

EYE OF THE GALE

2021—2022

Volume 2

Mark of
Excellence

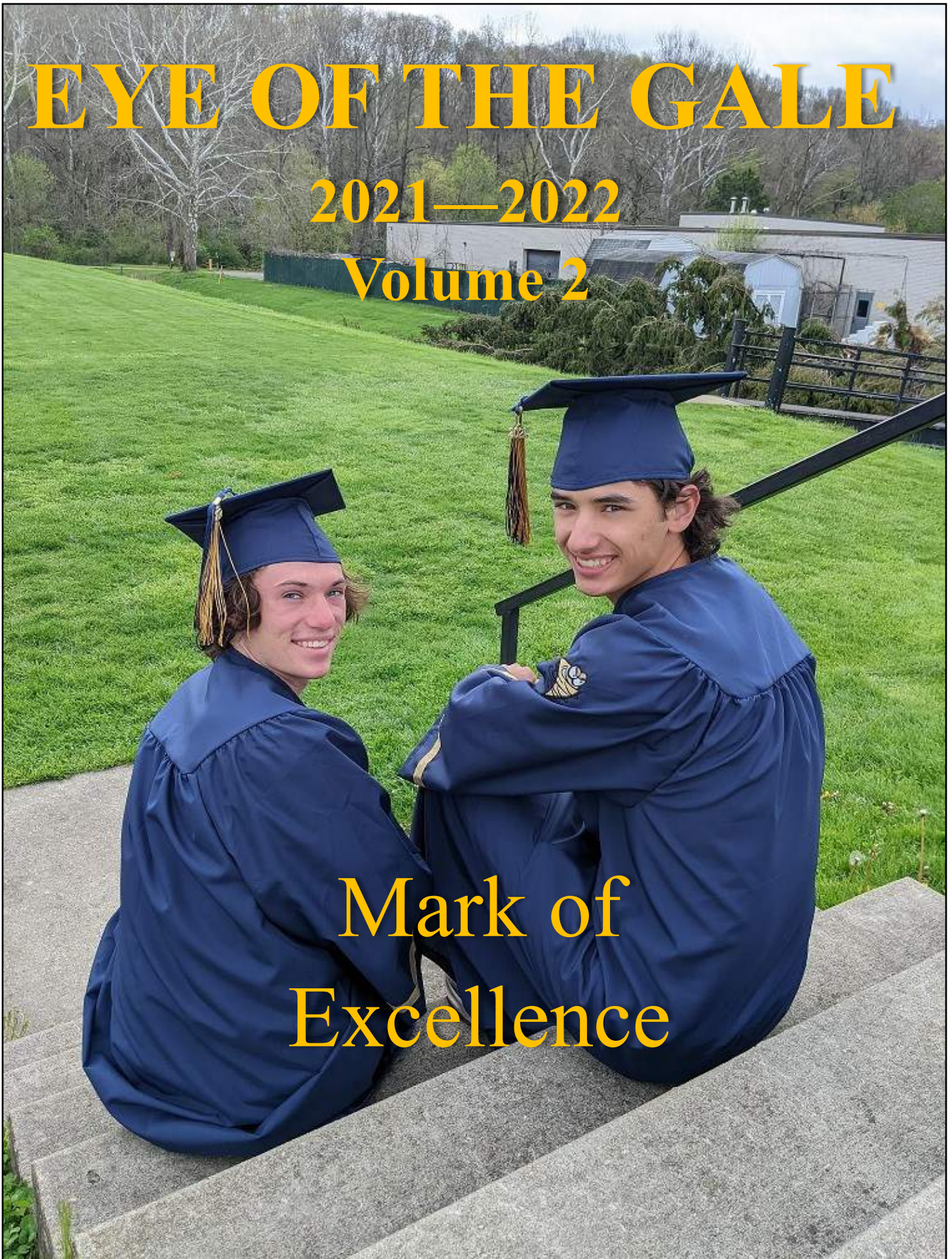


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Front Row: Brianna Allman, Lillian Wright, Bella Hershey, Carter Schorr.

Middle Row: Jaxon Delong, Alexis Fleshman.

Back Row: Trinity Kiger, Sydney Vanover, Abby Rushin, Ethan Masten, Laura Overby, Tiffany Ford II, Nick Wolfe, Peyton Scarbro.



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High Rank Students Recognized *Last Valedictorian & Salutatorian for LHS*

By T. Kiger, Art Director

The final LHS Valedictorian and Salutatorian in the history of Lancaster High School was announced for the graduating class of 2022. The valedictorian is Jonah Hoffmann-Weitsman and the salutatorian is Owen McCandlish.

Beginning with the class of 2023, LHS will no longer award these traditional designations so these distinctions are especially rewarding for the recipients who said they worked hard to earn and are excited to have fulfilled their goals. Valedictorian is awarded to the students with the highest academic ranking and Salutatorian is awarded to the second highest.

"It's a goal I've been striving for since I first got to the high school, and to finally reach it makes me feel very accomplished," said Hoffmann-Weitsman.

"I had to sacrifice some fun nights with friends to focus on my work from time to time; but all in all the entire process taught me a lot and I wouldn't have wanted it another way," he said.

Class ranking is a mathematical summary of a student's academic record compared to those of other students in the class. It usually takes into account both the degree of difficulty of the courses a student is taking such as AP, honors, college-preparatory or regular courses and the grade the student earns. The compilation of courses and grades is converted to an overall grade point average (GPA), and the higher the GPA, the higher



**Class of 2022 Valedictorian
Jonah Hoffmann-Weitsman and
Salutatorian Owen McCandlish.**

the student's class ranking ("Class Rank & College Admission").

"Being at the top of your class is extremely stressful and takes quite a bit of work to keep up. Everyone at the top of their class at a school our size gets all A's, so the only way to separate yourself from the next guy is to take more classes," said McCandlish.

"This whole process is a knife-edge of taking enough classes to stay ahead while not overwhelming yourself and tumbling off the pedestal of perfection," he said.

The highest academic rankings are something that helps students be successful in their futures and prepare for the challenges ahead.

"I think that being Valedictorian will have a very positive impact on my future simply for the confidence that it gives me in my abilities. By

reaching this goal, it makes me confident that I'll be able to reach my other future goals, and gives me momentum going into college," said Hoffmann-Weitsman.

"If I can get through years of poor sleep and laughable amounts of free time, what in my future could possibly be too daunting to overcome?" said McCandlish.

In addition to class rank and GPA, colleges and universities consider a student's leadership experience, extracurricular activities,

part-time work experience, personal statements, essays, and teacher and counselor recommendations for admission ("Class Rank & College Admission"). The current trend over the last few years suggest that many high schools, like LHS, are doing away with the traditional top two academic distinctions to include more students who excel in academics.

According to the current student handbook, next year LHS will transition to the Latin Honors system that will classify graduation honors as Summa Cum Laude (With Highest Honor), Magna Cum Laude (With Great Honor), and Cum Laude (With Honor).

