff under age 65 are offered at state-run sites in places like Minneapolis and Bloomington.

Moving forward, Hennepin County Public Health (HCPH) recently introduced a COVID-19 Vaccination Registration system that is available to K-12 staff and bus drivers. This system allows the HCPH to be able to inform staff members on their eligibility and vaccine availability. In addition, educators will be able to seek vaccines at local pharmacies outside of the state-run vaccination sites.

“Hy-Vee Pharmacy has partnered with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to provide the COVID-19 vaccine, and they are now able to vaccinate Pre-K-12 teachers and childcare workers at their retail pharmacy locations in Minnesota,” Robbinsdale Interim Assistant Superintendent and District COVID Coordinator Ms. Voight said.

With all of the vaccination options now available to Cooper staff, Herman said he is excited for everyone to return on April 6.

“We have been planning on what this may look like and getting ready for this to happen in a way for our community to feel safe as well as ready to learn,” Herman said.

SEVEN DREAMS

continued from page 1

To fully utilize the opportunities the Seven Dreams Foundation offers, Herman hopes that “more teachers will submit proposals for their classrooms to enhance learning.”

“The fundraising that the foundation does is very important and we are fortunate to be able to see some of that money come to Cooper, which directly affects our students in the classroom,” Herman said.

Teaches and staff member interested in learning more about how to apply for grants, or students wanting to learn more about the contributions of the Seven Dreams Foundation, can visit their website at [SevenDreamsFoundation.org](https://SevenDreamsFoundation.org)

Tech tips help Hawks stay on top of school

With classes being delivered both in person and virtually, it is important for students to make sure their devices are working

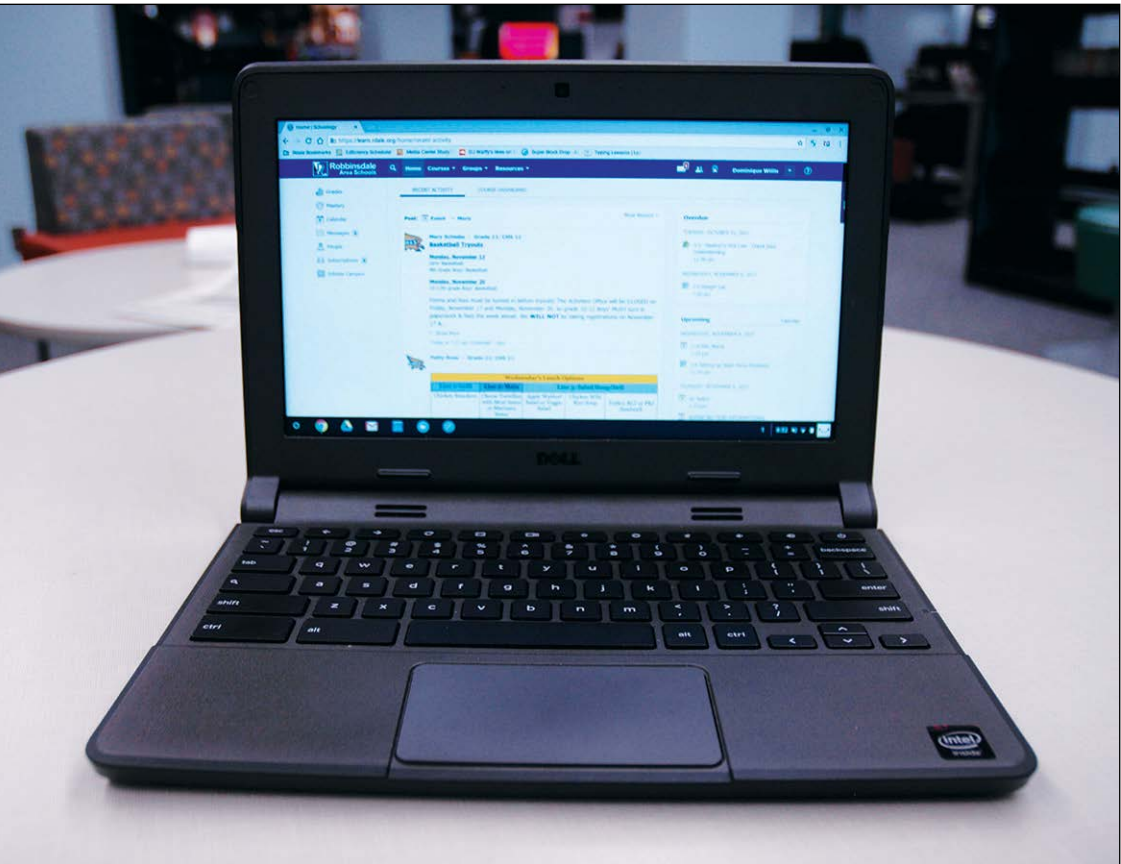


Photo by DAVINA BELLINGER

Most students are utilizing the school-issued Chromebooks when completing work for their classes.

By MAJAY MURPHY  
*Quill* staff writer

The pandemic has forced students and teachers to rely more heavily than ever on technology in order to do their work. Even though many students are choosing to return to Cooper for the start of in-person learning, most classes will still rely on the use of Chromebooks and laptops as people complete their work. In order to make the use of technology as smooth as possible when taking care of their assignments, there are a number of tips students can follow in order to perform at their best.

Splitting your Chromebook screen

It is sometimes helpful to split your screen so you can see a Google Meet and a Google Doc at the same time while working in class. In order to have both windows open at the same time, you can begin by opening a browser window on your Chromebook and then opening a second tab in that window. Next, you can click on one of the tabs and drag it apart from the first, or you can simply open a second window. After that, click and hold on the box icon in the top right of one

of the windows. When you see two arrows appear, one on either side of the box, you should then click on one to arrange that window on that side.

You will then repeat this process for the other window, but click the arrow on the opposite side so that each tab occupies a different side of the screen. This will evenly split the two windows.

If you want to make one window slightly larger than the other, just hover your cursor over the middle of the boundary until you see a small icon with arrows pointing right and left. Next, click and drag that icon whichever direction you want to change the sizing of the split panes. You can always exit this mode by clicking on the “x” in the top right or by clicking and holding on the square icon to resume to full-screen windows.

Fixing a frozen screen

If you have a frozen screen, all you have to do is restart your computer. To do this, just hold your power button down for up to 30 seconds. If that does not work, your issue might be related to the battery. In this case, plug in your Chromebook and try to recharge it. If that does not work, you can call

the Cooper Media Center for support at 763-504-8511 or fill out a “DL Technology Support Request Form,” links for which are available to all students on Schoology.

Addressing unresponsive or slow programs

Having multiple programs running and tabs open at the same time may cause your computer to lag. The first solution is to close any extra programs you have running or tabs you have open. If that does not help the responsiveness of the program you need, you can close out of all programs and attempt to restart the one you need. Should that not work, restarting the Chromebook is the next possible solution. The final move is to contact the Media Center or fill out the technical support form mentioned earlier.

Correcting a slow or lagging internet connection

As is the case with unresponsive or slow programs, a lagging internet connection can be fixed by closing any extra programs you have running or tabs you have open. Another solution many students have tried is using their smartphone to access the class through Google

Meet or Zoom and doing the classwork on the Chromebook at the same time. Some additional fixes are restarting your Chromebook or restarting your router or modem. Of course, if you have multiple family members using the internet at the same time, that can also affect connection speeds, so you may want to see if there is any way other people in your home can back out of the internet.

Dealing with Schoology issues

With Schoology serving as the main way that students receive and submit most of their classwork, it is not surprising that many technical issues can be related to this program, whether it is problems with loading, processing speed or working with materials. Keep in mind that Schoology does have a status monitor that can let you know if there are any larger issues with that program. If the status is listed as “Operational,” the problem is likely on your end. If the status is listed as “Active Incident” or “Degraded Performance,” the problem is on Schoology’s end.

The first thing to make sure you do if Schoology is acting up is to wait for the page to fully load, which you can tell has happened when the circle on the tab stops spinning. Another solution is to refresh or restart your Chrome browser. If that does not work, try logging out of Schoology and then logging back into Schoology. Finally, restarting your Chromebook can be another way to address possible Schoology issues.

Trying to use Kami

Kami is an extension that is used for opening, seeing and submitting assignments online. For students who are not using a district Chromebook, you first need to download the Kami extension for Chrome. Students using a district Chromebook will already have access to Kami.

When having issues using Kami to work on assignments, you first need to wait for the Schoology page you are using to open and fully load. Next, you want to click on the Kami button in Schoology itself to access the document you

TECH TIPS

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Students wrapping up work on Personal Projects

Although the projects were deemed optional this year due to distance learning, many Hawks still decided to take on the challenge

By CHRISTOPHER NGUYEN  
*Quill* staff writer

This is the time of year when most Cooper sophomores are usually completing their Personal Projects as part of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Program (MYP). However, the annual process looks different this year in light of distance learning.

“The Personal Project is the capstone project of the IB Middle Years Program, and completion of the project is an expectation the school has for all incoming tenth grade students,” IB Coordinator Ms. Christensen said. “However, due to distance learning, it was decided that, this year, the project would be an optional project.”

While the number of sophomores working on a project this year is much lower than normal, Christensen said there are still students taking part in the process and enjoying the many benefits to completing a project. One of the benefits is that you get to create a project that is based on your personal interests and you get some independence.

“In regular courses, students are often assigned a particular area to research; however, the Personal Project is an opportunity to select an area that really interests you. Perhaps it’s an area that you know nothing about, or an area that you have some knowledge of, but wish to learn more. The main requirement is that you’re interested in learning more,” Christensen said.

Completing the Personal Project will also grant students an elective



Photo by MS. CHRISTENSEN

Alia Hartman, a 2020 graduate, displays her Personal Project in 2018.

credit. Cooper students need 13 elective credits total to graduate from high school.

Lastly, after completing the Personal Project, Christensen said you can put it on your academic and professional resume.

“As students begin looking for employment, they can use the process of the Personal Project as a selling point for why employers should select them. Students have selected their own topic, defined a research area, conducted that research, created an end product, all while utilizing their own time-management and self-starting skills. Relaying your ability to follow a project through from start to finish, independently, can be a huge selling point to a potential employer,” Christensen said.

For the Personal Project, students are provided with a wide variety of support, which ranges from

staff mentors to the use of Hawk Lunch and Learn sessions that focus on the Personal Project.

“The biggest obstacle is time management. Students have to find a schedule that works for them,” Christensen said.

One student who is tackling a Personal Project this year is Amalia Ranstrom (10), who is doing a project on cake decorating.

“I researched a lot about the basic skills, recipes and tools one uses for this, and then created a few cakes of my own,” she said.

Ranstrom said she enjoys baking and is happy the Personal Project gave her a chance to go more in depth on this topic.

“The Personal Project was a great opportunity for me to finally learn the basics of this skill that I’ve been wanting to learn for a while,” she said.

Although she has enjoyed the project, Ranstrom said the realities of distance learning have made the process more difficult.

“Doing the Personal Project while stuck at home and doing online school because of COVID has definitely not made it easier. Also, since it’s a long-term project, it is hard to organize your time throughout the entire process to make sure you meet deadlines and stay on track,” she said.

At the same time, Ranstrom said one element that has helped her through the process has been her mentor, AVID and physical education teacher Ms. Schaffer.

“It gives me an excuse to meet up with one of my favorite old teachers I don’t have anymore since she’s my supervisor for my project,” Ranstrom said.

According to Schaffer, the chance to work with Ranstrom was a big reason why she volunteered to be a mentor. Schaffer also said she likes the topic of the project.

“As soon as I heard about her project, which was to explore different cake decorating skills...I was sold,” Schaffer said.

As a mentor, Schaffer said she has enjoyed watching Ranstrom learn over the course of the project.

“I very much enjoyed watching Amalia’s progress throughout the course of the project. I could see her skills improving as her confidence in herself grew. She created some really outstanding cakes that legitimately looked like works of art,”

PERSONAL PROJECTS

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# Yearbook staff nears final deadlines

Students producing this year's edition of *Talons* have faced unprecedented obstacles during a virtual school year

By JACK ATKINSON  
*Quill* staff writer

Cooper’s yearbook, *Talons*, is created annually by a student staff as part of an elective class offered at school. While producing a publication that captures an entire year in the life of a high school is always a big challenge, making the process more difficult this year was the reality of distance learning.

