
MS MAGAZINE

Metaverse: The Future of Social Media By Edward Zervigon

As of the last 3 months, the word Metaverse has been bouncing around since October 28, 2021 when Facebook had their annual Facebook Connect where they announced the name change of Facebook, to Meta, a testament to their plan to make the idea of a Metaverse a reality. But, if this truly is our future, what is a metaverse, and how will it impact our day to day lives in the future? First, let's talk about what a metaverse really is. The word metaverse first came from the 1992 science fiction book Snow Crash by Neal Stephenson, in which people live their day to day lives as avatars in a virtual world. You can see how the idea of a metaverse hasn't really changed, but becomes more of a reality than an ideal everyday. Meta themselves called it, "The next, more immersive platform of media where you are embodied into the experience, not just looking at it." Another common example of a metaverse comes from the book, Ready Player One. In the book, daily life is lived in a virtual world where you shop for your daily needs, go to work, and go to school, and play with friends. It also shines light on how we can be totally different people or characters in this virtual world we call the metaverse. So to really sum it up, it's like a virtual world where we live our day to day lives embodying the media we take in, not just viewing it.

But will it really be our future like Meta's CEO Mark Zuckerberg promises? It seems so. Especially with Covid-19 and it's



many variants, we seem to be constantly being thrown back into working at home, and it seems many people like it. In a study conducted by the Becker Friedman Institute for Economics at the University of Chicago, 10,000 employees believed they worked just as well virtual as they did in the office. In fact, 30% of those employees said they worked better from home.

But what is our first step towards this future? Well it already happened, and it's called Oculus. Oculus is one of the biggest VR (Virtual Reality) companies in the world, and has created the highest selling vr headset of all time, called the Oculus Quest 2. However, you've probably heard of it already, as instead of being marketed just for gaming like it's competitors, it is also marketed for social, work use, and other reasons. Sound familiar? Furthermore, Meta actually bought Oculus way back in 2014.

So, it seems that everyday the metaverse becomes more of our future than a crazy world that we can only see through the pages of a book, and I hope that you can see that now.



2022 Olympics

By Sean Fialcowitz

On February 4, 2022, the Winter Olympics will begin. The games will be held in Beijing, the capital of China. While the United States government will not attend for political reasons, all the American athletes will be there in earnest. Athletes like Mikaela Shiffrin, Shaun White and Chloe Kim all hope to bring gold back to their country. Delbarton's own 2010 alumni Kenny Agostino, will be competing with the United States hockey team. Internationally, Yuto Totsuka from Japan, Scotty James from Australia, and Kelly Sildaru from Estonia hope to bring back medals to their own respective countries. Norway looks to defend their Winter Olympic supremacy while the Russian athletes hope to fare better in the competitions. The olympic sports are as followed: alpine skiing, bobsledding, biathlon, cross country skiing, curling, freestyle skiing, figure skating, ice hockey,

nordic combined(A mix between the ski jump and cross country skiing), snowboarding, ski jump, skeleton, speed skating and short track speed skating. Personally, I enjoy skiing, bobsledding and biathlon in moderation (I can only watch people ski up hills and shoot white circles for so long). While I try to avoid curling, figure skating and speed skating, I generally enjoy all of the sports and love watching the world come together to bond over sports. One of my favorite parts is the opening ceremony, which is an elaborate spectacle of song, dance, and fireworks, with the Olympic torch being brought in to show the start of the games. On February 20, there is also a closing ceremony to signify the end of the games. The Olympics hold something for everyone and I hope you enjoy watching the games. After all, they only come once every four years.

Our Tree, by August Moser

We will start in the roots
as life always does.
Coming out of the ground
and reaching the sun.
Then we branch off
into different branches.
Making new leaves
of different qualities.
If we grow at the bottom
we can be the same as the top,
but when our leaves dry up dead
we begin to rot.
By August Moser

The House Up By the Lake, by Dylan Ross

Up in the deep woods,
In the Adirondacks, Loon Lake,
There's a great wooden house.

The House made with logs of wood,
Like a Lincoln Log house, with a green roof.
It's surrounded by trees and a great lake,
The pine, chestnut, poplar, and maple trees.

There's a balcony on the second floor,
Where you sit and look out on the lake.
In early mornings, you can hear the loons,
And in late nights you can watch the the stars
while sitting on a rocking chair made of wood.

There, the people fish, kayak, and go on a boat,
Or explore the woods.
And behind is a place that has been burned down,
Where many Presidents have been.
The only thing left is a single flight of stairs,
Which shows the entry to where
the place once was.



Fig and Lily Review ***By Wesley Gabrial***

Despite the recent spikes in Covid, Fig and Lily offers a great dining experience. They offer outdoor dining in heated igloos as well as spaced out indoor dining. If you are looking to eat outside there is a Prix Fixe menu with a set per person price. The service was very attentive even with the outdoor bubbles and overall the food was good.