Steve Spangler, Director of Secondary Education, said the transition will allow many more students to be recognized at graduation.

"Latin honors are highly coveted graduation distinctions that mark tremendous academic achievement. With this change, LHS will continue to recognize and celebrate students who excel and achieve at the highest level academically," he said.



**Steve Spangler, LCS
Director of Secondary
Education.**

The Test of Time

Tenured teachers reflect on long careers

By C. Schorr, *Sports Editor*

Bruce Gerken and Doug Moos are the two longest tenured teachers at Lancaster High School. Mr. Gerken has been teaching for 44 years and is the percussion instructor. Mr. Moos is currently in his 39th year as a teacher and is the manufacturing and welding teacher. Their experiences are a culmination of forming positive relationships with their students and contributing to their academic and personal growth.

Bruce Gerken



Mr. Gerken leading students at Percussion Ensemble practice.

Mr. Gerken has enjoyed watching his students mature over the years. He has worked with many of his students since they were in Elementary school.

“Most of the students that I have I started in the fifth or sixth grade. During this time you see a maturing process and development which usually is quite amazing.”

His students have made some special achievements as well. Some

have even earned various awards.

“Several have earned their doctorates, are published composers, teach at universities around the United States, work in public schools such as I do and have distinguished themselves in many areas of their profession.”

Gerken has built a supporting bond between his students and their families. He helps his students reach their full potential.

“Supportive of their future goals and to help them in achieving their goals. You also develop a relationship with the entire family as they become involved with the various activities of their children.”

Everyone goes through changes. It’s how they react to those changes that shows their character.

“Changes and challenges are a part of life! Everyone must adapt to the changes that they encounter and show leadership in resolving the issues and direction within their control to be successful! This is not always easy but it is essential to be doing the right thing in their area of responsibility and the program



Photo courtesy of Adobe Stock.

they are in charge of,” Gerken said.

Gerken has plans after he retires. He would like to get some of his work published.

“After retirement I would like to slow down a bit and work on getting some of my Percussion Ensemble arrangements published.”

LHS Junior Ryan Russo has worked with Mr. Gerken for several years. He said Gerken is a disciplined instructor but also a compassionate teacher.



Mr. Gerken with senior Cora Dunn.

“Mr. Gerken is a very tough, but caring teacher. He is the only teacher I have had for five years straight, and throughout that time, he has shown me time and time again that you can do almost anything through hard work,” said Russo.

Gerken’s class is very direct and unique. Russo explains what makes his class different from others.

“Being taught by Mr. Gerken is a different experience from every other class I have taken, mainly due to the fact that learning how to play instruments like Xylophones and Drums is very hands-on. When Mr. Gerken teaches, it isn’t like a science class where everyone sits at their seats and tries to not fall asleep.”

Doug Moos



Mr. Moos helps students with manufacturing basics.

Doug Moos, another has made special connections with his students over the years and created many job opportunities for seniors. LHS senior Dylan Echard said that Moos is an instructor that helps students transition into real life careers and take a personal interest in his students’ successes.

“Mr. Moos is more than just a teacher. He actually just helped me with a job opportunity where he actually met me there and toured around with me,” said Echard.

Burre said that one of Moos’ best qualities is the way he has connected with his students over the years.

“The relationships he creates with all types of students. Mr. Moos will always tell you the truth and embodies what an LHS teacher should be. “He loves coming to work at LHS everyday to be around kids.”

Good teachers know that making strong connections with students is one of the factors that help students succeed personally, academically, and professionally.

Echard looks at Moos as more than his teacher.

He said Moos is also a friend with whom he has made great memories over the years.

“He always jokes around in class and to most of us seniors, he’s more like a friend than a teacher.

We have lots of little inside jokes

and good memories from his class from the last four years. He’s a very memorable teacher and a good friend,” said Echard.

Moos has experienced multiple generations at LHS. In fact, his son, Tony also teaches at LHS and some current teachers here had Moos as a teacher when they were in high



LHS senior
Dylan Echard.

school.

“I started teaching in the fall of 1983. Some of my first students are teachers now, like Mr. Phillips, Mr. Hedges and several others in the building. Seeing them grow up and seeing what they do as adults, it’s fun to see them

grow up and see what they accomplish.”

Technology has been a major change for Mr. Moos. He isn’t the biggest fan of the new technology.

“The chromebook and the internet, I’m not a big fan of it. When I did my masters at Bowling Green I wrote programs for Apple when it first came out.”

After he retires, Moos plans to visit Alaska. If he checks that off his bucket list he will have traveled to every state in the U.S.

“I might get that done. I’ve already traveled everywhere I wanted to go. I spend a lot of time hunting, archery and goose hunting so that’s what I’ll probably do. I’d also like to work at the new high school.”



Doug Moos and students.

Taking Care of Business

Student entrepreneurs take lead via Instagram

By E. Masten, *Entertainment Editor*

With the advent of social media platforms like Instagram, many teenagers are becoming young entrepreneurs. These self-led businesses are being used as a hobby, mode of income, and a method of creative expression. According to a 2022 survey from Junior Achievement USA, 60 percent of teens want to launch their own businesses instead of working regular jobs (CNBC News).

Lancaster High School senior Leandria Brandt is thankful that social media has allowed her to create a small business. She claims the internet provides unique opportunities to promote her business and build a customer base.

"I started my business because I love making jewelry as a hobby and I love connecting with others. So I thought, what better way to do both things? Start a business! I think there's a lot of opportunities for small businesses now because of the internet and social media and how people view small businesses now! There are so many ways to reach people and sell your product!"

LHS sophomore Madison DeMi-



Jewelry made by DeMichael. Photos courtesy of DeMichael.



Leandria Brandt. Photo courtesy of Brandt.

chael thinks that owning a business is a challenging, but worthwhile experience. She advises others to prepare well in advance before launching a business.

"Personally, I think it's a great

idea to start a business, but only after researching and knowing how much time it takes. Owning a business can be really tough. Challenges can include; consumer interest decreases, taking up lots of time, among other things. But owning a business can also teach important life skills like time management, budgeting, social interaction, etc."

The same Junior Achievement USA survey also suggests that nearly two in five teens surveyed said their inspiration for entrepreneurship mostly comes from social media influ-



Madison DeMichael. Photo courtesy of DeMichael.

encers and celebrities. The survey indicated that nearly half of teens want to learn how to run a business from current business owners and almost 40 percent of teens surveyed would be interested in learning about entrepreneurship through a school program (CNBC News).

LHS sophomore Riley Semmons admires young entrepreneurs.

"I think it's great that young people are taking the initiative and finding really creative ways to market themselves."

DeMichael said she is encouraged by the growth of student entrepreneurship and appreciates the new opportunities that the internet provides for young business owners.

"There are so many small businesses out there that work so hard to create things that they love, and think other people will love too. It's a really supportive community as well as everyone being so friendly.