According to *Talons* advisor and English teacher Ms. Obranovich, the obstacles posed by online learning appeared right from the very start of the school year.

“Since students are working on Chromebooks rather than the desktop computers in the library, we had to completely change the software program that we used to create the book. This was hard since I had never used this program before either and I had to help students through it virtually rather than in person,” she said.

The name of the program being used by the staff is Encore, which is provided by Balfour, the publishing company that prints Cooper’s yearbook once it is done. The Encore program is composed of three sections called “Pages,” “Photos” and “Library.” In “Pages,” the staff can see the progress of the yearbook and they can click on any page and begin editing that page. In “Photos,” the staff can see all of the photos that have been submitted to the program and select any picture for use on any page. Lastly, in the “Library” section, staff can select backgrounds, graphics and templates to use while building individual pages.

“Encore is a much smoother program than the one that the staff used last year,” *Talons* staff member Cyrus Jarjay (12) said. “A lot of the qualities of the previous program were outdated

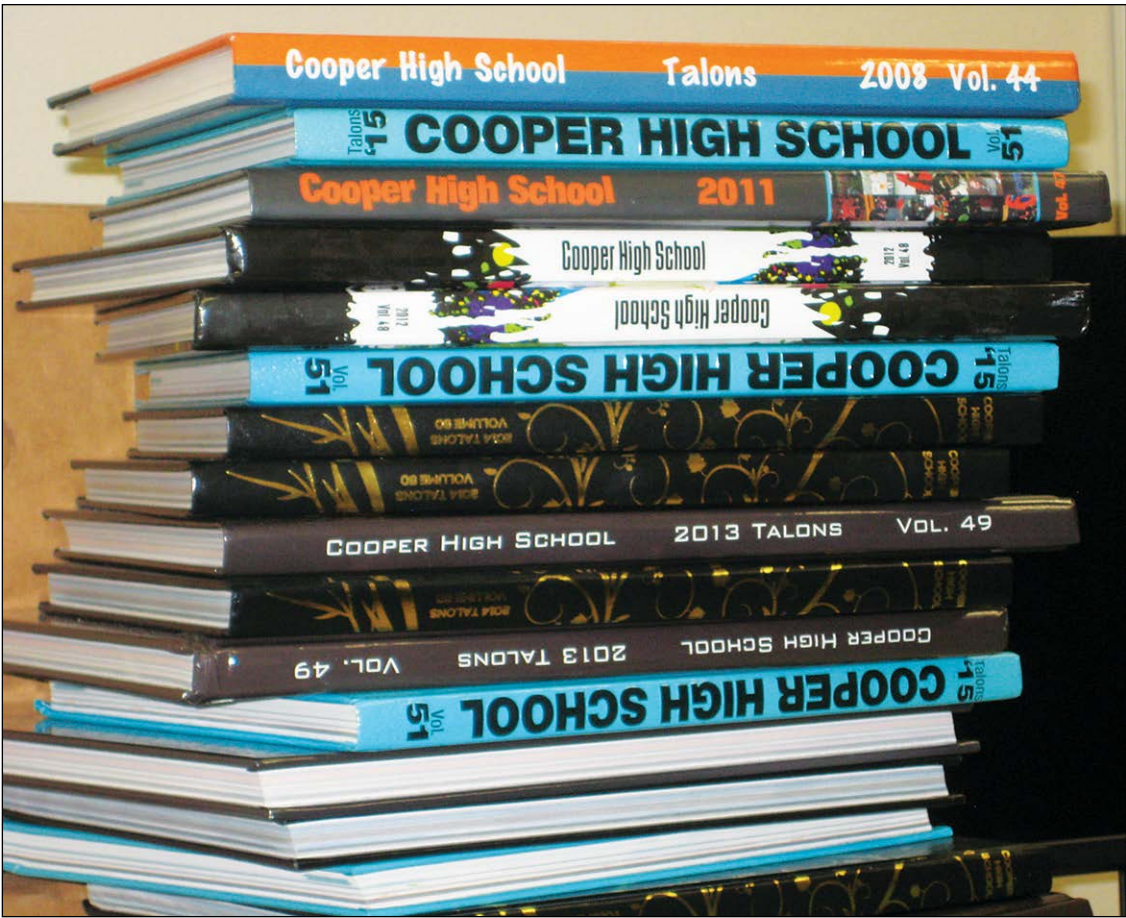


Photo by MR. ZUCCOLA

The final product should be ready for distribution to Cooper students at the end of May.

compared to the current program. We only started using it because it's more suited to distance learning.”

Once the staff was able to locate a design program that worked better with distance learning, the next challenge was to organize themselves in order to share the work and responsibilities for putting together the publication as a whole.

“Students are able to choose the pages that they want to work on. If there are any left over, then I will assign them as needed, depending on who I think would be best for the job,” Obranovich said.

Current staff members said they have enjoyed the process of selecting the sections on which they wanted to work.

“This year, I have done girls

soccer, the winter dance team page and a student life page about books. Last year, I only made and worked on pages about sports or clubs at Cooper, so having to make a student life page was something new to me,” Sophia Scheveck (12) said.

Also working on a mix of sports and student life pages is Maddie Monner (11).

“For pages or sections I have completed and helped contribute to, I worked on girls swimming, girls and boys cross country, and then a student life page about the quarantine that was polled to the students for answers. I have two more pages in progress for Nordic skiing and boys swimming, and I hope to be able to do a few more pages or help contribute to different sections before the end of the school year,” Monner said.

Once they get their assignments, the staff members have another challenge to face due to distance learning: gathering the needed materials for each page.

“It’s been challenging getting pictures, since spectators to events were very limited and there weren’t any other student activities happening for us to document. We relied on students answering our emails or filling out Google Forms and it was difficult to get the responses we needed,” Obranovich said.

Also presenting challenges this year to getting materials for yearbook pages was some of the uncertainty around which events and groups would still be taking place due to COVID.

**YEARBOOK**  
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# Adjusting to in-person learning will test people's relationships

The excitement surrounding the return to school should not distract students from making sure their relationships are healthy

By MAKAYLA HOTT  
*Quill* staff writer

Heading back to in-person learning this April will have an impact on students and the relationships they have with one another. With some people going to the building for school, while other people are electing to stay home for distance learning, students may experience changes with how they get along with their friends and family after a year in full online learning. This makes it important for everyone to consider the elements of healthy relationships to make sure our many transitions during fourth quarter are as positive as possible.

## Communicating is key

Communication is a key part of building a healthy relationship. A lot of relationships don’t work out due to problems with communication skills. When friends or romantic partners don’t feel like they are free to share their true thoughts and feelings with

one another, their interactions may become strained, which can lead to a breakdown in communication. Making sure you can openly speak to the people you care about can help you maintain those relationships.

## Compromising is important

One element of healthy relationships is the ability to com-

promise. Yes, disagreements are a natural part of a relationship, but it’s important to find a way to compromise if you disagree on something. Disagreements and conflicts should be solved in a fair and rational way, which ties back to the importance of honest communication. If one person in a relationship feels like they are the only one compromising or

## Setting boundaries is a smart move

In healthy relationships, it is a good thing to set healthy boundaries for one another. Creating healthy boundaries is a good way to avoid certain dis-

By setting boundaries, people can keep their relationship healthy and secure. Also, by setting healthy boundaries together with your friends or partner, you can have a deeper understanding of the type of relationship you both want.

think you need to walk on eggshells around your friend or partner or make you feel trapped.

## Evaluating your relationships can be productive

Many people maintain relationships with others without reflecting on whether or not those relationships are worth continuing. In order to evaluate the health of your friendships or romantic relationships, there are a few issues to consider. First, you need to ask yourself whether the person you have the relationship with is glad that you have other friends and if they are fine with the idea that you want time alone with those other friends. Second, you will want to consider whether the other person respects your opinion on things, even if it’s different than theirs. Third, you will want to reflect on whether the other person both talks and listens when you are interacting. If you find that your relationships are lacking in these three areas, it may be time to move on.

<div><div>The Quill</div><div>Leadership Staff</div><div><div>Editor-in-Chief</div><div>Max Rekela-Jasper</div></div><div><div>News Editor</div><div>Andrew Hagge</div></div><div><div>Features Editor</div><div>Christopher Nguyen</div></div><div><div>Opinion Editor</div><div>Sandy Vue</div></div><div><div>Variety Editor</div><div>Luke Rekela-Jasper</div></div><div><div>Sports Editor</div><div>Nolan Andler</div></div><div><div>Copy Editors</div><div>Yordanose Mulat</div><div>Max Rekela-Jasper</div></div><div><div>Advertising</div><div>Jawenah Freeman</div></div><div><div>Circulation</div><div>Zacari Watson</div></div></div>		<div>Staff Writers</div> <div><div>Nolan Andler</div><div>Yordanose Mulat</div></div> <div><div>Jack Atkinson</div><div>Majay Murphy</div></div> <div><div>Ariel Christensen</div><div>Christopher Nguyen</div></div> <div><div>Erin Chunn</div><div>Luke Rekela-Jasper</div></div> <div><div>Tiona Edwards</div><div>Max Rekela-Jasper</div></div> <div><div>Andrew Hagge</div><div>Davis Ruppert-Kan</div></div> <div><div>Makayla Hott</div><div>Andrea Tribble</div></div> <div><div>Faith King</div><div>Sandy Vue</div></div> <div><div>Sao Moua</div><div>Zacari Watson</div></div>		<div>Letters to the Editor</div> <div><div>The Quill welcomes Letters to the Editor. If you would like to send <i>The Quill</i> your thoughts about a story that ran in the paper, or your thoughts about an issue affecting our school or community, please word process and email your letter to <a href="mailto:eric_zuccola@rdale.org">eric_zuccola@rdale.org</a> as a text-only file. <i>The Quill</i> reserves the right to edit all Letters to the Editor for space.</div></div>		<div>Editorial Policy</div> <div><div>The Quill is an open and public forum for the thoughts and opinions of all students at Robbinsdale Cooper High School. Editorials contained in the Opinion section of the newspaper are the views of their respective authors alone. They do not necessarily represent the views of Cooper High School or Robbinsdale School District 281.</div></div>
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## From the Editors

## There is no time for senior class to start a 'slide'

The temptations of the "senior slide" are especially dangerous during such an unusual year

The start of fourth quarter at Cooper has many seniors looking forward to spending their last weeks in high school participating in the classic tradition known as the "senior slide." The senior slide refers to the time in which 12th graders lose motivation to keep up with good grades and attendance. Making this tradition even more complicated this year is the mix of in-person and distance learning, which has some students learning from home while we are still dealing with the pandemic. While it is never a good idea to give in to the senior slide, it may be an especially bad idea this year when the temptation to slide is even greater than normal.

One thing that prompts many seniors to slide is their acceptance into a college. In effect, if a senior knows she or he is set for school next fall, they may feel less need to do well now. However, colleges are interested in knowing how you do during your final semester of high school, and many seniors are motivated to keep trying because of this fact. For seniors who are in this situation, it would benefit you to spend fourth quarter working toward the highest GPA possible rather than following the tradition of goofing off. Even with the guarantee that "taking the quarter off" wouldn't impact your acceptance into college, staying on top of your responsibilities will give you momentum as you head toward your new school in the fall.

Another big reason why some seniors slide is that they are legitimately busy outside of school. Some seniors work and many of those working seniors have actually seen their hours increase now that we have distance learning. This makes it challenging to pay attention to school. However, it is important to remember that you are a student first and you need that high school diploma to be able to do any of the things you would like to achieve after graduation.

Another way seniors can be busy during fourth quarter is through sports. Much like the fall and winter sports seasons, spring sports are happening with minimal restrictions, unlike the situation last spring when all sports were canceled. For seniors who are doing a spring sport, it is important to remember to balance those commitments with your work in school. In fact, many sports teams have requirements around the grades athletes are getting in class, so continuing to emphasize your studies may actually help you maintain your spot on the team.

The final reason many seniors slide is because they want a stress-free end to their final year of high school. Of course, school stress is quite different this year in light of distance learning and the other concerns being caused by the pandemic. Some seniors may feel more or less stressed by having classes in person or online. Much like everything else about school right now, senior slide looks a little bit different this year.