The menu had a great variety of Mediterranean foods. The favorites from what we ordered were the Cheese Phyllo rolls, which are a mediterranean style mozzarella stick, as well as the calamari and the Mediterranean fries which is a big plate of fries covered in feta cheese and spices. All the appetizers were large enough to share. Our favorite Entrees were the Mediterranean style Filet, the Adana Pistachio and the Turkish Manti, which was good but not my favorite. The pasta dish was not the best as it was overcooked.

Our favorite desserts were the Chocolate souffle, the Fig special and the Hand made Baklava. The Chocolate souffle was by the far the best although it took a bit longer to make. The Fig special was a fig topped with a cream mixture and a sauce. The handmade baklava was a thin flaky dough and, although I didn't try it, it looked good. The desert is served in small portions so it is not the best to share. I recommend ordering multiple of the souffle and the fig special.

Calling all Middle Schoolers

Want to get involved in the Middle School Magazine? We have a need for staff writers and copy editors to help produce issues every month!

All jobs are easy and fun and any effort would be greatly appreciated!

If interested in this opportunity to contribute to the Middle School, please contact Grady Gore, Griffin Maguire, or Mrs. Luludis to learn how to get involved!

NHL Teams Ranked By Griffin Barrows

The rankings are:

A+ - great so far

A - meeting expectations

B - not as good as we thought

C - well underperforming

D - Struggling

F - not even competing.

Metropolitan Division

Carolina Hurricanes - A+

The Hurricanes were a good team last year, and they had high expectations. They have excelled this season and have been a top five team in the league for the whole season so far.

New York Rangers - A+

The Rangers are a skilled team, and they have very solid offensive and defensive players, such as Artemi Panarin and Adam Fox. They are not nearly as consistent as the Hurricanes, but they have also exceeded expectations.

Washington Capitals - A+

As usual, the Capitals have played great with players like TJ Oshie and of course, Alex Ovechkin. The Rangers, Capitals, and Hurricanes have been competing for the #1 spot in the division, which is why all three of these teams received an A+ rating

Pittsburgh Penguins - A

Although the Penguins still have great players like Sidney Crosby and Jake Guentzal, they had a rough start to the season. In the month of December, they had a 10 game winning streak, which was snapped by the Dallas Stars on January 8, 2022. The only reason this team is not an A+ team is because of their rough start and inconsistency.

Columbus Blue Jackets - B

Columbus has talented players, such as Patrik Laine, but they have been average at best. They overall have potential, but have dropped in the last couple of seasons, going from a playoff team to a team struggling to make the playoffs.

Philadelphia Flyers - B

The Flyers have good players, like Claude Giroux, but have struggled just as the Blue Jackets have. Their goalie, Carter Hart, hasn't performed as well as they would have hoped, and they have been inconsistent

New Jersey Devils - B

The Devils have skilled players, but have had some of the same issues as the Flyers and Blue Jackets. They acquired skilled players like Dougie Hamilton, and set high expectations as a team. So far this season, they have not won consistently.

New York Islanders - C

Although the Islanders were a top team last year, they have performed very poorly so far this season. The reason they are C instead of D is because they lost so many players to COVID. The Islanders had many games postponed, and have less games than any other team in the NHL.

Atlantic Division

Florida Panthers - A+

The Panthers had a fantastic season so far, and have performed very well with elite players such as Aleksander Barkov and Jonathan Huberdeau. They have been at the top of the league the entire season so far, and have exceeded expectations.

Tampa Bay Lightning - A+

The back-to-back Stanley Cup Champions have played well this season, and are pretty much equal to the Florida Panthers. Players like Steven Stamkos, Victor Hedman, and their goalie Andrei Vasilevskiy have propelled them.

Toronto Maple Leafs - A+

Toronto is a top team in the league, and have a very strong offense led by Auston Matthews. They had a bit of a rocky start, but have played well and are just below Tampa and Florida in the standings.

Boston Bruins - A

The Boston Bruins are a good team, but have not performed nearly as well as their Stanley Cup contending team from last year. Players like David Pastrnak, Brad Marchand, and Patrice Bergeron have been great, but they may not have enough depth as a team.

Detroit Red Wings - A

Detroit was the worst team in the league in the last few years, but they have played very well this season. They are very close to the Bruins in points, and have been led by Dylan Larkin and the rookie, Lucas Raymond.

Buffalo Sabres - C

The Sabres have been low in the standings for multiple seasons now, and have not performed well again. Trading their star player Jack Eichel hurt them. This team will take time to get good again.

Ottawa Senators - C

Ottawa can't seem to find their game. They are in a similar situation as the Sabres. They don't have much depth and they have not performed well this year.

