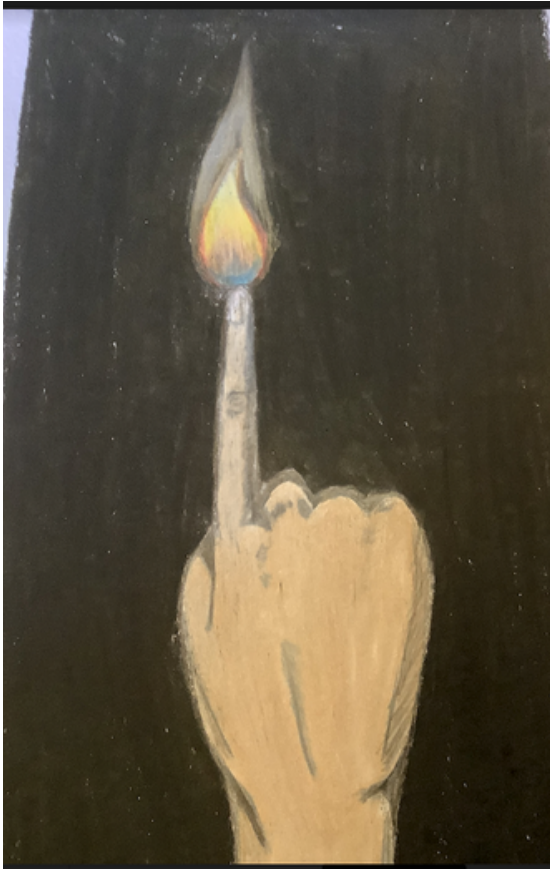


PHOENIX NEWS

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Inktober is a month-long drawing challenge that takes place during the month of October. Creators are challenged to create an ink drawing every day and share their work.



On the left rotating clockwise:  
Avah Garcia (Above)  
Alia Lara  
Mr. Edward Cellar (to the right)

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# Top 5 Tech Tips!

By Joseph Martinez

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At times being a virtual academy student can be tough due to technology glitches that accidentally erase our work or at times causes us to enter late to class. Thankfully these and many other issues can be resolved with some tech tips.

## The Favorites Bar



**Add your commonly used websites to your favorites bar**

1. The first step to add a website to your favorites bar is to open a tab by clicking on the Microsoft edge button which is at the bottom left corner of your screen
2. when you open the tab you can start to type in your commonly used website on either one of the search bars at the top of the tab.
3. After you reach the website you should see a star with a plus sign on top of the star at the top right corner of the screen. Once you spot the icon press it.
4. When you press the icon, a menu should appear which should show the name, folder, and more options, but for now, you can adjust the name of their website and click done.

Finally, you can access the favorites bar by opening a tab and tapping the name of the website.

## Charged devices



Having a dead battery just renders any and every electronic useless for that reason you should always have your computer charged. The main reason you should have your computer charged is so you don't have to be late to class.

## Control keys to copy, cut & paste

**Ctrl, C:** When you want to bring some info from one area to another an easy shortcut is to highlight the text or photos and click Ctrl C. When you copied the info then you can go to your word doc or anywhere you can type and paste the info.

**Ctrl, V:** Once you have copied the info you will need then you can paste the information to any of your documents by pressing Ctrl, V.

**Ctrl, Z:** After pasting the information to your documents maybe you made a mistake so you need a shortcut to undo the paste. The easiest shortcut to undo a mistake you have made is to press Ctrl, Z at the same time.

## Saving and creating work in Google Drive

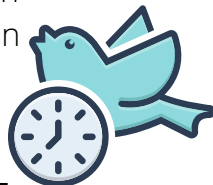


1. Open the google drive website
2. After you sign in to your google drive account you will press the plus sign with the name new
3. Once you press the icon you will be met with a menu with different options called new folder, file upload, folder upload, google docs, google sheets, google slides, and google folders
4. Once you select what you want to do from either uploading a file or creating a file you can drag and drop a file to the upload file area on the google drive screen or you can edit the file you created.