With so much uncertainty right now connected to the pandemic and what school will be like over the final quarter of the year, the one thing that seniors can control is how they perform in the classes they are taking. Instead of giving in to the slide, every senior should be serious about finishing out their high school experience on a positive note by working toward the highest GPA possible.

# Return to Paris Climate Accord was critical

President Biden's decision to rejoin the international climate agreement was an important step in addressing a growing crisis



Photo by DOMINIQUE WILLIS

Extreme weather events have been on the rise everywhere in the world due to climate change.

By MAX REKELA-JASPER  
Quill staff writer

The United States officially returned to the Paris Climate Agreement in February under the order of our country's new president, Joe Biden. The Paris Climate Agreement is a legal treaty on climate change. The main effort of the agreement is to limit global warming to less than 2 degrees Celsius and preferably as low as 1.5 degrees Celsius (35-34 degrees Fahrenheit). In order for this to be done, the accord requires a social and economic transformation in order to face the incoming climate challenges now and into the future.

The agreement works on a cycle of five years of determined climate action. This means that every five years, the countries involved in the agreement communicate their plans with one another. These plans are typically actions they will take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to reach the goals of the agreement. In addition to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, countries will communicate actions they will take to resist and adapt to the world's rising temperatures. For those countries who are in need of it,

the agreement provides a framework for technical, financial and capacity-building support, which is not only great for the United States but great for the world's climate as well.

Re-joining the Paris Climate Agreement was one of Biden's first actions as president. One of former President Donald Trump's arguments for his decision to leave the agreement was that climate change in the world is a hoax and that remaining in

again work with other countries to combat climate changes and adapt to its impacts.

According to an article by Globalchange.gov, studies conducted by researchers around the world have documented increases in temperature at the Earth's surface, as well as in the atmosphere and oceans. This is why we need to work with other countries in order to save the Earth's climate. What many do not realize is that hotter temperatures around the world end

As the temperatures increase, glaciers melt, which can lead to the rise of sea levels and coastal erosion, which affects everyone, including the United States.

the agreement would put the United States at a "permanent disadvantage." This argument made no sense whatsoever. First of all, the agreement mandates that developed countries, such as the United States, help developing countries with their climate needs and goals. I don't see how helping other countries with their climate problems puts the United States at a severe disadvantage. Now that the United States is back in the agreement, we have the opportunity to once

up altering global weather patterns and inevitably change how rain falls. This is extremely dangerous as it can cause a drought, floods, wildfires and more. As the temperatures increase, glaciers melt, which can lead to the rise of sea levels and coastal erosion, which affects everyone, including the United States.

One of the big factors that is threatened with climate change is food security. Due to the rise of the carbon dioxide concentration on the Earth, the density of

crops such as rice and wheat are reducing, which can lead to nutritional losses and have very serious health effects. In addition, the climatic changes that result from rising carbon dioxide levels are reducing the stability of food supply and crop yields. According to an article from Theconversation.com, nearly 9 percent of the planet's growing population is food insecure, and that number is increasing over the past few years. Around 45 percent of childhood deaths worldwide are due to starvation or insufficient nutrients. With the resources the United States has, I'm positive that rejoining the agreement will give our nation a chance to decrease these numbers if action is taken at the right time.

Lastly, rejoining the agreement will improve the health of humans and even save lives. Climate change is such a big problem in the world; it threatens the air, water and food. Extreme weather and rising sea levels caused by climate change can destroy homes, public places and other structures, forcing people to migrate, which displaces population. In fact, the World Economic Forum ranks "extreme weather," "natural disasters" and "the collective failure to adapt to climate change" as three of the greatest threats facing humanity in this new decade. Developing countries that lack proper resources to adapt to temperature and precipitation changes will be hit the hardest. With the United States back in the agreement under the Biden administration, I believe that the United States will provide adequate help to those countries in need.

In conclusion, I strongly believe that rejoining the Paris Climate Agreement was not only a good move for the United States, but for the world. The agreement will help fight climate change throughout the world, and by doing so, food supplies will be saved, natural disasters will be prevented, and we will have a stronger relationships with other countries, which will benefit the United States in the future. Overall, Biden's decision to rejoin the agreement was a great move that will not only improve our country, but the world as a whole.

## Biden gets mixed marks two months into presidency

While he easily eclipses the incompetence of our last president, Biden has been far from perfect so far

By DAVIS RUPPERT-KAN  
Quill staff writer

Welcome to a "retrospect" of Joe Biden's presidency thus far. Can we even call it a retrospect yet? I mean, he has only been in the office for two months now. Oh, well. The questionable nature of pretentious opening lines hasn't stopped me before.

So, Biden's been in office for almost two months now, and, well, one thing I can definitely say is that he has certainly been in office for almost two months. I'm unsure whether to praise the positives or rail against the horrible things done thus far. Whichever direction I skew toward may not age all too well in the coming weeks and months.

On the plus side, Biden's handling of COVID has been fantastic overall in terms of his approach to new cases, deaths and vaccine distribution. Due to many actions his administration has taken, new cases have plummeted, with daily deaths dropping soon after.

However, even with his administration's handling of COVID, there have been a few less than stellar things to take place so far. The \$2,000 survival checks that had been heavily implied would be delivered a week or two following the Georgia runoffs turned into \$1,400 well over a month later. Additionally, Democrats in the Senate skipped on perhaps the best



Photo courtesy of GETTY IMAGES

Biden's moves toward vaccinating all Americans have been effective.

chance to enact a \$15 minimum wage bill when eight of them, most notably Joe Manchin and Kyrsten Sinema, voted against adding it in as an amendment to the COVID Relief bill.

Adding the amendment would only have required a simple majority, while the wage bill on its own will now require 60 votes in order to overcome the filibuster. The latter senator, Sinema, voted against the amendment in a particularly flamboyant way, akin to late Senator John McCain's vote against repealing the Affordable Care Act back in 2017. She also made a reference to Marie Antoinette, having brought a chocolate cake into Congress the same day.

With all that being said, the

relief bill itself did pass through the Senate, with all but one Republican voting against it. That pushed the bill back into the House, where it was passed and then signed by Biden on March 11.

On the foreign policy side, Biden issued an attack on Syria, killing at least 22, the entirety of which were reported, but not confirmed, to be combatants. This was a retaliatory strike for an earlier attack against a U.S. base, which killed one. This seems to be a completely proportional attack, and not at all an escalation. Biden isn't particularly hawkish when it comes to war based on what I have looked into about his background (not including his contribution to the attacks that

took place under the Obama administration). Here's hoping there aren't any more attacks.

Ultimately, when considering the last two months, I can't say I'm surprised either way about our president's performance. Biden and his administration's handling of the pandemic so far has been miles better than President Trump's had been, though it's not like it was a particularly high bar to get over. Meanwhile, everything else has been a mixed bag at best.

While this prediction may age poorly, I don't think we'll get the \$15 minimum wage until at least 2022, assuming the Democrats somehow retain the majority. Democrats don't have the votes to pass it as a standalone bill, and I don't think they're assertive enough to push Manchin or the other conservatives among them to vote for it. Moreover, I can't see them effectively vilifying or calling out the Republicans, who just months ago incited and defended an attempted insurrection, in order to pressure them into supporting a higher minimum wage. While there is a time for civility in politics, I'd argue that the tail end of a global pandemic and an ever-growing economic implosion is not the best time for the Democrats to adopt the aesthetics of bipartisanship.

Still, a Biden presidency beats another four years under an outright fascist, I guess.

# Everyone who can must get vaccinated

The only way we can safeguard our own health and work toward herd immunity against COVID is by getting the vaccine



Photo courtesy of CDC.ORG

Minnesota Governor Tim Walz has been opening up vaccine eligibility to larger groups of citizens.

By MAJAY MURPHY  
Quill staff writer

More than 1 million Minnesotans have gotten at least one dose of the COVID vaccine as of March 10, according to the *Star Tribune*. Clearly, people in our state are getting vaccinated against the coronavirus. In fact, my own aunt recently got her second vaccination, so we are

hopeful she can avoid getting COVID. While some people are nervous about getting vaccinated, it is important that we all do so because it gives us a better chance of not getting sick.

The first reason to get vaccinated is that it is the one effective way of protecting yourself from COVID. As the last year has made clear, COVID isn't something to be playing

around with. I got COVID and had to stay in the house for 14 days. Not only was I unable to work out or play basketball, I also lost 10 pounds. If the vaccine can help you avoid a situation like that, it is clear you should get it.

Another reason to get vaccinated is that the process is safe. The research shows that getting the vaccine helps peo-

ple avoid getting COVID. For example, the CDC reports that the Pfizer vaccine is more than 95 percent effective after two doses. Additionally, the side effects associated with the vaccination are largely mild. A sore injection site seems to be a fair trade off for protection against the coronavirus.

The third reason to get vaccinated is that it not only makes you safe, it contributes to making the people around you safer as well. You may have heard of the idea of "herd immunity" when it comes to COVID. Herd immunity happens when a sufficient percentage of a population has become immune to a disease, either through vaccination or being infected. Once this percentage reaches a certain point, it reduces the chance that individuals who lack immunity will get infected. Based on this idea, getting the vaccine can help the community around you.

If you are scared of getting COVID, or if you want to do what is best for the community as a whole, you should get vaccinated. Take it from someone who has dealt with this illness: it is something you do not want to mess around with. As the state begins opening up access to vaccinations to more people from different age groups, everyone will soon have access to the vaccine. Don't ignore your chance to get vaccinated.

## Nicer weather will contribute to better health

People who experience depression symptoms in winter often feel better in spring

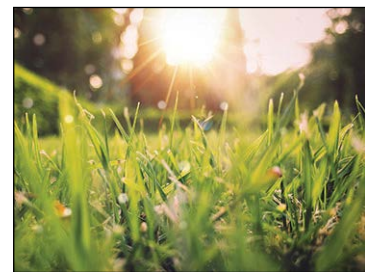


Photo by ANIKET BHATTACHARYA

Exposure to the sun can help improve one's physical and mental health.

By TIONA EDWARDS-WALKER  
Quill staff writer

Many people find that changes in weather can have an impact on their mental health. In extreme cases, this can cause what is known as seasonal affective disorder. Seasonal affective disorder occurs in climates where there is less sunlight at certain times of the year, like winter in Minnesota. People who have this disorder may experience fatigue, depression, hopelessness and social withdrawal. For students who might deal with varying degrees of weather-related issues like this, the combination of the winter blues and distance learning has been tough to handle. However, March has brought with it some improved weather and news that students who want to can choose in-person learning in April. These two changes are ones that have had a positive impact on my mental health.

As fall moved into winter in 2020, and the days became shorter and colder, things for me started to get harder and harder. It started getting more difficult to get out of bed in the morning, and the school work in distance learning felt like it was piling on. I eventually had to quit my job because the hours were draining me too much. I could not focus on school and the late night shifts would cause me to oversleep and miss my classes or fall asleep during them. The stress of the season, my school routine and other personal issues started to become overwhelming. It just made me want to give up.

Fortunately, the longer days and improved weather that eventually came in 2021 were a big help. If you are like me, the improved weather makes things feel a lot less stressful. It's been getting sunnier and warmer out lately. I feel this is a good thing because a lot of people my age have been going through a kind of seasonal depression during the winter of 2020, which was full of cold, darkness and the threat of COVID. It is said that adding some sunlight to your day can help relieve anxiety and reduce depression. I certainly felt this way on March 9, a sunny day when the temperatures got into the 60s. Having a little bit of sun on my face made my day feel better.

As we head into spring break, we are clearly getting into the time of the year during which we will have consistently better weather. With that should come improved mental health for Cooper students who have had a tough year during the pandemic. Along with the positive shift in weather, students also now have the option of going back to in-school learning starting in April. I feel that this will help a lot of students feel back on track with their learning. Also, being able to see friends again throughout the day will mean a lot. When added to the improved weather, this should lead to a positive spring.

While there will still be some bumps in the weather as we move toward summer, it definitely feels like we are heading in a good direction. The changes in our weather and the chance to return to school will help students dealing with seasonal depression. Hopefully, things will feel like they are starting to turn around for everybody. It is time for better weather, better learning and better mental health.