Being able to show people what you love while also making an income is probably one of my favorite things about being an en-



Riley Semmons. Photo courtesy of Semmons.

Teacher by Day Superhero by Night

Why LHS teachers take on multiple jobs

By L. Wright, Co-Photography Editor

One in six teachers work a second job according to the Pew Research Center. The National Education Association also recently reported that about 20 percent of teachers work multiple jobs during the school year which accounts for nine percent of their annual income.

Several LHS educators who work full time at school also work part-time jobs after school and on the weekend. Their reasons differ. LHS French teacher Daniel Schleichert told Eye of the Gale that he has been a referee for years as a personal hobby.

“I started refereeing hockey in college after ending my playing career. It was a great part time job that paid very well. I got to make my own schedule, and I was still part of the game I love so much while giving back to the community and teaching players the game. It was also a great way to get exercise.”

LHS history teacher Richard Hines said working a second job adds to his income.

“Teachers’ pay in their early years is low so side jobs are often used to make ends meet. This is especially true in order to pay student loans. I’ve kept the job because over the years I’ve averaged a higher hourly rate than I receive teaching.”

LHS teacher Krista Begley said working her second job at a pizza establishment is difficult.

“The biggest challenge with having this part time job is exhaustion. Sometimes, I do not get a day off during the work week. I could possibly work 10 to 14 days

in a row depending on my part-time job hours and school hours. It is crazy!”

These super-teachers said working two jobs takes up a large portion of their free time.

“An average week for me consists of teaching Monday through Friday.

On the weekends starting Friday afternoons, I am usually gearing up to ref anywhere from two to eight hockey games over the course of the weekend. When I am not refing, I spend time with my wife doing a variety of things from finding a good restaurant to try, go on mini weekend excursions, or find something to do outside of the house,” Schleichert stated.

“An average week at school looks like a 40-plus hour weekday work week. An average week for my part time job is just working on the weekends about 5 or so hours a shift.



LHS teacher and hockey referee Daniel Schleichert.
Photo courtesy of Schleichert.

I work my part time job maybe three to four times a month so it is much more flexible than my teaching hours. My part time job is only open from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Monday to Sunday while school is open during the weekdays,” said Begley.

“Teach Monday-Friday. Work at the bar Friday through Saturday night from 9:00 p.m. to 3:30 a.m. I typically work seven to fifteen hours a week at the bar,” said Hines.

Elizabeth Heubeck, the author of *Side Hustles and Second Jobs: Teachers Still Feel Pressure to Earn More Money*, teachers often need to find a second income.

“Inadequate pay is a long-standing issue for teachers, says Nick Kauzlarich of the Economic Policy Institute, whose research reveals that public K–12 teachers are paid nearly 20 percent less than college-educated, non-teaching peers.” (Heubeck).



LHS teacher
Richard Hines.
Photo courtesy of
Hines.



LHS teacher
Krista Begley.
Photo courtesy of
Begley.

Connecting at All the Right Angles

Teacher squares it up for students

By J. Delong, *Gales Tales* Editor

Having taught for sixteen years, Lancaster High School geometry teacher, Faith Spires, has figured out how to inspire students to achieve academically. As the focus of the *Eye of The Gale's* teacher spotlight article, Spires said she uses a few strategies that intersect connecting, caring, and communication.

"I think we are all guilty of looking down at our phones investing our time into people we will never meet. I think it's important to look up and invest our time into people right in front of us," she said.

In an article published by the Harvard Graduate School of Education, counselor and educator Megan Marcus said that just one positive relationship with a caring adult can actually change the brain's development, heal trauma, and promote learning (Cacciatore).

"Educators have the potential to utilize this power. Many do organically, through naturally forming secure relationships. But we could do so much more if educators were equipped with the skills and self-awareness to systematically do this work," explained Marcus.

Spires said that she tries to understand the challenges that students are going through and knows that young students sometimes have a difficult time focusing on core subjects like mathematics when they are dealing with social and personal issues.

"Life can be hard. The best things in my life are results of

things that I didn't want to do, but fought through anyways," stated Spires.

LHS sophomore, Rosalia Villa-Barbour said that sometimes the teacher's attitude can make all the difference in a student's day to day life at school.

"In a classroom she likes to have fun and makes people happy. She knows when it's time to be serious and I have never seen her get really angry at a student, she seems to keep her cool and keep calm," stated Villa-Barbour.

Connecting with students and being able to read their behavior may often prevent behavior problems and increase communication between students and teachers. When students arrive in a classroom at any given time during the school day, teachers may not have a clue as to what the student has experienced before coming into the classroom or how students are feeling emotionally.

"Mrs. Spires has helped many people with struggles or just put



Faith Spires.

Photo courtesy of Spires.

some people in a better mood. I know sometimes I would be in a bad mood and walk into her class and she'd be doing something ridiculous that I just can't hold back laughing," stated Villa-Barbour.

The American Psychological Association stated that a student's relationships with teachers are not only

important for academic success but a trusting student-teacher relationship may also have a positive effect on a student's social development.

LHS sophomore Brienna Beatty said Mrs. Spires tries to support students in many ways beyond math skills.

"She helps students out with problems in our lives and for school, so students know they can go to her for help," said LHS sophomore Brienna Beatty.

"She really makes class fun and encourages us to do and finish our work, when we get things right she cheers for us but overall she is an amazing person and teacher," stated Beatty.

Effective student-teacher relationships are a two-way street. Students should let teachers know how they are feeling and respect that teachers have lives outside of school and struggle with their own personal issues. Keeping a positive attitude can make a difficult school year better for all.



Rosalia Villa-Barbour.

Photo courtesy of Villa-Barbour.



Brienna Beatty.

Photo courtesy of Beatty.

A Fresh Start

How new students find a home at LHS

By I. Hershey, *Website and Design editor*

Moving to a new school can be challenging, but transferring to a new school doesn't have to be a negative experience. Moving to a new school can lead to fresh starts, new friendships, and could spark new interests.

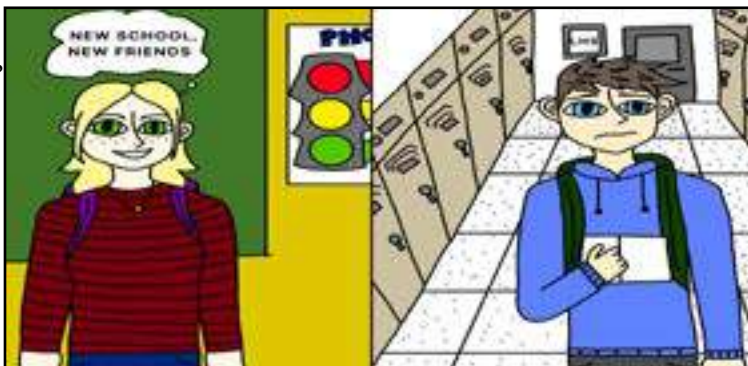
LHS welcomed a variety of new students this school year. Faced with challenges such as adapting to a new school and making friends, the new students shared their first experiences of what it feels like to be a new student here at Lancaster High School. LHS freshman Blake Hunter said part of acclimating to a new school is finding like-minded people.