Montreal Canadiens - F

Montreal is at the bottom of the league, but this is not the only reason for an F ranking. The Canadiens lost in the Stanley Cup Finals last year, and have gone from the second best team in the league to the second worst. The reason for the grade is because of how much they have dropped.

Pacific Division

Vegas Golden Knights - A+

The Knights have been a top team since they joined the league in 2017. Although they lost top players like Marc-Andre Fleury and Ryan Reaves, they have still been winning. They are an all-around solid team.

Anaheim Ducks - A+

Last year, the Ducks were not a good team, and they didn't have many top players. This year, they have turned it around and have been a solid team near the top of the leaderboards in the west. Players like Trevor Zegras and Jamie Drysdale have been the best players on this young team.

Calgary Flames - A

The Flames are a good team, and have had a good season so far. They have slowed down a bit, but have still been steady. I don't believe they are good enough for an A+ ranking, but they are a very good team.

San Jose Sharks - A

The Sharks are in the same position as the Kings. They have depth and youth, but just have to put it all together.

Edmonton Oilers - B

The Oilers have two top players in the league in Connor McDavid and Leon Draisaitl, but they lack defense and need a goalie. They also need more production from their third and fourth lines.

The rankings are:

A+ - great so far

A - meeting expectations

B - not as good as we thought

C - well underperforming

D - Struggling

F - not even competing.

Vancouver Canucks - B

The Canucks have good players in JT Miller and Elias Pettersson, but they haven't really clicked yet. They need more depth and goal-scoring.

Seattle Kraken - C

As a new addition to the NHL, there were no expectations going into the season, but the Kraken have definitely struggled. As is typical for expansion teams, they just need to figure it out.

Central Division

Nashville Predators - A+

Nashville has been a good team in the past, but they have really performed well so far this year. They are led by players like Roman Josi and Filip Forsberg, who have great scoring abilities. The Predators have definitely exceeded expectations so far.

St. Louis Blues - A+

The Blues have been just as good as the Predators. They have good depth and goaltending, as well as great players like Vladimir Tarasenko. Jordan Binnington has been a good goalie and has made some incredible saves this season.

Colorado Avalanche - A+

Colorado has one of the best offenses in the entire league. Nathan MacKinnon, Gabriel Landeskog, and Mikko Rantanen can really score. Their star defenseman, Cale Makar, has been scoring highlight-reel goals so far this season.

Minnesota Wild - A+

The Wild have top players like Kirill Kaprizov and Mats Zuccarello. They also have good young players and decent depth. They need better goaltending, but they have had a good year overall.

Winnipeg Jets - A

The Jets haven't been a great team in the last year, but they have been steady. Their offense can score goals with players like Mark Schiefele and Blake Wheeler. Connor Hellybuck has been a solid goalie for them over the past few years.

Middle School Basketball Interview with Coach Negrin By Michael West

What are your core philosophies with coaching basketball?

To me, I believe in playing fast on the court both on offensive and defensive. I try my best to take my core principle of pushing the tempo from when I played high school basketball as a point guard, to try and teach the players how to play the game in transition. I want our team to gain offense off of their defense, and always have more shot attempts than our opponent. Additionally, I am a big proponent of communication on the basketball court, as a strong defense is one that talks non-stop.

What were your fondest memories of playing the game when you were my age?

December 17, 2027. This was a Friday night game my senior year where we took on our rival Xavier High School at their gym. Tickets were sold out two weeks prior to the game, and the winner of the game gained sole possession of first place in the division headed into the Christmas break. There was a lot of passion about this game because the year before, we beat them by one point in front of their sell out crowd, so they wanted a chance at redemption. Our student section was rowdy, and so was their student section. Neutral fans from all over New York City attended the game, as there were close to 2500 people packed in the gym. As the point guard, it was my job to control the offense, provide the energy on the defensive end, and make sure that my teammates had level heads during the entire game. Opening play, I was able to steal the basketball from their center in the low post, and took it coast to coast for an "And 1", which sent our crowd into a frenzy. We never looked back and won the game by 6.

Who was your favorite player when you were a kid, and who do you like now?

My favorite player growing up was Michael Jordan, and he is still my favorite player. I just loved how he competed, turning every single second of his life into an inner competition against himself. He had a fire in him that I never saw in an athlete before, and just the way he played the game day-in and day-out gave me the chills. Today, I am a big fan of Kevin Durant. The way in which he uses his size to create his jump shot, while also using his athleticism to get to the rim is a great combination. I have enjoyed watching Durant since his time at Texas.

If you could change one thing about the game and the way it is played today what would it be?

I would change the style of the game a bit, as I would want it to revert back to the basketball that was played in the 90s. The 90s provided more of a physical sport, like smash mouth basketball. Today's game is played from the outside in, rather than the inside out. Players take comfort in having open shots because the overall defense is much weaker than the 90s, hence the higher scoring games.