## Staying home is a good choice for many Hawks

Although in-person learning is starting in April, hundreds of Cooper students are electing to continue taking their classes virtually

By MAKAYLA HOTT  
Quill staff writer

Returning to school for in-person learning has some students excited and some students stressed. Everyone is questioning whether or not they want to go back to school now that we know April 6 will be the official start of in-person learning. While it is true that some students learn better in person and enjoy the social aspects of school, many others have gotten used to distance learning and the ability to stay safe and healthy at home. As I look at the two options, I feel like distance learning is the better choice.

When in-person learning starts in April, we will be sticking with the same school schedule. There will be odd period classes on Mondays and Thursdays, even period classes on Tuesdays and Fridays, and Wednesdays will remain a support day that students can make use of in person or virtually from home. Distance learning will still be an option for those who choose to continue with that approach. Students in this category will continue with their same

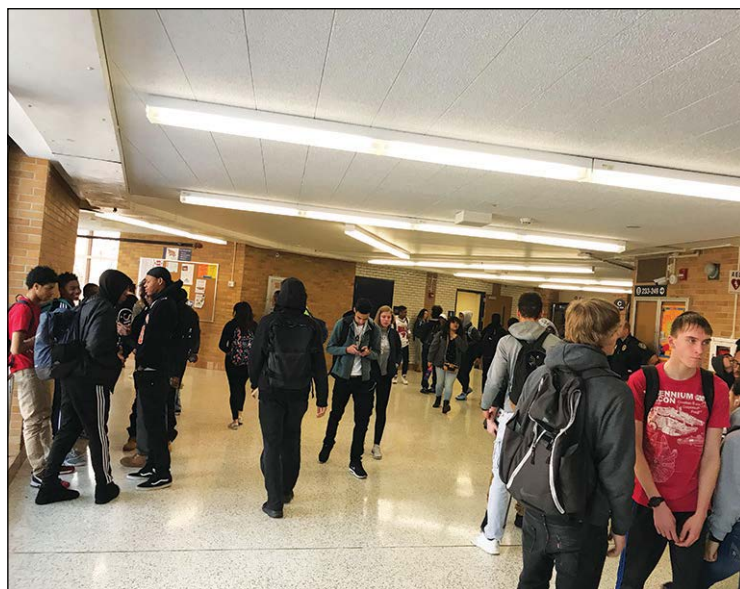


Photo by DAVINA BELLINGER

Some students are concerned about the potential spread of COVID at school.

classes and teachers through a combination of synchronous and asynchronous work. While I still feel that distance learning is the best choice, I am glad they are trying to give students options and keep things as close as possible to how they have been throughout this school year.

One highlight of the new learning model is that Wednesday will stay the same. Having the support day is important to all students, whether they will be in-person or dis-

tance learners. The ability to get academic support through one-on-one tutoring and small group work is important. Making this day even more beneficial is the fact that all students can choose to work virtually if they choose to, which helps cut down on traffic at school and keeps everyone safer.

When it comes to my choice about learning models, I have enjoyed being able to learn from home. We have been doing distance learning since March of last year. In

that time, I have gotten used to the idea of doing school from home. As a result, I don't think I'll be returning to school in April. As someone who works a lot, I have found that the distance learning schedule works with my work schedule, allowing me to get more hours at my job. I like how distance learning gives you more flexibility to do your work on your time. For these reasons, I feel that distance learning works best for me.

In conclusion, I believe that sticking with distance learning through the end of the year would have been the best choice for the district. However, since the decision was made to give students two options, everyone can make the best choice for themselves. For students who need in-person learning, I say, go for it. Everyone is different and we all learn in different ways. Students who say they are struggling because of distance learning now have an opportunity to get more face-to-face help. At the same time, those of us opting for distance learning can continue to get our education in a more protected environment at home.

## Adjusting to school changes will require a growth mindset

The many challenges that will come during fourth quarter will be surmountable if students stay positive

By ANDREA TRIBBLE  
Quill staff writer

Completing school assignments takes more than paper and a pencil. Instead, having a positive, growth mindset is vital in achieving academic success. People with a growth mindset thrive on challenges and they see failure not as evidence of a lack of intelligence but as a springboard for learning and improving upon their existing abilities. It has been shown that when students have a growth mindset, they are more resilient in the face of adversity, which we all experience in school when we get grades that do not meet our expectations or face difficult final exams.

In addition to helping in an academic context, having a growth mindset can bring bene-

fits in our everyday lives as we navigate through stressors and hardships. Students without a growth mindset are known not only to struggle with the motivation to complete assignments, they will also have trouble applying themselves when given a difficult task in life outside of school due to a fear of failure.

As students transition from fully online learning to in-person learning, we have learned that being in the comfort of our own homes can make it difficult to focus and have the motivation to fully engage with what is happening on our computer screens. As we deal with the responsibility of managing our own time in ways we weren't expected to before this school year, it has been the perfect time to develop a growth mindset. When it comes to online

learning, a growth mindset can help us be more intentional about both applying ourselves consistently and maintaining a healthy balance between our schoolwork and our personal lives.

Developing a growth mindset is not always easy. It involves challenging yourself and relentlessly pushing yourself to be the best you that you can be. When you successfully develop this kind of mindset, the end result will not only be reflected in your academic success, but also in your emotional well-being. Having a growth mindset can help you create a stronger sense of self-confidence and self-awareness, which can positively change the way that you look at yourself.

Not only is it important to practice having a growth mind-

set, it is important to spread the knowledge to others. Encouraging the people around you to have a growth mindset can give them an empowering perspective on learning through which they focus on improvement and view failure as a natural part of the learning process.

Ultimately, as we anticipate our transition back into the building for fourth quarter, it will be important that we all have a growth mindset. Adjusting back into a "normal" routine for those of us choosing in-person learning will raise many challenges. For the students remaining in distance learning, the classroom experience will continue to be different than it has in the past. In either case, developing a growth mindset will help you face all the challenges that await us.

# Premier Performers

The story of the musicians and artists who bring their talents to Cooper

## Hieu Tran

By YORDANOSE MULAT  
Quill staff writer

Hieu Tran (12) participates in Concert Choir. Tran has been involved in choir since first grade. While it was a requirement at that time, he later chose to continue participating.

“I stayed because singing in general has always been fun and it allows me to release anxiety and helps me when I’m doing other activities. Also, all of my siblings have done choir as well,” he said.

Tran said he has enjoyed the practices and breakout rooms in choir. He also said he likes working with his tenor group.

“We would goof around but work hard as well,” Tran said.

One of Tran’s favorite choir memories was going to Orchestra Hall for the first time.



Photo by LIFETOUGH

“I got to perform with great and talented people, as well as seeing my family there. Also, it allowed us to walk around the city,” he said.

As for academics, Tran said his favorite class in school is U.S. Government.

“I get to learn about how our Congress, presidency and law affects our lives and people around the world,” he said.

Outside of school Tran enjoys playing on a basketball team for Brooklyn Park, playing the piano, reading books and helping people.

Next fall, Tran plans to go to Augsburg University and focus on international relations and political science.

“I like to travel, so, after I graduate, I would like to join the Peace Corps and gain more world knowledge and eventually become a United States foreign service officer or do some type of work for an international government or domestic,” he said.

## Pazong Xiong

By YORDANOSE MULAT  
Quill staff writer

Pazong Xiong (12) is involved in Cooper’s choir program. Xiong has been in choir since sixth grade when she was randomly assigned to it. However, she stayed with the activity.

“I was just put in it but I stayed since the teacher was really nice and great in helping the class learn new music,” she said.

Xiong said she has enjoyed “learning new pieces of music, especially music in different languages.”

One of Xiong’s favorite memories from choir is performing at the Fall Music Festival at Orchestra Hall.

“We work with the Cooper band and orchestra, along with Armstrong’s choir, band and orchestra, and it’s really cool to hear everything come together



Photo by LIFETOUGH

after weeks of hard work,” Xiong said.

As of right now, Xiong said she doesn’t have any leadership roles in choir, however, she said she will be continuing Concert Choir for the remainder of the year.

As for academics, Xiong’s favorite classes are English and yearbook.

“I enjoy all the books we read in English class and I love being able to use my creativity in yearbook class,” Xiong said.

Outside of school, Xiong’s hobbies include dancing, baking and fashion.

In the future, Xiong plans on pursuing a nursing degree in college and then having a career as a registered nurse. As for arts activities in the future, Xiong said she would like to continue with choir in college.

“I want to be involved in more activities to meet new people,” she said.

## Danny Latu

By YORDANOSE MULAT  
Quill staff writer

Danny Latu (12) has contributed to many music programs at Cooper, including Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band, Pit Orchestra, Marching Band and Pep Band.

“This is my third year in Wind Ensemble. I wanted to join as it was the top group and it was my GPA to make it in. I’ve been in Jazz Band since ninth grade and it is my favorite band as I get to play drums and also I love jazz music. I’ve been in Marching Band since 10th grade and I love getting to perform at the football games and learn fun music. I’ve been going to Pep Band since ninth grade as they are a required part of the band, but I find them to be a lot of fun as well,” he said.

Latu enjoys the arts because of the different activities he is able to do. One he

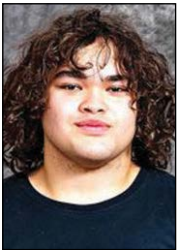


Photo by LIFETOUGH

pointed out in particular involves Wind Ensemble.

“My favorite part about Wind Ensemble is playing challenging new music with new and unique percussion instruments such as wood blocks, chimes and bongos,” he said.

Latu has had many memories from his arts activities, but one that stands out came in ninth grade.

“For Pep Band, my favorite memory was playing at the girls basketball championship in ninth grade when we won,” he said.

Latu said he has many activities and hobbies outside of school. He works part time at Hy-Vee and likes exercising at Lifetime Fitness.

Next fall, Latu will attend a community college to work on his general courses. He then wants to transfer to Berklee College of Music or Manhattan School of Music so he can pursue music as a career.

## Son Vuong

By YORDANOSE MULAT  
Quill staff writer

Son Vuong (12) is involved in choir, theater and art classes. Vuong has been involved in choir since he was four.

“I got started in choir because my parents and siblings heard me sing while doing my homework one time and they realized my full potential and brought me to choir practice for my church school choir,” he said.

Vuong said he first got involved in theater during 10th grade in Texas.

“We didn’t get a chance to start doing anything with performances, so we just learned the basic stuff about theater and even drew up a clothes pallet on what we think everyone in class would wear if we were to perform a play based on our own origin of culture,” he said.

Meanwhile, Vuong said he has



Photo by SON VUONG

been interested in art his whole life.

“I started way back in first grade, and up until now, all of my art teachers from the past up until now were such a joy to work with. Just the colors, shapes, and the combinations that you can make with these things create such beautiful artworks that it brings me to shedding tears of joy,” Vuong said.

When it comes to school, Vuong’s favorite classes are theater, art and choir.

“It’s where I get to be me and relieve myself of my anxiety that locks me and my imagination in place but not flowing like a creek,” he said.

Outside of school, Vuong enjoys playing piano, interpretive dancing, drawing, cooking and hand-gloving.

Next fall, Vuong will attend the University of Minnesota or St. Mary’s University. He is considering a major in culinary arts, theater arts or fine arts.

# Avengers game is poorly assembled

Marvel’s Avengers does a disservice to the famous characters the game features



Photo courtesy of SQUARE ENIX

A poor plot, baffling characters and clumsy gameplay are among the many shortcomings of *Marvel’s Avengers*.

By LUKE REKELA-JASPER  
Quill staff writer

Ever since the release of Marvel Studio’s film *The Avengers* in 2012, the superhero team has become a household name and extremely popular figures in the world of pop culture. When you have something that successful, it is inevitable that those characters would not remain on just the silver screen, so in late 2017, a game centered around the Avengers was announced, which eventually released on September 4, 2020 to a mixed reception. Due to some controversy regarding the game’s technical issues, I decided to wait a couple months before purchasing the game with the hope of finding it on sale for a reduced price. As fortune would have it, in December 2020, I purchased *Marvel’s Avengers* for PC for half of the price of its original release. At first, I thought this price was a steal, but, boy, do I wish I could travel back in time and tell myself to not buy this game.