"I think the most challenging thing about going to a new school is adjusting to a new schedule and finding people that are like me or have some of the same interests as me," he said.

New sophomore, Ayla Vandeneynnden agreed with Hunter. She said becoming comfortable in a new school is about finding your niche.

"I am a naturally shy person so it was a struggle but I just sought out people who were like me by joining the GSA, and just generally talking to people who I saw had similar interests to me" said new LHS sophomore Ayla Vandeneynnden.

According to an article pub-



Original art by Trinity Kiger, *Eye of the Gale*.

lished by the education website, Eutopia, more than 6.5 million K-12 students in the U.S. change schools during the academic year (Tutt). Being the new kid in school is never easy and adapting to a new school environment can be a lonely



New LHS students sophomore Ayla Vandeneynnden, and freshmen Blake Hunter and Ethan Love.

experience. But new freshman Ethan Love said he welcomed a change in schools this year.

"I get to make new friends and have a fresh start where people don't know me," he said.

Although making new friends is a benefit of attending a new school, transferring in the middle of a school year can feel daunting. Jacqueline Jewett, a science teacher at LHS said when new students transfer to a different school, it can

be a struggle for students and teachers alike.

"By midyear, cliques have already formed and it can be difficult to break into an already formed group of friends. Students can feel very alone" she said.

"Trying to find the time to get an individual student caught up with two to three weeks of previous work can be quite a challenge," said Jewett.

There are many reasons why students switch schools; a parent's new job, custody issues, or expulsion, for example, and moving can greatly impact a student's academic achievement and make it challenging to forge new meaningful relationships that keep students connected to school (Tutt). While it may be scary to move to a new school, everyone can do something to help with the

transition. Current students can make new students feel welcomed and teachers can help new students foster positive peer relationships by creating student partnerships in the classroom. One of the keys in making a successful transition from one school to another is for new students to be proactive by getting involved in clubs, sports, and extra-curricular activities.

"Go out of your way to meet people in your classes. Introduce yourself to those students that are sitting around you" said Jewett.

The Future of Career Tech

New LHS director shares insight

By Isaac Hall, *staff writer*

The Career Technical program at Lancaster High School has a new principal. Caroline Davis, a graduate of the University of Kentucky, has been in career education for over 20 years. Part of her responsibilities as the new Career Tech Director and Associate Principal at LHS is to improve student learning, instruction, and opportunities for students in business and industry. Prior to LHS, she worked in two other career centers in Ohio. Davis, who was a career technical student in high school, said she benefited greatly from the experience.

“My passion is Career Tech because of the life-changing opportunities it can provide to students,” she said. So far, Davis said her first year at LHS has been great and that there has been much to learn about the various career and technical programs at the high school and at Stanbery.

“I have found the staff here to truly care about meeting the needs of our students,” she said. When asked about what she hopes to accomplish in the near future with the Career Tech program, Davis said that she wants to provide more career awareness and exploration for the middle and elementary schools.

“Career awareness is important at each grade level so that students are able to develop their career interests to engage in their learning. It helps them to connect the dots between school and career that will keep them motivated to graduate with the skills they will need for the future,” she said.

Dain Michelsen, who teaches Multimedia at Stanbery said Davis has brought a new perspective and enthusiasm to the CT program.



**New LHS
Associate Principal and
CT Director,
Caroline Davis.**

about having a new principal.

“My first impression of Mrs. Davis was someone who had a lot of experience managing a Career Tech program and was willing to help me succeed,” she said.

“The new principal has impacted the Career Tech program by engaging in new opportunities to inform the student body about available

programs,” said Cain.

Another goal Davis said she

hopes to accomplish is to make the Career Tech program more relevant to the needs and career goals of LHS students and the community. Davis said LHS is fortunate

to have strong support from a community that wants to partner with our schools.

“The local partners include Ohio University - Lancaster, Hocking College, the Workforce Center and several businesses that want to make our students successful so that our entire community benefits,” she said.

“The partnerships that I have been a part of in this first year make me so excited to see what else we can do in the coming years.”



2021 - 2022 CT Students learning their craft.

“Mrs. Davis is very passionate about Career Tech and about helping students achieve more. We, meaning the CT Department, are looking forward to working with Mrs. Davis to expand the opportunities our CT programs offer and focus on informing more individuals in the district and local community about CT,” said Michelsen.

Animal Science teacher Lauren Cain said that she is optimistic

In The Know

LHS trivia group looking for new members

By B. Allman, *Sports Editor*

Chances are most LHS students are clueless about In The Know, the LHS competitive trivia club. Although an email was sent out to the entire student body inviting students to join, only three out of 1,838 kids responded. The LHS In The Know team competes against other school teams in a jeopardy-like competition show that is produced and aired on WO-SU-TV.

The club gives students a chance to show off their knowledge. One of LHS's government teachers and the sponsor of the trivia group, Corey Conn said that students need a platform that allows them to demonstrate their academic capabilities.

"Our teachers and staff do a great job in preparing them throughout their educational careers and this platform allows them to showcase their talents," said Conn.

LHS junior, Isaac Cooperrider, joined after receiving the email from Mr. Conn calling on students to join the group. He thinks it is important for students to get involved and use their educational skills in a competitive environment.

"I think there is a negative stigma against being smart and I personally think that is unbelievable," he said.

Cooperrider, said he has experienced bullying first hand directed towards smarter than aver-

age students throughout his athletic career and he appreciates that the academic trivia club has an inclusive and respectful dynamic.

"Anyone is welcome to come and participate, and who knows, maybe you'll win a gift card," he said.



Introduction for "In The Know" Trivia Show.
Photo Courtesy of WOSU.org.

The long-standing high school quiz show was created in the 1960's by John Haldi and Carl Papai. WO-SU-TV began broadcasting In the Know in the 1982-83 school year.

The program is hosted by Bill Schiffman, who has hosted the show for thirty-seven years. He said he loves to see the students getting

comfortable with their intellect and knowledge as they compete for speed and accuracy.

"It can be difficult for many students to be the smartest kid in the room and we try to make them proud of their achievements," said Schiffman.

"It's very refreshing in today's culture of misinformation to see students searching for facts," he said.

The objective of the competition is to score the most points, earned by correctly answering questions of any random topic asked by the host. Schiffman asks questions of eight students, four on each team, with the judge tabulating the scores.

More than 500,000 dollars has been awarded in scholarships to student participants.

Historically Lancaster High School has competed in the quiz tournaments held at Ohio State University for all of Central Ohio every year.

Although the Covid pandemic restrictions affected the tournament

in recent years, the trivia team has been meeting this school year to practice their academic skills. They play Kahoot games on specific topics and the winners are rewarded with a gift card.