## Entering your class room 5-7 mins. early

By entering your class 5 to 7 minutes early you can ensure that the k12 site is working and that your wifi is functional. Apart from this, you can also send an email or a reminder to your teacher just in case anything isn't working.



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# Virtual Academy Staff that's on "fire"

Journalism students take the time to get to know some of the VA teachers

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## Ms. Maribel Valdez, Principal

Interview by Kirshna Chengankal



Being a principal of a school comes with multiple challenges but being a principal of the first-ever virtual school in South Texas is a big job with its own set of challenges. Luckily STISD Virtual Academy home of the Phoenixes, has Ms. Valdez, "being a principal at VA is not that different from being a principal at a face-to-face campus". Ms. Valdez's optimistic personality bubbles over to her plans for the future of VA and promises that new additions are incoming.

Her favorite holiday is Christmas, "It allows me to spend that precious time with family, and being able to give is my favorite part". Being a very busy principal, Ms. Valdez does not have many hobbies, but one of them is gardening. Ms. Valdez says she is a novice gardener and is still learning more. Learning to garden is not the only achievement she is proud of either. Her greatest achievement would be this school, but she didn't do this tremendous task by herself and wishes to give credit where it is due.

## Mrs. Monica Perez, ELA teacher grades 7th-8th

Interview by Camila Rojas

Ms. Perez is one of the English teachers in the Virtual Academy and is the definition of fun! She has been a teacher for six years and loves diving into fiction stories. Her favorite fiction novels are the Harry Potter series and she proudly represents the Ravenclaw House. Mrs. Perez always finds herself rereading them because they are not only magical but bring comfort. J.K. Rowling's literature is not the only thing that brings her happiness one of her favorite things to do is spend time with her family and three dogs.



However, do not let Mrs. Perez's love for contemporary fiction fool you, she has a soft spot for *To Kill a Mockingbird*, written by Harper Lee. The book is about the consequences of racism and prejudice. As she is breaking down the novel to me she goes into detail about how the book provides a great explanation of how good and evil can coexist within a single community or individual.

"It was a real eye-opener in many ways. It made me want to be more empathetic toward others," she says. Luckily for her students, Mrs. Perez's enthusiasm for reading is contagious.

## Mr. Edward Cellar, Art teacher

Interview by Raziel Garcia

In normal circumstances, Mr. Cellar taught face-to-face, but due to Covid-19 hitting, he converted to a virtual school setting. One of the hardest challenges he has faced as a virtual teacher is getting materials for his students. Besides this downside, he did mention that there are multiple positive aspects.

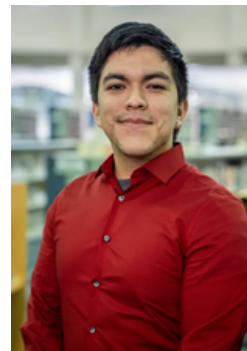


He expressed it is nice to see his students grow and learn how to navigate art in a virtual setting. Mr. Cellar teaches a variety of art techniques throughout the year but his favorite style is "contemporary nowism" and his students are his favorite artists.

Speaking of students, Mr. Cellar labels himself as a student and not an artist or creator. Although he has been creating at a young age he knows learning is continuous and adopted the belief that he will simply always "be a revolving student learning more as he goes". As for inspiration, Mr. Cellar sees nature elements as one of his many main inspirations due to the patterns and different rhymes. He also notes books, music, spontaneity, and as odd as it may sound, coffee.

## Mr. James Galvan, History teacher grades 6th-8th.

Interview by Joseph Martinez



Mr. Galvan describes himself as a Legacy Educator, and being an educator is his family's "unofficial trade." Not only did his parents impact his career choice, but he explained that his parents provided "a great childhood and driven to keep things running smoothly which created a solid foundation for his childhood". These are aspects Mr. Galvan brings into his classroom in his new professional home of STISD VA for his third year of teaching.