The first and primary problem with *Marvel’s Avengers* is the story. Without giving away too much, the basic plot has the Avengers disband after one of their members is killed and they are blamed for an attack on San Francisco. However, they are forced to come back together when a government agency seeks to eliminate all super-powered individuals. Based on the premise, the game doesn’t sound that bad, but the story is extremely slow, and it takes 10 hours or more of playing time to actually be able to play as every member of the Avengers. Also, several significant events that affect how characters act during the main story happen off-screen, which makes me as a player ask for more in an already drawn-out video game.

By the middle of the story, it felt like a chore to beat the game as soon as possible so I could just get it over with.

The second issue with the game is the characters. The game primarily revolves around Kamala Khan, a teenager who acquires superpowers and aims to reassemble the Avengers, and she is insufferable. I am baffled that the game could be released with such bad character writing and dialogue, especially with her character. I also think the five main members of the Avengers suffer from this as well, because most of their conflicts with one another stem from miscommunication that we as an audience have not really seen, especially because this

fighting robots with the most bland and generic character designs and abilities ever. I think if this game had a great or maybe even decent story, I could give the combat gameplay sections a pass, but when almost every encounter revolves around a character throwing objects and punching androids in the face, it gets really stale. I actually dreaded most of the action-oriented parts of the game.

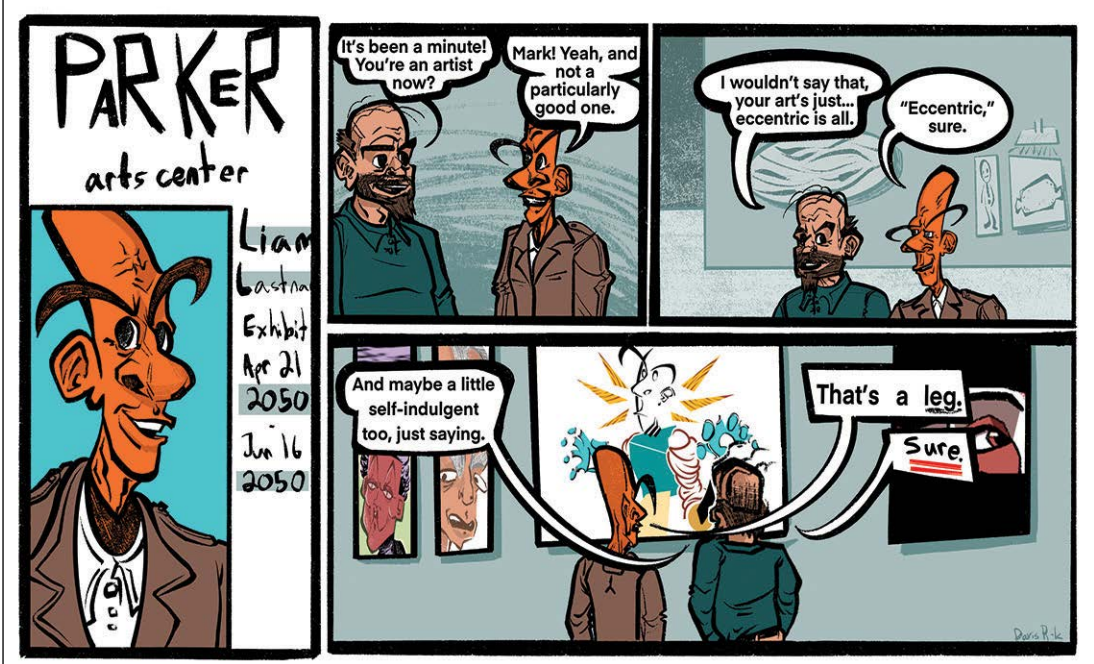
My fourth and final issue with *Marvel’s Avengers* is its antagonists. Besides the one hundred million robots you fight in the game, the main villain is MODOK, a scientist who once was friends with the Avengers who becomes a super-mad scientist. MODOK is a completely new and original character who has not been seen before in the movies. However, besides MODOK, there are only three other non-robot antagonists, and two of them you fight early on in the game. In fact, these two early fights are highlights of the game for me, but that is not really saying much. I think if the game relied on more characters from the comic books rather than robotic androids that could be ripped in half faster than a piece of paper, then it would have created more interesting encounters. It’s not like the Avengers are going to go around killing people.

In conclusion, *Marvel’s Avengers* is a monumentally disappointing video game in the superhero subgenre. It lacks almost every important aspect of a good superhero video game, not to mention just a good video game. I would absolutely recommend gamers not purchase this game. *Marvel’s Avengers* deserves one out of five stars due to its horrible story, character writing, technical issues, gameplay and pretty much everything else.

## Quill Comics Corner

Uhhh...Working Title

By Davis Ruppert-Kan



# Get ready for baseball with solid *Show*

*MLB The Show 20* does an ample job of giving gamers an often realistic experience of playing professional ball



Photo courtesy of SONY INTERACTIVE ENTERTAINMENT

A highlight of *MLB The Show 20* is its ability to deliver a pitching, batting and fielding experience that is close to the real thing.

By LUKE REKELA-JASPER  
Quill staff writer

Major League Baseball (MLB) had to shorten the 2020 season due to the global pandemic. However, that did not stop the video game development company San Diego Studio from releasing *MLB The Show 20* on March 17, 2020 for baseball fans to have something to pass the time last spring. I have played every game in the *MLB The Show* video game series since 2013, so I pretty much knew what to expect from *MLB The Show 20*, but there are a few positive and negative things about the new release that make it stand out from the others.

The first thing I noticed about *MLB The Show 20* is how much more restricted the game feels compared to the other games in the series. For instance, when players would suffer an injury during the older games, there would be a 10-second animation showing the player either limping off or being carried off the field by medical staff. But in *MLB The Show 20*, when a player suffers an injury, there are no animations to make the injury on a player seem severe. In fact, more than half of the time, players don't even end up on

the "Injured List," so they basically just stop playing the game. I think restricting things such as injuries diminishes the realism that *MLB The Show 20* otherwise seems to be striving for.

Also, in regards to restrictions, I think in some cases there should be fights or even brawls if a batter is hit by a pitch. In the real world, baseball is quite a dangerous sport, and, oftentimes, that danger comes from the players themselves. I think

tempts to go for a sliding or diving catch leads to my player teleporting forward about two feet. On other occasions, there are times when a batter who has previously hit will spawn into the batter's box when there is a new batter up to the plate. While this is funny, it is also distracting when I am actually trying to win the game.

On a more positive note, one thing *MLB The Show 20* does well is customization, primarily for

In modes like "Diamond Dynasty," you can play online with other players as a customizable team of your own. You can even design the look of your uniforms and accompany them with a weird name. All around, *MLB The Show 20* shines when it comes to customization.

Another highlight of *MLB The Show 20* is the quality of its pitching, batting and fielding. When you hit a ball, you can feel the impact in the PlayStation controls via vibration.

This same realism occurs when you strike out a batter or throw out a runner trying to steal a base.

While we are on the topic of *MLB The Show 20*'s realism, there is one new piece of realism I am hoping for when the next installment in the series is released. I think that *MLB*

*The Show 21* should replace the fans in the stadium with cardboard cutouts like those that were used during the 2020 season because of COVID-19.

Overall, while I wouldn't say *MLB The Show 20* makes you feel like a MLB player, it is definitely an interesting and romanticized take on professional baseball that is fun to play either alone or with friends. I give *MLB The Show 20* a solid four out of five stars despite its limitations and technical errors.

One thing *MLB The Show 20* does well is customization, primarily for players. When doing the "Road to the Show" game mode, players have the ability to customize a young player who will eventually be drafted by an actual MLB team.

if the future games in the *MLB The Show* series want to be more realistic, then they need to drop the E-rating and advance to a T-rating so the brawls, fights and injuries that happen in the actual MLB are incorporated into the game.

In addition to *MLB The Show 20* not showing everything that a real MLB game would involve, another one of the game's biggest problems is its glitches. In every game in which I am playing as an outfielder, my unsuccessful at-

tempt to go for a sliding or diving catch leads to my player teleporting forward about two feet. On other occasions, there are times when a batter who has previously hit will spawn into the batter's box when there is a new batter up to the plate. While this is funny, it is also distracting when I am actually trying to win the game.

## Anime film *Zero* has much to offer fans of original show

*No Game No Life: Zero*, a prequel movie to the *No Game No Life* show, features great animation and a stellar story

By CHRISTOPHER NGUYEN  
Quill staff writer

*No Game No Life: Zero* is a prequel movie to the anime series *No Game No Life*. First released in 2017, *No Game No Life: Zero* explores what life was like 6,000 years ago, before the sibling duo of Shiro and Sora entered the new world. *No Game No Life: Zero* is produced by Madhouse, a Japanese animation studio responsible for making hit shows such as *Perfect Blue*, *The Girl Who Leapt Through Time* and *Wolf Children*. Working hand-in-hand with other great producers such as Frontier Works, Movic, AT-X and Kadokawa, Madhouse has made *No Game No Life: Zero* a masterpiece of a film that features great animation and a stellar story.

*No Game No Life: Zero* is told from the perspective of Tet, a god of the current world. The plot of the film centers on Riku, an angry young warrior intent on saving humanity from the warring Exceed, the 16 sentient species that are fighting to establish the "One True God" among the Old Deus. It is a lawless land in which the lack of magic and weak bodies of humans



Photo courtesy of MADHOUSE

A knowledge of the original series helps when seeing the movie.

have made them easy targets for the other Exceed, leaving the humans on the brink of extinction.

The animation in *No Game No Life: Zero* is amazing. This is especially the case with the colorful, vibrant world of Disboard. Interestingly, many viewers of the *No Game No Life* series were caught off guard by the look of the animation in *No Game No Life: Zero*. To their surprise, many of the colors in *No Game No Life: Zero* are intentionally duller. That

is because it is Madhouse's intention to display the destruction and sadness being dealt with in the central story. The animation in the film accurately displays what an ongoing war and the separation between different species should look like. I think Madhouse does an amazing job of trying to keep it visually appealing while displaying a whole different setting from the original series.

Another positive element of the film is its story. One big mis-

take people make is not watching the anime before jumping into the movie. Since *No Game No Life: Zero* is a prequel, it obviously makes references to the plot of the original anime, so your understanding and enjoyment of the plot depends on your knowledge of *No Game No Life*. Another misconception is that the main characters from *No Game No Life: Zero* seem to resemble the protagonists from *No Game No Life*. However, viewers of the film must remember that Tet is using Sora and Shiro as a visual reference while telling the story at the heart of *No Game No Life: Zero*. Aside from these minor obstacles, the overall storyline in *No Game No Life: Zero* is incredible and I was consistently engaged in the film.

Overall, *No Game No Life: Zero* is an excellent movie that deserves 4.5 out of five stars. The animation quality definitely lives up to its hype and Madhouse clearly did an amazing job of picking the right producers for the film. If you are interested in an adventure, action and romance, *No Game No Life: Zero* is highly recommended. You can watch this movie on Netflix and on Amazon Prime Video.

## *Vampire Diaries* creates universe that captivates

The original show and its spinoffs are perfect for fans of the supernatural genre

By ZACARI WATSON  
Quill staff writer

If you've read any of my other reviews, you know that I'm into supernatural stuff. Books, TV shows and movies with vampires, werewolves and witches are always among my favorite forms of entertainment. One TV franchise that fits this pattern is *The Vampire Diaries*. *The Vampire Diaries* premiered on September 10, 2009. The success of the show led to a spinoff show, *The Originals*, which premiered October 3, 2013. More recently, a second spinoff series, *Legacies*, premiered on October 25, 2018. All three shows were produced by Julie Plec and Kevin Williamson for The CW network. I highly recommend this collection of shows for their great plots, interesting characters and inventive mythology.

*The Vampire Diaries* starts in a town called Mystic Falls. The main character is Elena Gilbert. She and her brother, Jeremy, live with their Aunt Jenna. One day, Elena meets the mysterious Stefan Salvatore (sorry, that was cheesy). As Stefan tries to get to know Elena, things get complicated when people start dying. Stefan finds out that his brother, Damon, is behind it. Elena soon finds out that Stefan and Damon are vampires. Not only that, but Elena's best friend Bonnie finds out that she is a witch. These characters then discover different supernatural beings, like werewolves, sirens and even the original vampires, over the course of the series, which helps make the plot complicated and appealing to the viewer.