In The Know TV show host, Bill Schiffman.
Photo Courtesy of WOSU.



LHS juinior Isaac Cooperrider. Photo Courtesy of Cooperrider.



ITK Sponsor, Corey Conn. Photo Couresy of LHS.

Video Games At School? Wait, WHAT?

New competitive esports club at LHS

By Peyton Scarbro, staff writer

Lancaster High School started a new competitive esports gaming club. Members have opportunities to play video games such as Rocket League, Fortnite, and Valorant. The club is led by LHS teacher, Stephen Davis.

"When Mr. Knuckles and Mr. Kinniard asked me to get involved with the formation of our own esports organization, I was ecstatic! It has always been a dream of mine to help form and develop an esports program for a school district," Davis said.

"I'm beyond excited to bring my background in esports and gaming to the high school level where I can help our students compete, grow as leaders, and gain recognition for their successes across a wide variety of games," he said.

Esports gaming clubs at the college and high school levels have proven to be very successful. According to NPR News, competitive video gaming has grown from a niche community to a mainstream industry in high schools in which students can earn scholarships, tournament money, and high salary jobs.

"For the first time, our gaming-focused students will have the opportunity to become part of a real team and compete against the best of the best across the state,"

stated Davis.

"With esports becoming such a successful industry over the last decade, it has never been a better time to jump in and develop this program."

The National Federation of State High School Associations who writes the rules of competition for most high school sports and activities in the United States recently reported that esports as a high school club helps students gain skills in communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity. These are many of the same skills that employers are looking for in recent graduates. LHS Assistant Principal, Andrew Knuckles said students will benefit from the club.

"It gives students an interest in esports as a platform not only to compete but to interact in a team environment and represent our building. I see a lot of students who are not involved in a lot of things in our building who want to be involved in this," he said.

LHS freshman Eli Shell is on the esports team. He explained the dynamics of his team.

"So the team that I am a part of is the Valorant team, Valorant is a 5v5 game that



LHS students form e-sports team.

goes up to 25 rounds, first to 13 wins, we play other schools around Ohio in a 2 game series. We have a ton of fun playing the game, we crack jokes, learn to be better, and get coached by an amazing coach, Mr. Davis" Shell said.

This program will be a great way for students who normally would have never met each other to connect with students that hold similar interests. Esports will also help to get more students involved in the school.

"I think it will be a good opportunity for kids to learn about video games and will help them have fun," said LHS senior Noah White.



LHS students play competitive esports games.



LHS competitive esports team player, freshman Eli Shell.

A Ticket to Space

Recreational space travel is not far away

By T. Ford II, staff writer

Imagine orbiting space hotels and space vacations. The concept that civilians would travel to space was once out of this world. Now celebrities and the ultra-rich have rocketed out of the Earth's atmosphere. The future of space travel for everyday people is becoming a reality - at least for those who can afford to buy a ticket.

Eye of the Gale interviewed astrophysicist Michael Stamatikos, Associate Professor of Physics and Astronomy at Ohio State-Newark who explained that space tourism isn't such a pie-in-the-sky idea today. Celebrities such as William Shatner and Michael Strahan and Billionaires Jeff Bezos and Richard Branson have already traveled to space.

"In a sense, they are normalizing the opportunity for space tourism, which eventually will likely be affordable to more than just the extremely affluent - akin to how other nascent forms of travel such as by airplane were initially cost-prohibitive," he said.

A ticket for recreational space travel costs anywhere from \$100,000 AP News reported that Bezos and Branson were part of an increasing number of people who are pushing the boundaries and reaching for the stars.

Dr. Stamatikos, who has worked with astronauts such as John Glenn, explained that money is not really the issue because it costs the same amount of money to send civilians to space as it does to send

astronauts. He said the difference is in the purpose of going to space.

"Capitalism and the free market will evolve future space travel differently from the politics of limited government budgets," said Dr. Stamatikos.



Space tourism. Photo courtesy of the

"In the far future, it might even be possible to travel to other planets such as Mars. In the far, far future we may even endeavor to travel to exoplanets orbiting other stars. One thing is certain, the human race needs to find a new home within the next five billion years before the Sun runs out of nuclear fuel and enters a red Giant stage, in which its volume will swell up to engulf the orbit of the Earth!"

But some think that we shouldn't be spending our money on recre-

ational space travel. LHS senior Sarah Mullins said she thinks the world should focus on more immediate concerns.

"I believe it is more important to put the money that would be put towards space travel, towards issues on Earth that are more present. For example, world hunger, pollution, climate change, deforestation, and overpopulation," she said.

Stamatikos said that despite common beliefs, space travel does not have a huge impact on the environmental. When current fuels such as liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen that launch the space shuttle are combined, the result is water vapor. Technically, the pollution caused by a space shuttle launch is water vapor.

"I think that the more that we as a society advance in the sciences the better. I believe that, though it may seem superficial that the rich will get to have time in space for fun or vacations, it is amazing the advancements that we have made to get to this point," said Abbie Ebert, a junior at LHS.

"It is wonderful that we have so much technology that one can easily enter space because there are surely vast resources the universe could

have for us. Though personally, I would not want to go to space, I get motion sick and I am terrified of heights, there are many people who would love to go and will benefit from this. So, I agree with Dr. Stamatikos, this is an overall good thing for our society," Ebert added.



Dr. Michael Stamatikos. Photo courtesy of OSU.



Abbie Ebert. Photo courtesy of Ebert.



Sarah Mullins. Photo courtesy of Mullins.

Live Theatre Takes to the Stage Again

Lights back on in Ohio theatres after shutdown

By L. Overby, *Editorial Editor*

After nearly two years of darkness, the stage lights are back on in Ohio theatres and across the country. Broadway tours such as *Mean Girls*, *Hadestown*, and *Come Far Away* have all stopped in Ohio for theatres. According to *The New York Times* Broadway shows including *Hamilton*, *The Lion King*, *Wicked* and *Chicago* reopened for vaccinated and masked audiences. *Wicked* is scheduled to open at the Ohio Theatre in Columbus in May and *Hamilton* in October.

Jennifer Myers, who has acted in a variety of stage performances in Ohio, said she was excited to get back on the stage after playing the role of the Queen in *Cinderella*, presented by the Nationwide Butterfly Guild, earlier in March at the Palace Theatre in downtown Columbus.

"It's time to move forward, using safety precautions of course- but live theatre raises our spirits, brings us joy and at times a temporary escape from our everyday lives or challenges," she said.

Sam Beaulieu, a LHS alumni, has been acting in theatre since his sophomore year of high school. Beaulieu couldn't wait to get back into the swing of things by performing in Ken Ludwig's *A Comedy Of Tenors* at Ohio University Lancaster Theatre, which was shown from March 30 - April 3.

"I paced the floor every second of every day till I got back on stage. Live theatre really is a huge outlet for me and many others. Theatre gives structure to this fragile menagerie we call life and it's the strongest sense of community I have ever experienced," Beaulieu said.