The perks that come with being an educator such as the consistency in the schedule are what sold Mr. Galvan into being a teacher. However, like any job teaching does have some negative aspects. In his case, his need to be perfect can be difficult to put aside in the classroom.

Mr. Galvan's favorite food is Chinese, a passion he found when attending college in Houston. He is also no stranger to pets as he has Jelly, a female canine, 2 felines, Lucy and Chi a Siamese, and Mrs. Kipling, a leopard gecko he classes a pet he kept since his first year teaching.

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# Roast or Rave Reviews

Staff of the journalism class either roast or rave about trending pop culture

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## Overwatch 2 review by Krishna Chengankal

Overwatch 2 is a free-to-play, team-based action game set in the optimistic future created by Blizzard Entertainment, where every match is a 5v5 battlefield brawl. The game intends to completely replace its predecessor "Overwatch" and not exist alongside it.

Overwatch 2 has its playable characters fit into 3 roles: Damage, Tank, and Support. Overwatch 2 breathes new life into its game with its fresh new playing style 5v5. In "Overwatch" the battle format was 6v6, Blizzard removed a member from each team to make it a 5v5. Many characters have been reworked in order to fit the new 5v5 style.. 3 new characters have been added to the game's roster in addition to its predecessors 32.

In fact, one for each class has joined. A brand new game mode has also been added called 'Push'. It's basically a game of tug of war but with a robot pushing a barrier to the other side based on which team is closest to him. This mode does a great job of consolidating the fight into one place. Each team also has the same goal.

All in all, I would say that Overwatch 2 is a great game but I still wouldn't say that it will place the original.

Rating: 👍 Rave, It's all right, not for everyone



Photo courtesy Blizzard



Photo courtesy DisneyPlus+

## Hocus Pocus 2 review by Raziel Garcia

The film *Hocus Pocus 2* is the sequel to the first one that was released back in 1993. My mom was just a kid when she saw it and said it actually took quite the cult following afterward.

The movie goes into a past-type introduction of how the Sanders sisters became witches. Two decades later it forwards to our modern times similar to the first movie where the main part of the story took place during that time period, the 90s. Not only is there a singing scene similar to the first movie but this time they have also included a flash mob dance number which adds to its quirky humor. The movie may not be the same as the first one but that is the charm and now the new generation has its own version. It is a fun movie to watch.

Rating: 👍 Rave, A new take on a classic, perfect for the new generation.

## The Car by Arctic Monkeys review by Bianca Olivares



The Arctic Monkeys released their seventh studio album, 'The Car,' on Oct. 21, 2022 The Car was written by frontman Alex Turner and produced by James Ford. Something that the band expresses is that the album "runs wild in a new and sumptuous musical landscape," adding that it "contains some of the richest and most rewarding vocal performances of Alex Turner's career". The album has an emotional feel and the vibe has a deeper side to it. My favorite song is Miirrorball and enjoys the rhythm. I would highly recommend it to people.

Rave: 👍 This album is a good comeback for them.



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# Latte's Cafe

Jump into the world of culinary fantasy where Camila Rojas recreates recipes from books, tv, movies, and more

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For this spooky season, there's nothing more magical than going on a Harry Potter marathon. A common fruit used throughout the Harry Potter series are pumpkins, which Hagrid grows in his garden ( in loving memory of the late Robbie Coltrane) and when Harry breaks his arm he's given pumpkin juice which is supposed to taste terrible. Instead of making horrible pumpkin juice, I recreated a popular treat that is given on the train to Hogwarts by the HoneyDukes Express, Pumpkin Pasties. Pumpkin Pasties are similar to Cornish pasties, which have a savory taste. Pumpkin pasties have a creamy sweet filling a crunchy outer shell.