Speaking of the original vampires, the second show, *The Originals*, centers around them. *The Originals* takes place in New Orleans, where Klaus Mikaelson, who is a vampire/werewolf hybrid, finds out that Hayley, a werewolf, is having his child. Klaus doesn't want Marcel, who runs the city, to find out, because he hates The Originals, so he keeps Hayley safe. Additionally, his siblings, Elijah and Rebekah, stay with them. As this brief overview makes clear, this spin-off series features many interesting characters that keep viewers engaged with the show.

More recently came the third show in the franchise, *Legacies*, which takes place years later. Stefan and Damon's house has been turned into a school for supernatural students. The school is run by Alaric Saltzman. Among the students are Hope Mikaelson, Klaus's daughter; Lizzie and Josie, Alaric's daughters; and their friends, Landon, Rafael, M.G. and Kaleb, among others. When Landon and Rafael get to the school, random monsters start showing up, like dragons, gargoyles and other mythological creatures. They eventually figure out the source and try to stop it.

The third show is a great example of how the *Vampire Diaries* universe creates a compelling mythology around the supernatural beings. The mythology is a mix of existing and new approaches to supernatural creatures. For example, the shows take a traditional approach to vampires and werewolves. Sunlight, along with wooden stakes, kill vampires. Meanwhile, the full moon causes werewolves to turn. However, witches in the show don't have green skin and fly on brooms, but they do cast spells and have books with information about magic.

Adding to the appeal of the three shows is their excellent casts. Some of the primary actors include Ian Somerhalder as Damon Salvatore, Paul Wesley as Stefan Salvatore, Nina Dobrev as Elena Gilbert, Candice King as Caroline Forbes,

**VAMPIRE DIARIES**  
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## YEARBOOK

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“[It was hard] not being sure of what sections of the yearbook would be able to be completed because of COVID cancellations of certain sports and clubs, as well as the struggle of staff members being able to be let into certain sports matches to take pictures because of COVID seating restrictions,” Jarjay said. “Planning is everything in yearbook and the unpredictability of this school year restricted our planning ability.”

After staff members successfully gather the information they need for each page, they then spend a majority of their time in class working on assembling their assigned pages.

“To put together pages, first I work on gathering all my photos or I gather answers to polls that we put out to students and I sort all of that based on what I think looks best or most interesting,” Monner said. “After I have all that material, I choose a template and the headline which goes with our theme of the year. I put my pictures on and organize them to my liking, then add captioning to pictures and end-of-season summaries, which I take from asking captains and their teammates. Finally, [I add] last-minute details to make the page more interesting and eye catching.”

Despite the many obstacles faced by the *Talons* crew this year, the yearbook is almost ready for publication.

“We are nearly done creating the book, as we usually go to print in early April in order for the books to arrive by the end of May,” Obranovich said. “We have gone through three deadlines and only have one remaining.”

The process of successfully bringing the 2020-2021 yearbook to its conclusion has helped the *Talons* staff bond with each other.

“The class is fun,” Schveeck said. “Everyone usually becomes good friends because we get to collaborate on pages and come up with ideas together. It’s a great way to become more involved and leave your mark on the school.”

Another benefit of having worked on the yearbook this year is the feeling of connection to the school that it helped provide to the staff members.

“At a time when students feel isolated and disconnected from the staff and student body, joining yearbook is integral to enhancing school spirit,” Jarjay said. “The course increases your awareness of the diversity of the school pertaining to clubs, sports, faculty and the student body.”

According to Monner, getting involved in yearbook is also a way for students to leave a legacy at Cooper.

“Years from now, people can look back at their yearbook and remember what it was like and how each individual activity was remembered in that year,” she said. “With more students’ help, it would bring better perspectives and more creativity and ideas to our team, creating the best yearbook possible of your high school years.”

## VAMPIRE DIARIES

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Kat Graham as Bonnie Bennet, Zach Roerig as Matt Donovan, Steven R. McQueen as Jeremy Gilbert, Mathew Davis as Alaric Saltzman and Michael Trevino as Tyler Lockwood. It is their performances that keep the shows grounded and help the audiences stay invested in what happens.

Overall, I recommend the three shows in the *Vampire Diaries* universe. I enjoy all the different things that are going on with each show’s characters, their backstories and the different supernatural beings. It’s a great series of shows for people who are into vampires, werewolves and any other supernatural-related things. The three shows also have a bit of romance, and what’s a vampire show without romance? For these many reasons, all three shows earn five out of five stars.

Power sequel *Ghost* is an excellent drama

*Power Book II: Ghost*, which debuted in September 2020, features the further adventures of many characters from the original series

By ARIEL CHRISTENSEN  
*Quill* staff writer

Starz debuted *Power Book II: Ghost* on September 6, 2020. Created and written by Courtney A. Kemp, *Power Book II: Ghost* is a spin-off of the show *Power*, which ran for six seasons on Starz. Thanks to its release during the pandemic, *Power Book II: Ghost* has been a big hit that has caught everyone’s attention, whether they are adults or teenagers. Thanks to its interesting characters and excellent acting, *Power Book II: Ghost* is an excellent drama.

Much like *Power*, *Power Book II: Ghost* is set in New York. The original series revolved around James St. Patrick, an intelligent drug dealer also known as “Ghost,” who wishes to leave the criminal world to pursue legitimate business interests as a nightclub owner. *Power Book II: Ghost* focuses on Ghost’s son Tariq, who is all grown up and starting college. Over the course of the new series, Tariq must deal with his father’s legacy and the mounting pressure to protect his family, including his mother Tasha.

One highlight of the new series is its complicated plot, which keeps viewers interested to see what will happen next. A good example of this is can be seen when Tariq is attending his classes at Stansfield University. The school has a parents’ night and all of Tariq’s classmates have their parents with them, whether it is just one parent or both. However, Tariq’s current family situation means his parents are not able to be there. That is because his dad, Ghost, has recently been murdered, and his mom, Tasha, has just been arrested as a possible suspect in that murder. Not surprisingly, this turn of events puts Tariq in a semi-depressed state. As a viewer, it feels like you are in the same room with Tariq as he deals with this unfortunate situation.



Photo courtesy of STARZ

Between its complex plot, engaging themes and strong acting, *Ghost* has a lot to offer viewers.

Another effective element in the show is how it deals with the theme of family. This theme can be seen when Tariq’s mom, Tasha, is in the process of being accused of her husband’s murder. Even though it is his freshman year of college, Tariq wants to help his mom in every way he can because he loves her. He shows up to all of her court dates, talks to many people, and does whatever he can do on the outside in order to support her case. There is one scene in particular when his mom has a court date to decide if she will be released on parole. During this scene, we see that Tariq and his mother have high hopes for her situation, but they are soon disappointed by the news that should will not be released. Once

again, Tasha is being taken away from her son, but their family bond remains intact. This court hearing scene helps the viewer feel the energy in the room as they are watching and makes it clear that the theme of family is important to the show.

A third element that makes the show appealing is the acting. A really *Powerful* acting scene is in the last episode of season one when Kane, someone who doesn’t like Tariq, betrays his sister’s trust. Tariq was recently brought into the gang scene by some of his dad’s old partners. Tariq has been taking orders from the family for a while and they see him almost as family. However, there is one person who doesn’t see Tariq this way, and that is his older brother, Kane.

In fact, Kane had recently tried to set something up in order for Tariq to get killed. However, Kane’s plot does not work out and the family discovers what he has done. Kane is kicked out and has to say goodbye to his sister. This is an emotional scene and the performance of each actor involved makes it feel realistic and powerful.

Overall, *Power Book II: Ghost* is an excellent show that should appeal to fans of *Power* and to people just discovering the franchise. The show features shocking plot twists, great themes and excellent acting. *Power Book II: Ghost* shows that people can be going through so many things that others would never notice. *Power Book II: Ghost* deserves five out of five stars.

MCU makes successful shift to small screen with *Wanda*

The highly anticipated Disney+ series *WandaVision* mostly lives up to its considerable hype and expands the Marvel universe

By NOLAN ANDLER  
*Quill* staff writer

Marvel Studios released its first-ever Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) show for Disney+ on January 15, *WandaVision*. The show is the second MCU installment that happens after the events of *Avengers: Infinity War* and *Avengers: Endgame*, which saw Thanos kill Vision in order to get the Infinity Stone that was implanted in him to give him life. This fact has viewers new to *WandaVision* asking: how is Vision alive? One entertaining aspect of this largely good show is finding out the answer to that question.

When you watch the first three episodes of *WandaVision*, the show seems kind of weird. The plot is about Wanda and Vision living life after the “blip,” which is the event in which half of life in the universe was destroyed by Thanos but then brought back by Tony Stark during *Avengers: Infinity War* and *Avengers: Endgame*. However, Wanda and Vision’s existence is portrayed like old cheesy sitcoms from different decades, starting with *The Dick Van Dyke Show* from the early 1960s.

While this is both entertaining and confusing, it is during the show’s fourth episode that things start getting good and the show more clearly connects to the MCU. During episode four, which takes place outside of the sitcom world, we meet the grown-up version of Monica Rambeau, who is the daughter of Maria Rambo, a character from the 2019 film *Captain Marvel*. Episode four also brings viewers into S.W.O.R.D., the agency that Rambo founded, and introduces into the show two other familiar characters: FBI agent Jimmy Wu,



Photo courtesy of WALT DISNEY STUDIOS

*WandaVision* pays tribute to many famous sitcoms of the past.

who appeared in the film *Ant Man and The Wasp*, and Darcy Lewis, who was featured in the *Thor* movies. More importantly, this episode also unveils that the sitcoms we watched during the first three episodes are actually the result of a hex that Wanda set up around Westview, New Jersey. The show then centers on the mystery of how and why Wanda has done this.

One highlight of *WandaVision* is the cinematic quality of its production and special effects. Much like the *Star Wars* spinoff show *The Mandalorian*, *WandaVision* has the look and feel of a Marvel movie and not some cheap show. From scenes in which Wanda and Vision display their powers, to battle sequences involving the hex, it is easy to forget it is just a TV show.

The show also does a good job with character development and acting. A big focus of the show is the grief that Wanda experiences after losing Vision in

*Avengers: Infinity War*. Thanks to Elizabeth Olsen’s great performance, viewers witness Wanda’s internal struggles after losing someone she loved. We also get to learn more information about Wanda’s past and how bad it was. These emotional elements of the show really got to me.

*WandaVision* also does a good job with its cliff hangers and post-credit scenes, which leave the audience shocked and excited. For example, in the last scene of episode three, we see the sitcom version of Monica get thrown out of the hex by Wanda. This is what leads to our knowledge of the world outside of the hex, which sets up the pivotal fourth episode.

Another highlight of the show is its many Easter eggs for fans of the MCU. Perhaps the best example of this is the series of fake commercials that air during the sitcom episodes. These ads symbolize issues being faced by Wanda, made reference to past movies in the MCU

and hint at things viewers can expect in future episodes of the show and upcoming MCU films.

At the same time, *WandaVision* falls short in a few areas. First, the show seems to struggle with time management, with some episodes featuring nine-minute credit sequences. Second, the show does not capitalize on the potential of more directly setting up two highly anticipated MCU films to which *WandaVision* is supposed to connect: *Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness* and *Spiderman: No Way Home*. But perhaps the biggest shortcoming is how *WandaVision* handled Wanda’s brother, Quicksilver.

Quicksilver is a character who has appeared both in the MCU and in the X-Men films produced by 20th Century Fox. In the MCU, Quicksilver was played by Aaron-Taylor Joy and met his end in *Avengers: Age of Ultron* by sacrificing himself to save Hawkeye. Meanwhile, in the Fox universe, Quicksilver was played by Evan Peters throughout the three most recent X-Men movies. When Disney recently bought Fox, MCU fans were hoping for an eventual X-Men crossover, which *WandaVision* seems like it was providing when it cast Evan Peters to play Wanda’s brother in several episodes. However, the use and fate of the Quicksilver character in *WandaVision* is ultimately a let down.