Ian Houghs, an LHS alumni, decided to pursue theatre during one of its toughest times.

"Covid changed everything for me — I took the opportunity to pursue theatre during one of its downtimes, and it was an outstanding decision. Whilst everything was closed, I wasn't missing out on anything while still being trained in the arts," Houghs said.

Deryn Kraner, a senior and drama student at LHS, played the character of Dolly in the LHS production of *Hello, Dolly* in April, and *Bare: A Pop Opera* performed at MadLab in Columbus in late March.

"Honestly, Covid has made me extremely grateful for the experiences I have had in the past. Even now when I am doing a show I don't particularly like, I just think to myself, be grateful for what you

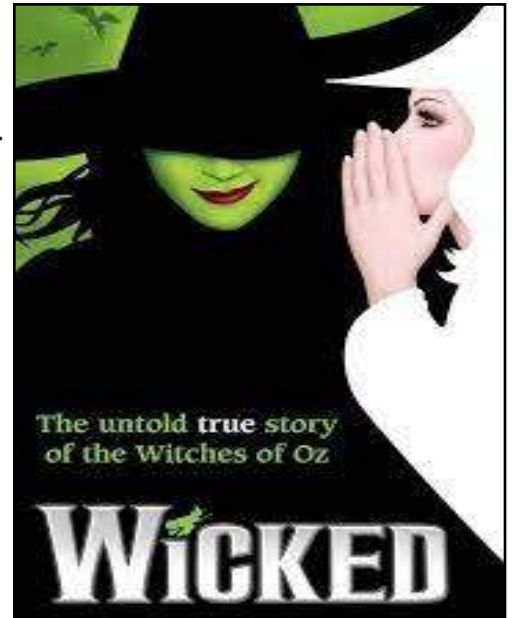


Photo courtesy of Broadway in Columbus.

have because you could still be quarantined in your house instead of doing what you love," Kraner said.

Live theatre is a special experience many people can share. Due to the pandemic, 41 shows in New York were forced to shut down according to the *New York Times*. Thousands of community and local theatres were also closed.

"Theatre thrives off being in-person so Covid was detrimental to the success of shows and actors," Kraner said.

"I missed theatre a lot and when I lived in New York I passed by the Broadway theatres on my way to class. I'm so grateful for these new productions breathing life and money into Broadway again," Houghs said.



Actors Deryn Kraner, Sam Beaulieu, Ian Houghs, and Jennifer Myers.

The Art of Journaling

Understanding feelings and improving mental health

By A. Rushin, *Editor in Chief*

Journaling consists of writing down thoughts and feelings to understand them more clearly. If someone is struggling with stress, depression, or anxiety, keeping a journal can be a great idea as it helps gain control of emotions and improve mental health.

According to the University of Rochester Medical Center, when someone has a problem and they're stressed, keeping a journal can help them identify what is causing that stress or anxiety and allow them to resolve it.

American author and English professor at The Ohio State University, Michelle Herman, believes that journaling can help people recognize feelings.

"Processing your experience in words on the page is a really great way to find out what you're thinking and feeling that you don't even know you're thinking and feeling," Herman said, "It helps you to get hold of what's happening and make sense of it, to put the pieces together of things that might not seem connected."

LHS senior Audrey Knight started journaling after speaking to her previous therapist; she used it as a way to learn about her emotions and calm the anxiety that she felt.

"I use journaling as a way to understand my thoughts, emotions and actions, it's helped calm me down on a stressful day and



Photo courtesy of Google images.

learn more about myself."

The process of writing down thoughts as honestly and with as little judgment as possible allows for self-discovery. When people get to know themselves better, they develop a deeper understanding of their reactions, strengths, and weaknesses, as well as what environments help them thrive, according to the University of St. Augustine.

"It also makes you slow down and pay attention," stated Herman, "it's a little like meditation in that way. And then there's the bonus: you'll have a record later to look back on, and many things you will have forgotten will be there for you."

Cecily Joann, senior at Berne Union High School uses journaling

to stay grounded and understand herself better.

"Journaling has helped me learn and grow. I am able to look back at my feelings about a situation and point out how to respond to it better for next time," Joann said.

According to Hayley Phelan with the New York Times, scientific studies have shown that there are the obvious

benefits to journaling, like a boost in mindfulness, memory and communication skills, better sleep, a stronger immune system, more self-confidence and a higher I.Q.

"I think journaling can benefit other people by finding a daily routine, becoming more in touch with their emotions, finding ways to verbalize what they are feeling and they can learn new things about themselves," Knight said.

If interested in journaling for mental health, look for pre-printed journals that address specific personal needs, book stores and internet sites. There are journals that contain positive psychology with habit and mood trackers, prompts, and other exercises that promote mind and body wellness. If nothing

else, grab a blank spiral notebook and just start journaling. The English poet, William Wordsworth supposedly wrote, "Fill your paper with the breathings of your heart."



Audrey Knight. Photo courtesy of Knight.



Michelle Herman. Photo courtesy of Herman.



Cecily Joann. Photo courtesy of Joann.

Respect All, Fear None, Expect Victory

LHS wrestling team leaves it all on the mat

By Isaac Hall, *staff writer* and Abigail Rushin, *Editor in chief*

This season brought major success for Lancaster High School's wrestling team. Several athletes qualified for the state tournament including Toby Hutsler, Brody Chase, Cole Dickerson and Ajay Locke. The team also won their eighth straight OCC Championship, took first place in other tournaments, and went 14-3 in dual meets.

LHS senior Ajay Locke, who finished in third place at the state championship, said that qualifying for the state championship was a dream come true and a goal many athletes set at a young age.

"Having wrestled since second grade, I've always seen the names and photos of those who have come before me who qualified and placed at the state tournament," Locke said.

"My photo will be eternally placed upon the wall amongst the Lancaster wrestling greats."

With several senior athletes graduating this school year, head coach Dugan Bently said that preparing for next season will be a challenge.

"We have several young wrestlers



LHS 2021-2022 Wrestling team.

who we are expecting to step into a varsity role. We will be working hard all off season to prepare them."

Stepping into this important role seemed to be a theme for LHS junior Brody Chase and sophomore

Cole Dickerson this season. Dickerson finished third in the state championship and Chase finished fourth.

"I would say one of the highlights of the season is being a well-rounded team and not having any weakness at any weight class," said Dickerson.

"When I qualified for the state championship I was super excited because I am only a sophomore and I didn't make it last year which shows I have improved. It feels great qualifying," he said.

Chase added that the rewards of being on the wrestling team go beyond athletics. He says the team camaraderie and dynamics are also signifi-

cant to the team's overall success.

"I have gained so much, especially friends," said Chase.

"Most of us on the team this year have been wrestling together for ten plus years.

Wrestling is a demanding mental sport as well as a physical one. Locke said the ideals learned through wrestling help to build character and teaches the athletes how to stay humble in both victory and defeat.