Time: 1 hour 30 minutes

Difficulty: 1/5

## Ingredients:

### Pastry Crusts:

- 1 ¼ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon granulated sugar
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 5 tablespoons cold unsalted butter, cut into pieces
- 3 tablespoons vegetable shortening
- 6 tablespoons ice water

### Filling:

- 1 cup canned pumpkin puree
- ¼ cup granulated sugar
- 1 egg
- ¼ teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg ( or ground nutmeg)
- ¼ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ¼ teaspoon ground ginger
- 2 tablespoons sweetened condensed milk (optional)
- 2 pinches of salt
- ½ teaspoon 5 Chinese spice powder.



## Steps:

1. Place the flour, sugar, and salt in the bowl of a food processor (if not use a blender)Pulse a few times to combine. Add the butter and shortening and pulse about 12 times until the mixture resembles a coarse yellow meal, with no white powder bits remaining.
2. Transfer the mixture to a flat surface. Sprinkle 4 tablespoons of cold water over the mixture and begin to knead until it all clumps together. If it's too dry add more water 1 tablespoon at a time (it is better too wet than too dry). Gather the dough into a ball and then pat it into a disk. Wrap it in plastic wrap and refrigerate it for at least 1 hour.
3. Combine the Pumpkin, sugar, egg, nutmeg, cinnamon, ginger, sweetened condensed milk, salt, and 5 Chinese spice powder in a bowl and mix together well.
4. Preheat the oven to 400 F. Roll out the dough ⅛-inch thick. Use a Saucer to cut out 6-inch circles.
5. Put 2 to 3 tablespoons of filling in the center of each circle of dough. Moisten the edges with water, fold the dough over the filling, and crimp with a fork to seal the edges. Cut skits to make vents.
6. Bake on an ungreased cookie sheet for 30 minutes or until golden brown



Wands up for Actor Robbie Coltrane who played Hagrid in the Harry Potter franchise.  
March 30,1950-October 14,2022

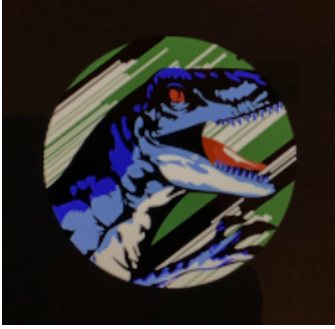


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# Meet the Phoenix Journalism Team!

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## Meet Joseph Martinez



Joseph is a 10th grader with the Virtual Academy. He likes to play video games to pass the time. Joseph's favorite game is called Hearts of Iron 4 also known as HIO4.

Another pass time of his is watching movies. His favorite movie is Wall-E.

## Meet Bianca Olivares

Bianca is a sophomore at the Virtual Academy. She likes to listen to music and watch anime. Bianca also enjoys going on walks and watching Netflix with her sibling.



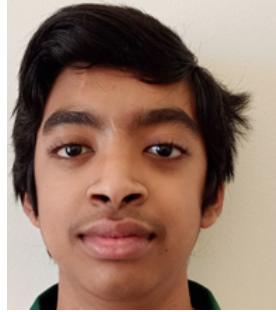
In her free time, she likes to dye her hair any color from the rainbow.

## Meet Camila Rojas



Camila Rojas who prefers to go by the name "Latte", is a freshman from Virtual Academy. She enjoys everything fantasy and has a passion for creating art. As a Multi-Hobbyist she enjoys many activities, some include cooking, writing, video games, board games, collecting art books, sword fighting, watching shows, and learning about chemistry.

## Meet Krishna Chengankal



Krishna is in his freshmen year with the Virtual Academy. He enjoys reading, gaming, watching anime, and riding his bike. His favorite anime is One Piece.

## Meet Raziell Garcia

Raziell is a sophomore at Virtual Academy. He enjoys video games and walking/playing with his dogs. His favorite food is lasagna and his favorite class is History. One of his favorite topics to study are the Egyptian Gods.



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If you are interested in contributing to the Phoenix Newspaper please contact [roberta.zamilpa@stisd.net](mailto:roberta.zamilpa@stisd.net)