Overall, I definitely recommend *WandaVision*, but don’t get your hopes up too high. The show does a good job of filling the MCU void that has been caused by the pandemic and the delay of the upcoming Marvel movies. However, there are some things about the show that left me disappointed. *WandaVision* deserves 3.5 out of five stars.

## HAWKS RETURN TO COOPER FOLLOWING SPRING BREAK continued from page 1

dents will once again be able to work with teachers and staff face to face, allowing students the chance to get more immediate feedback on course work due to their ability to access teachers and the resources available in the building.

Science teacher Ms. Hawkinson said she is looking forward to seeing students’ faces rather than their “icons” on Google Meet. One of the biggest struggles for her class specifically has been doing labs when students are not face to face in the classroom.

“Filmed labs [and] demos lose a lot of their excitement,” Hawkinson said. “It’s not fun to watch someone else do the lab.”

From the student perspective, Sarah Lehnertz (12) said she is looking forward to being back in the building.

“I find I learn much better in real life and would like to be as prepared as possible for IB tests as well as college classes next year,” Lehnertz said. “[In-person] learning will help me get on track tremendously.” Lehnertz also mentioned that

she is excited to collaborate with her classmates again face to face. According to Lehnertz, she has struggled to express her ideas through the computer screen and feels as if she hasn’t been completely focused this year.

Contrary to Lehnertz, Darius Nguyen (12) is remaining with the Distance Learning Plus model for the remainder of the school year.

“I’m choosing to remain in distance learning because I prefer the freedom [of] being at home all the time and doing whatever I want,”

Nguyen said.

Nguyen also said he enjoys using his personal computer because it is “much faster” than the school Chromebooks and it has more functions.

“The Chromebooks are honestly too slow and have limited functions, so having a good computer at home helps,” Nguyen said.

As many students return to school and others stay home, Cooper has decided to stick with the alternating-day block schedule with Wednesday support days.

# Gamers form Esports team

Cooper students prepare to take on area rivals in *Rocket League* season through MNVL



Photo courtesy of MNVL.ORG

The number of schools taking part in Minnesota Varsity League (MNVL) gaming seasons has been increasing.

By ANDREW HAGGE  
*Quill* staff writer

Cooper started up an Esports club in February with the hopes that participating students will be able to compete in games ranging from *Call of Duty* to *Rocket League* against players from other schools. Mr. Oelfke, Cooper's activities director, said that the club offers new opportunities for students to get involved in school events.

"We are always looking for more opportunities for our students to get involved in our school," Oelfke said. "This club offers a chance to meet other students with similar interests, which can lead to a complete, overall school experience"

Leading the new club is math teacher Mr. James. He said the group is focused on all aspects of gaming.

"The purpose of the club is to provide a space for Cooper students to come together to compete in, play and discuss video games," he said.

James said his involvement in the group began when he was approached by a Cooper student who asked James if he wanted to be the advisor for the club.

"I've never played video games competitively nor been a part of an Esports club, but I do enjoy playing them myself so I agreed to help out," James said.

After James agreed to help, he met with Jake Utities, the director of the Minnesota Varsity League (MNVL), to find out what information he needed and how to register

our school into competitions.

"He walked me through how to collect the necessary student information, how to register our school to compete in the league and, overall, how to run a club like this in a virtual setting," James said.

Another step was to establish the group as an official club at Cooper through the help of Oelfke and the Activities Office.

"The Esports group has club status at Cooper," Oelfke said. "To gain club status, you need to apply for approval from the administration. The main pieces to getting approved are: having an adult advisor in place, enough student interest and, if not virtual, a space or classroom to meet. The advisor is voluntary as there currently no budget or funding for club-level activities."

Once the club was officially established, Kaeden Knoblauch (10) created a flyer in the advisory slide show on Mondays to see who was interested in joining. According to James, during the informational meeting that was eventually held, nearly 40 students showed up and more students continue to join the club each week.

With the club established, it was up to the students to create and form their own competitive teams. They get to choose the team captain as well as form the roster of which members are starting and which are the backups.

"As more students join the club and choose to compete, the idea that the club will be established as an of-

ficial school sport gets tossed around more and more," James said. "The cool thing about the club is that it is student created and student led. Students form their own teams, elect team captains and decide on starters. As the club continues to grow, dedicated teams could host practices, team meetings and even receive coaching."

At the moment, the club has two registered *Rocket League* teams set up for competitive play in the new MNVL season, which starts on March 22. The MNVL is the Esports league for high schools in Minnesota. They host competitions for *Call of Duty*, *Chess*, *Rocket League*, *Super Smash Bros.*, *Overwatch* and *Minecraft* between all participating schools in the state. Helping support the league are Alpine Esports, Minnesota Esports Club and Leaguespot. In addition, Alpine Esports provides resources for broadcasts of gameplay and commentary.

Along with the two established *Rocket League* teams, James is hopeful that more teams will be created for the other different games. Students who are interested in joining the Cooper Esports club can contact James at brady\_james@rdale.org for more information.

"The advisor is knowledgeable and helpful in developing what they are interested in and works on the relationship pieces between staff and students," Oelfke said. "This club has been a very positive addition for students, especially this year."

Glass was removed from penalty boxes and benches to increase airflow. Additionally, the NHL asked teams to issue N95 masks to the players and staff. Another change was the reconfiguration of team dressing rooms to provide more space for social distancing. Finally, the NHL added game day rapid testing around the league as an extra layer of protection.

Once the Wild were able to

Kaprizov are leading the way in goals at 10 a piece as of March 13.

While these are positive signs for the offense, the Wild have struggled with power plays. In fact, there was one point in the season when the team went 0-18 in power plays. Attempting to fix the power play issue, TwinCities.com reported that head coach Dean Evason decided to go with an abnormal strategy of just skating each line as usual instead of loading with maximum firepower. It is expected that once the Wild can get rolling with that they will go back to a traditional tactic of stacking the rotations during a power play. With an irregular season comes irregular tactics, and that is what the Wild are looking to do in order to address their ineffective power plays.

With only 25 games played out the scheduled 56, the Wild still have a lot of season in front of them as they enter the second half of March. However, with the team sitting in second place behind the Vegas Golden Knights in the West Division, the Wild are in a great place in the standings. Hopefully, they will be able to capitalize on their momentum and move forward with victories over their West Division rivals to carry on into the postseason.

hit the ice again with practice and began to slowly take players off the protocol list, they were able to play their first game back. During the first game back, they lost to the LA Kings 4-0 after 14 days of isolation. However, after that loss, the Wild won three games in a row, two of which they won by four goals. According to NHL.com, Kirill Kaprizov and Jordan Greenway are currently leading the Wild in points. Additionally, Joel Eriksson Ek and

After roster changes in the off season and the acquisition of new players, the Wild are looking like they may be able to keep their winning ways going. At the same time, there are still areas of uncertainty for the team.

## Wild season heading in positive direction

As new players have developed more chemistry, the wins have started to accumulate

By ANDREW HAGGE  
*Quill* staff writer

The Minnesota Wild are off to a strong start in their first 18 games with 12 wins and six losses. After roster changes in the off season and the acquisition of new players, the Wild are looking like they may be able to keep their winning ways going. At the same time, there are still areas of uncertainty for the team and various issues they will need to address going forward.

Perhaps the biggest obstacle so far this season involved COVID-19. Off to a promising start over the first few weeks of the season, the Wild suddenly had to put multiple players on the COVID protocol list. In fact, at one point, there were 13 Wild players on the protocol list, not to mention many more on other teams, which forced the NHL to make some changes. The NHL initially decided to cancel four games in early February, but when the COVID protocol list got longer instead of shorter, the NHL postponed an additional two games.

Due to the problem of not being able to contain and stop the spread of the disease, many logistical changes were made by the NHL.

# Cooper Competitors

The story of the athletes who strive for success in Cooper sports

## Deante Porter

By FAITH KING  
*Quill* staff writer

Deante Porter (12) is a three-sport athlete at Cooper. He competes in football in the fall, wrestling during the winter and track in the spring.

Porter is currently in his sixth year of wrestling.

"The reason I started was because my big brother was wrestling so my mom wanted me to try it out and I did," he said.

According to Porter, the thing he has enjoyed most about wrestling is watching his teammates win. What is more, Porter said one of his favorite memories from wrestling was coming to Cooper to practice with his older teammates when he was still a middle schooler.

As a senior on the team, Porter said he tries to be a leader.

"Whenever someone needs help with a move or something, I always try to help," he said.

Prior to the wrestling season, Porter played football in the fall. He said the season went well but "things still could've gone better."

As for his upcoming track season, Porter said he is looking forward to it after the 2020 season was canceled due to the pandemic.

"I think things will go pretty good this season," Porter said.

During school, Porter's favorite subject is art, which he finds "relaxing." When it comes to his outside-of-school interests, Porter said he has been "staying inside, watching movies and playing games" due to COVID.

Porter plans to attend college next fall to become a dental hygienist. He also plans to continue with his three sports.



Photo by LIFETOUGH

## Majay Murphy

By FAITH KING  
*Quill* staff writer

Majay Murphy (12) plays basketball at Cooper. Murphy has been playing basketball since he was in fourth grade.

"My big brother, Shyah Murphy, made me play basketball with him and I just led on from there," Murphy said.

As a returning senior, Murphy believes being a strong leader and setting an example for younger players is important.

"Just showing the young heads how to be tough in all situations and being about your brotherhood because we are all you got," he said.

What Murphy has enjoyed most about basketball is developing relationships with all of his teammates.

"It's literally the best and they are

all my little brothers," he said.

Murphy said he has had many favorite basketball memories. However, one that stood out was dunking the ball during a freshman year game against Benilde-St. Margaret's.

Outside of the winter season, Murphy continues to play basketball with his AAU team.

When it comes to school, Murphy's favorite subjects are journalism and English. Meanwhile, some of his favorite hobbies include working out and working to earn money.

After graduating, Murphy said his plan is to go to a junior college and "get built there." He plans to continue working hard and eventually transfer to a D1 school to play basketball.

"I won't be playing basketball my whole life," he said. "Basketball isn't my life. I have family to look out for."

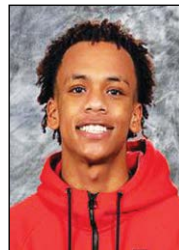


Photo by LIFETOUGH

## David Osayameh

By FAITH KING  
*Quill* staff writer

David Osayameh (12) plays on the Cooper basketball team. Osayameh has been playing basketball since he was in eighth grade.

"My mother is the reason why I started playing basketball," Osayameh said.

Osayameh said the team aspect of the sport is what he has enjoyed most about basketball.

"Cooper is a great school and the team is amazing. They play hard and we're like family," Osayameh said.

Osayameh's favorite basketball memories include his first time playing varsity his sophomore year and his first playoff game.

"It was a playoff game against Anoka. It was my first playoff game and I had 26 points and a win against them," he said.

Prior to the start of the Cooper basketball season, Osayameh played fall basketball.

"I played for Cooper fall ball and it went great," he said.

During the spring, Osayameh continues to play basketball, competing with his AAU team. This spring, he also plans to run track at Cooper.

During the school day, Osayameh said his favorite subject is algebra.

"I love solving problems and enjoy it," he said.

Outside of school, Osayameh enjoys spending time with his family, playing video games and exercising.

Next fall, Osayameh plans on going to a D1 junior college to major in general engineering or civil engineering. He also plans on playing basketball during college.

"Basketball isn't just a game, it's my life, and I love the game," he said.



Photo by D. OSAYAMEH

## Andrea Tribble

By FAITH KING  
*Quill* staff writer

Andrea Tribble (12) plays basketball at Cooper. She has been playing basketball since she was in fourth grade and this is her fifth year playing for the Hawks.

Tribble said that playing basketball has given her confidence and life-long connections. She added that her favorite memory from basketball was winning a state championship for Cooper in 2018.

Tribble currently has a leadership role on the team as one of the senior captains.

"It is going well. We have all known each other since we were young, so it really feels like a family," she said.

During the off season, Tribble continues to train for basketball.

"This year was a little different with COVID and training consisted of a

lot of home workouts and using outside courts," Tribble said.

When it comes to school, Tribble's favorite class is AVID.

"It really prepares us for life in college and beyond, and I have the best AVID teacher, Ms. Wineberg," she said.

Outside of school, Tribble enjoys being involved in the community.