"Wrestling is a lifestyle. The experiences I've gained from wrestling stem much further than just high school wrestling," said Locke.

"All the pain is a sacrifice, in the end, you know that what you put into the sport directly determines what you will get out of it. What you learn all those years develop your character and the way you approach life."



Cole Dickerson. Photo courtesy of Ty Wright, *The Advocate*.



Ajay Locke. Photo courtesy of Robert McGraw, *Lancaster Eagle Gazette*.



Brody Chase. Photo courtesy of the *Lancaster Eagle Gazette*.

In the Swim of Things

LHS teams take top spots at OCC

By B. Allman, *Sports Editor*

Lancaster High School's Boys' and Girls' Swim teams both placed in the Ohio Capital Conference. The boys' team finished first at the OCC, ending the season with a six win, two loss record. The girls' team finished the season with four wins, four losses, and placed second in the OCC. LHS senior Mia Hensley won two individual OCC titles while competing in the one hundred butterfly and the two hundred individual medley.

"I'm very proud of how far I've gotten. I've made it to states and helped build the team as much as possible," said Hensley.

LHS junior Caroline Conklin, who swam a personal record in the five hundred freestyle at the OCC, said she was proud of the accomplishments the team has made.

"In my opinion, the swim team doesn't get all the hype and notice that they should," Conklin said.

LHS freshman Amelia Robertson recalled some additional highlights that contributed to the swim teams' successful seasons.

"Some highlights were when the men's team won OCC's, qualifying for Canton Invitational, and winning the 100 Backstroke at OCC," said Robertson.

Overall, head coach Axel Birn- brich said the team's biggest hurdle this

year was keeping swimmers healthy in order to compete at the tri-meets and invitationals.

"There were times three to four swimmers were ineligible to swim due to illnesses as we were getting on the bus, therefore changing our line-ups became a challenge," he said.

"We've had several times where events have had to be switched

and creating a strong team dynamic is important.

"I've known most of the team even before high school and developed good relationships with everyone which really helped overall as a team," said Strigle.

ing for each other whether we have a good or bad race," said Hensley added.

LHS senior Joshua Murdock also said he thinks the support and encouragement of others at meets and practices are what helped create encouraging relationships on his team.

"We also push each other at practice and strive to make each other better as well as ourselves. It could be trying to get others to do a more tiring stroke or encouraging them to keep going through hard sets," said Murdock.

LHS freshman Jackson Hensley, Mia Hensley's brother, agrees.

"When I practice with my teammates, they are always supportive and will cheer each other on while they are not swimming," he said.

"My favorite thing about being a part of this team has been the spirit and support. You can always look at the other side of the pool and see at least one person there cheering for whoever is in the water," said Murdock.



LHS 2021-22 Swim Team.

around at the last minute due to people being contacted or testing positive with Covid-19," said Conklin.

Nevertheless, the team pushed through and athletes stepped up when others were not able to compete and they were able to use the experiences to build team strength and unity.

LHS junior Samuel Strigle, who finished seventh in the two hundred freestyle at the OCC, said he believes that being a part of the swim team,



Freshman, Amelia Robertson and Senior, Mia Hensley. Photo Courtesy of LHS Instagram.



Junior Caroline Conklin. Photo courtesy of Conklin.



Juniors Caroline Conklin, Samuel Strigle and Gracie Stuart. Courtesy of Assistant Coach, Kylee Crist.

Up and Down Season

Boys' basketball battle thru tough conference

By C. Schorr, *Sports Editor*

The Gales finished their season with an 11-12 record and came up short in the first round of the tournament. Led by their six seniors; Dylan West, Kolson Pugh, Corbin Hietikko, Sam Finck, Dom Bornino, and Carson Roudabush, the team experienced some highs and lows. Head Coach Kent Riggs pointed out a specific and memorable win and a trip to Florida as major highlights of the season.

"Our one point victory at Groveport on Corbin Hietikko rebound basket at the buzzer. Also, our trip to Disney for the KSA tournament over Christmas break."

Hietikko himself reflected on his experience and said it was "an amazing moment."

LHS junior Alex Rodenbaugh cited another season highlight.

"Watching the seniors beat Newark on their last home game was something special to watch," he said.

The Gales also faced adversity this season. They play in a tough conference with some of the highest ranked teams in Ohio. Seniors Kolson Pugh and Dylan West said one of the greatest difficulties the varsity team had to face was the fact that the senior players had to play the majority of the minutes in each game.



Coach Riggs celebrating a win with his team.
Photo courtesy of Lancaster Eagle Gazette.

"The most challenging thing for us is that we play only five to six guys a night and when you're playing multiple games a week that can really wear down your body, so we have just been making sure we're taking care of our bodies and just being ready to play night in and night out," said West.

"Our senior year of basketball has had its ups and downs but overall it's been a grind especially for the seniors having to take leadership roles in the program and playing almost every minute of every game this whole year," added Pugh.

Coach Riggs said the hard work players put into it and the team's

dedication had much to do with the team's progress.

"This is a very close team and the chemistry has been excellent," said Riggs.

West reflected on his last season as a Gale. His last few years playing basketball have been bittersweet.

"I've enjoyed my senior year a lot because I've been playing with these other seniors my whole basketball career and I just love being around the guys. It has also been an up and down year, we have had some good wins and lost some games that we should have won," said West.

Pugh, too, reflected on his time as a Golden Gale and said that he will always remember what the team has meant to him over the years.

"I'll remember playing with the guys I've grown up playing with and having fun with and all the crazy close games on the court we went through together," said Pugh.

Rodenbaugh summed up the season by noting that not all of the team's success was reflected on the scoreboard.

"I learned a lot from my seniors and coaches. The seniors help explain concepts in a manner that I would understand because I'm sure they were in the same shoes that I was in at one point. The coaches help me improve not only in basketball but with life skills too."



Senior Dylan West and Junior Alex Rodenbaugh.
Photo courtesy of Lancaster Eagle Gazette.

A Rebound for Lady Gales

LHS Girls' Varsity make a come back

By J. DeLong, *Gales Tales*

Lancaster High School Girls' Varsity Basketball team has had an incredible season compared to their last. The team won only six games in the 2020-2021 season, but this year they made great improvement by winning a total of eleven games.

Coach Dusty Miller commented that the girls have shown a lot of growth and several achieved distinctions within the Ohio Capital Conference.

"Jenna Grabans - 1st team OCC, 1st team all District, 1st team all County, honorable mention to all central district. Peyton Wilson- 2nd team all OCC, 2nd team all District. Kara Weaver- Special mention all OCC, Honorable mention All District. Kylan Pugh- Honorable mention all OCC. Rylee Patrick- Scholar Athlete all OCC," listed Miller.

"The highlights of the season is when we went six-one starting out. Also watching all the players improve throughout the year", stated Miller.

LHS junior Kara Weaver reflected on the season.

"The season went really well. We improved a lot as a team from the previous year and grew relationally and skillfully," stated Weaver.