"I love to be involved in the community and just create things [like] paintings [and] podcasts," she said.

Tribble plans to attend college next fall and major in political science while on a pre-law track to eventually become a civil rights attorney. Tribble also said she will be continuing with basketball.

"I'm going to college on a basketball scholarship and I plan on using basketball to get me through college debt-free," she said.



Photo by ANDREA TRIBBLE

## TECH TIPS

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are wanting to open. If you are still having issues, you can try to close and reopen the Kami document in Schoology or refresh your Chrome browser. If those steps do not work, you can try to log out of Schoology and log back in. Another possible solution is to restart your Chrome browser or clear your Chrome cache. Restarting your computer might also be necessary.

## Attending class through a Google Meet

A large number of students will be staying in distance learning even after the transition to in-person learning starts in April. That means Google Meet sessions will remain the primary way that students access classes and their teachers during the school day. If you are having trouble getting into a Google Meet, remember to make sure that you use the correct nickname for the class and period of the class you are hoping to join. Also, be sure that you are spelling the nickname correctly. Copying and pasting the code right from your teacher's Schoology page can also help ensure your spelling is correct.

Another potential issue with Google Meet is when the program lags or freezes during use. The best solution for this is logging out and logging back in. If that does not help, restarting Chrome or restarting the computer might do the trick. Also effective is using your phone for the Google Meet instead of the Chromebook.

## Going to class with Zoom

While some teachers use Google Meet, others have switched to Zoom. In order to get into a given class using Zoom, be sure to visit that teacher's Schoology page to find and click on the Zoom link. Since it is likely the teacher has Zoom links for different periods of the same class, be sure you are clicking on the correct one. If you are still having issues, you should verify that you are connected through the district's Zoom website.

Once you are in the proper Zoom, it is possible you might run into issues with lagging or freezing. Much like users of Google Meet, you can try logging out and logging back in, restarting Chrome or the laptop, or using your smartphone to dial into class.

## Solving Chromebook hardware issues

As a physical device, Chromebooks can have mechanical and electrical issues that you may not be able to fix on your own. If you are experiencing issues with turning on the device or getting the microphone or speakers to work, you should call the Cooper Media Center at 763-504-8511 or fill out a "DL Technology Support Request Form." You should also use those two resources if your battery is no longer keeping its charge or you lose your charger. When it comes to your Chromebook, the sooner you address the hardware problems, the sooner you can get back to doing your classwork.

## PERSONAL PROJECTS

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Schaffer said.

One strategy Schaffer pointed to that has helped Ranstrom experience success on the project has been staying on top of her deadlines.

"Amalia was always really good about following up with her meetings and taking care of business on her end," Schaffer said.

Ranstrom agreed with Schaffer that staying organized was important as she worked on the project. She also had some additional advice to students who work on the project in future years.

"Take advantage of the Personal Project to do something that you've already wanted to do, as I did," she said. "I also recommend that you manage your time well while doing your project. Maybe try having a calendar or specific tasks you want to complete every week. Lastly, communication and responsibility are very important."

Students who are interested in learning more about the Personal Project can contact Ms. Meyer, who works in the IB office, at jodie\_meyer@rdale.org.

## NFL successfully makes it through playoffs

While the Super Bowl may have been a dud, the games leading up to it had some exciting twists and turns

By NOLAN ANDLER  
Quill staff writer

After quarterback Patrick Mahomes led the Kansas City Chiefs to a 31-20 win over the San Francisco 49ers in Super Bowl LIV on February 2, 2020, it started to look like that was going to be the last football game to kickoff until the 2021-2022 season due to the surging COVID-19 pandemic over the off-season. However, the NFL was able to get through the 2020-2021 season, which culminated with a 31-9 Tampa Bay Buccaneer victory over the Kansas City Chiefs on February 7, 2021 in Super Bowl LV.

The NFL's ability to get through the most recent season stemmed from a lot of changes made prior to and during the season itself. For example, the April 2020 NFL draft was held virtually, team practices were restricted, the preseason was canceled, players and coaches followed COVID guidelines, and stadiums were empty or at reduced capacity. One additional change that set up the playoffs allowed seven teams from both conferences to advance, which meant that only one team, the number one seed, would get the first-round bye instead of the top two seeds. By the time the regular season wrapped up and the playoffs came around, the 14 teams that fought their way into the playoffs in the NFC were the No. 1 Green Bay Packers, the No. 2 New Orleans Saints, the No. 3 Seattle Seahawks, the No. 4 Washington Football Team, the No. 5 Tampa Bay Buccaneers, the No. 6 Los Angeles Rams and the No. 7 Chicago Bears. Meanwhile, in the AFC, it was the No. 1 Kansas City Chiefs, No. 2 Buffalo Bills, No. 3 Pittsburgh Steelers, No. 4 Tennessee Titans, No. 5 Baltimore Ravens, No. 6 Cleveland Browns and No. 7 Indianapolis Colts.

## Super Wild Card Weekend

The 2020-2021 playoffs started with what the NFL called Super Wild Card Weekend. This phase of the playoffs is usually just called Wild Card Weekend, during which the No. 4 and No. 5 seeds, and the No. 3 and No. 6 seeds, face off, but with the extension of teams in 2020-2021, the new name was used because, for fans, there were three meaningful football games on both days of the weekend.

## No. 7 Indianapolis Colts at No. 2 Buffalo Bills (AFC)

Bills quarterback Josh Allen dominated this game, throwing for two touchdowns and rushing in for another. At the same time, the Colts had their chances to win, but they fell short on a key fourth down conversion, rookie kicker Rodrigo Blankenship missed a field goal, and quarterback Philip Rivers was unable to find anyone in the red zone on a last-second, Hail Mary pass attempt. The Bills went on to win 27-24 and advance in the playoffs.

## No. 6 Los Angeles Rams at No. 3 Seattle Seahawks (NFC)

These two teams met back in week 16 and it was an ugly, physical game that saw the Seahawks grind out a 20-9 win. This rematch was kind of the same, but the Rams offense had a better performance. After quarterback John Wolford went down and was taken to the hospital due to a nasty hit to the head, Jared Goff had a decent day, going 9-19 for 155 yards and a touchdown. Also shouldering the load for the Rams was running back Cam Akers, who had 28 carries for 131 yards and a touchdown. Led by Aaron Donald, the Rams defense also played a huge role in keeping Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson and his offense in check. Ultimately, the Rams advanced with a 30-20 win.

## No. 5 Tampa Bay Buccaneers at No. 4 Washington Football Team (NFC)

The Washington Football



Photo courtesy of GETTY IMAGES

Although their uniforms were different this year, Rob Gronkowski and Tom Brady won yet another Super Bowl ring.

Team was definitely the most resilient team this season. In addition to a name change after the racial injustice issues that happened over the summer, the team also saw coach Ron Rivera battle and beat cancer over the season. When the playoffs arrived, so did additional adversity when it was revealed on the morning of this playoff game that starting quarterback Alex Smith was not going to play. So it was up to backup quarterback Taylor Heinicke to lead Washington against a loaded Tampa Bay team. Surprisingly, Heinicke almost did so by going 26-44 for 306 yards and one touchdown. Of course, the only issue was that, on the other side, the Buccaneers had Tom Brady, and he played better, leading the Bucs to a 31-23 win.

## No. 6 Baltimore Ravens at No. 3 Tennessee Titans (AFC)

Last year, the underdog Titans went into Baltimore and demolished the Ravens thanks to a brilliant rushing performance by running back Derrick Henry. This year, it was a very different story for the two teams. While Henry was held to just 40 yards on 18 carries, Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson went 17-24 for 179 yards passing, and had 16 carries for 136 yards and a touchdown running, leading the Ravens to a 20-13 win.

Aside from the Patrick Mahomes vs. Tom Brady hype for the game, Super Bowl LV wasn't anything special. The Buccaneers took advantage of being on their home turf and dominated in a 31-9 blowout win.

This was Jackson's first playoff win after being "one and done" in the playoffs two years in a row.

## No. 7 Chicago Bears at No. 2 New Orleans Saints (NFC)

While this game looked close during the first half, it was all Saints from that point on. Perhaps the biggest moment was when Bears wide receiver Javon Wims dropped what would have been a game-tying touchdown. This drop sealed the Bears' fate, and from that point on, they just weren't as good as the Saints, who ended up winning 21-9. The Saints' victory came from great performances by their defense and the offensive duo of quarterback Drew Brees and running back Alvin Kamara. Another notable aspect of this game was that it was simulcast on Nickelodeon.

## No. 6 Cleveland Browns at No. 3 Pittsburgh Steelers (AFC)

This game showed that the Browns are no longer the bottom feeders of the NFL. After an extremely sloppy start by the Steelers, it looked like the Browns were going to run away with the game, going up 28-0 in the first quarter. However, Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger did not go down

without a fight. In fact, he ended up going 47-68 for 501 yards and four touchdowns. Unfortunately, it wasn't enough as the Browns held on to win 48-37. For the Cleveland Browns franchise and the city of Cleveland, it was a great win.

## The Divisional Round: No. 6 Los Angeles Rams at No. 1 Green Bay Packers (NFC)

There was a lot of hype around this game thanks to the matchup between a top-ranked Rams defense led by defensive tackle Aaron Donald and a top-ranked Packers offense led by quarterback Aaron Rodgers, wide receiver Davante Adams and corner Jalen Ramsey. In the end, the Packers were just too good, winning 32-18. Rodgers had another flawless performance, going 23-36 for 296 yards and two touchdowns against the No. 1 defense in the NFL. Of course, it didn't help the Rams that Donald had a rib injury and quarterback Jared Goff was dealing with a thumb injury on his throwing arm.

## No. 5 Baltimore Ravens at No. 2 Buffalo Bills (AFC)

It was a defensive game for the first two quarters with both teams tied 3-3 going into half. However, in the third quarter, Buffalo pulled ahead thanks to a Stefon Diggs touchdown reception

## No. 5 Tampa Bay Buccaneers at No. 2 New Orleans Saints (NFC)

There was a lot of hype around this game, which pitted Drew Brees against Tom Brady. While the Saints smacked around the Buccaneers both times they played in the regular season, this time the Bucs played much better. Brady went 18-33 for 199 yards and two touchdowns, and the Bucs defense took care of the Saints offense, intercepting Brees three times while limiting him to 19-34 for 134 yards and one touchdown. The Bucs earned their way into the NFC Championship with a final score of 30-20, while the Saints went home for the season, soon getting word that Brees' illustrious career had come to a close with his decision to retire.

## The Conference Championships: No. 5 Tampa Bay Buccaneers at No. 1 Green Bay Packers (NFC)

Brady vs. Rodgers for a trip to Super Bowl LV. What more could you ask for? When the two teams played in the regular season, Tampa demolished Green Bay 38-10, but both teams had improved since that game. While this one started off competitive, the Bucs capitalized on the offensive and defensive side, eventually going up 28-10. However, the Packers fought back, closing the lead to 28-23 in the third. After Tampa Bay scored another field goal in the fourth quarter, Green Bay head coach Matt LaFleur took some heat when he decided to kick a field goal to make it a 31-26 game instead of letting Rodgers try to go for the tie. That ended up being the final score, sending the Bucs to the Super Bowl. Overall, neither quarterback played well, with Rodgers making some bad throws and Brady having three straight interceptions.

## No. 2 Buffalo Bills at No. 1 Kansas City Chiefs

Aside from the Chiefs' slow start, nothing really exciting happened in this game. After trading scores throughout most of the game, the Chiefs eventually demonstrated that they were simply the better team, winning by a final score of 38-24. Unfortunately for the Bills Mafia, their dream season came to a close as the Chiefs advanced to yet another Super Bowl appearance.

## Super Bowl LV: No. 1 Kansas City Chiefs vs. No. 5 Tampa Bay Buccaneers

Aside from the Mahomes vs. Brady hype for the game, Super Bowl LV wasn't anything special. The Buccaneers took advantage of being on their home turf and dominated in a 31-9 blowout win. For a team that has had some recent horrible seasons, this was great win for the Bucs. Making this more impressive was the fact that Brady got his seventh Super Bowl win thanks to a strong performance in which he went 21-29 for 201 yards and three touchdowns. Fittingly, Brady won the MVP, further cementing the case that he is football's G.O.A.T.