Weaver said that part of the team's success was due to good leadership by the only senior on the



2021-22 Lady Gales Varsity Basketball Team.

team.

"Rylee Patrick was our only senior and she really accepted her role and was always a positive light to the entire team no matter the circumstance," she said. Junior Peyton Wilson explained that she thought the Lady Gales strongly improved since their game against Newark at the start of competition.



Photo courtesy of Wilson.

"Since that game was towards the beginning of the season we knew we were going to have a better season than we imagined and went into every game with the right mindset," Wilson said.

That is not to say that the Lady Gales didn't have challenging moments throughout their season, mostly due to the pandemic.

"Honestly if I can think of a word it would be consistent. We went through a lot of adversity throughout the year with being shut down from a covid outbreak within our program," he said.

"We were shut down for eleven days because of this. I believe this really hurt us during the middle of the season. We also had a varsity player out for almost the entire month because of COVID," said Miller.

The team didn't let this stop them and continued working even harder to make sure they saw the season through.

Both Coach Miller and Wilson said they are encouraged about next season and already have a plan that will help the team continue to progress.

"Our program will be working on the little things. Working hard and committing to making themselves a better basketball player for the program. By being in the gym, we will form a tight group that will perform better next season," said Miller.

"Some goals I have for our team next year are to push ourselves out of our comfort zone just a little bit further. I think we will be capable of much more next year," said Wilson.

Striving for Greatness

Lady Gales indoor track team takes action

By A. Rushin, *Editor in chief*

The Lancaster High School girls track and field team had one of the best indoor seasons they have had in the last seven years. Many athletes qualified for states and two students, Peyton Wilson and Avelyn Solt, finished on the podium at the national level.

Head coach Joe Muck said that he credits the team's toughness as the reason for such success.

"We qualified more athletes in different events than we ever have. We qualified two athletes in the shot put, two in the weight throw, pole vault, long jump, two in the high jump, and our 4x4 and 4x8 relays also qualified," Muck stated.

"They are hard working and they don't complain, no matter how hard our workouts get."

Lady Gales long distance coach Teresa Tripp said that she believes that it is important that the athletes get the opportunities to compete and improve themselves in the process.

"We have seen several young

team members make excellent progress in their events," said Tripp.

"Our upperclassmen have grown as leaders and shown the younger athletes the importance of hard work."

LHS Junior pole vaulter and long jumper, Avelyn Solt, said a large part of her success this season was the coaches' ability to push her just the right amount, and that the team's overall encouraging dynamic influenced her achievement.

"The coaches always tell me to set high goals and just try my best to reach them. Along with the coaches, I enjoy track so much and a huge part of that is because of the team, it is something special."

Amarissa Kerns, senior at LHS and soon to be freshman at the

University of Rio Grande shows up to practice every-day with a positive attitude and 100% of her effort.

"When I look back to my freshman year I think about how much I looked up to the upperclassmen. I want to give the underclassmen the same

opportunity."

Junior thrower Peyton Wilson placed eighteenth at the New Balance Indoor Nationals in the girls championship weight throw.

"Before states, I needed one more inch to make it. My very first throw I had a PR and knew I was going. Then on my last throw I PR'd by three feet, placing me second. It definitely felt surreal."

The winning feeling was shared among many of the athletes that competed during the indoor season.

"I can't even describe how I felt at nationals," stated Solt.

"It still does not feel real. Just being at the Armory was amazing and had such good energy. The coaches have brought out the competitive side of me which has driven me to reach for all of my goals."

"As a coach you want to see the athletes compete to the best of their ability, be confident, and proud." of themselves," Tripp said.



Lady Gales senior, Amarissa Kerns'. Photo courtesy of Kerns Instagram.



Teresa Tripp, LHS women's cross country and long distance coach. Photo courtesy of Lancaster High School.



LHS junior thrower Peyton Wilson. Photo courtesy of Wilson.



Avelyn Solt, LHS Lady Gales junior pole vaulter. Photo courtesy of Solt.

Flipping to the Stars

LHS gymnastics makes a break for the top

By L. Wright, Co-photography editor

The Lancaster High School Gymnastics team finished their competition season with five wins and two losses. Overall the team placed third in their division in the Ohio Capital Conference. The LHS team, which was established only a few years ago as the official high school team, is still in the building stage.

Head coach Jen Snider said she praised the team for achieving a successful season.

“My goal for this year was achieved by moving up the ranks in our OCC division this year. My hopes are that we can continue to progress and seed even higher next season. I want our athletes to have fun and still be competitive. I like to see them push themselves for new combinations and skills.”

Among the many highlights of the gymnastics season was the leadership of the senior athletes.

“Our team captain Avery Clarke has taught all of us what it means to be dedicated. Even with being out for the season with an injury, she is still in the gym and cheering us on at every meet,” said Ava Stalter.

In addition, sophomore gymnast Morgan Whitlatch earned Lancaster High School Athlete of the Week earlier in the season. “Being Athlete of the

Week was a huge shock for me. It was really exciting to finally get recognition for how hard we have been working to form this gymnastics team, and I was really happy I was the one to get the team recognized by the school.”

Senior gymnast and team captain Avery Clarke reminisced about her high school career on the gymnastics team.

“I will miss the thrill of competing and cheering on my teammates. I will miss practices when we goofed off, made our own games, getting

super excited about new skills, trying new skills that push me, not only an athlete, but a person, helping each other out, making routines, and definitely competing on the floor.”

Coach Snider, who has been coaching for twenty-two years, explained the rewards of coaching a dedicated team of hard working athletes.

“This high school team reminds me every practice and every competition why I love my job and why I’m still coaching. Coaching and mentoring young ladies and helping to influence them has given my life a wonderful purpose. I love seeing these young ladies



The LHS girls' gymnastics kick off competition with a team cheer. Photo courtesy of Ava Stalter.

shift into college and life beyond high school and know I made an impact,” stated Snider.

The team described that the most significant part of competing is the aspect of family.

“I will always remember that we treated each other like family and we were all close and loving towards one another, which is very important. I do other sports in high school and typically there are cliques and people who you just don’t talk to that much or vibe

with but in gymnastics, it’s a different story. We all get along very well and are all very close. We

encourage each other so much and are always picking each other up when another one is upset,” said Clarke.

“We have a very positive and happy team dynamic. We are all very close since we have been in the same gym with each other for years,” Stalter said.



Coach Jen Snider. Photo courtesy of Snider.



Ava Stalter and Avery Clarke. Photo courtesy of Stalter.



Morgan Whitlatch. Photo courtesy of Whitlatch.

Setting New Standards

LHS bowlers raise the record

By B. Allman, *Sports Editor* and N. Wolfe, *Staff Writer*

The LHS Boys' Bowling team placed 14th in their conference at the end of their season having lost some very close competitions. The team also set a new team high game record at 1131 against Westerville South and all varsity boys' went into district competition.

The Girls' team were down a couple of players consistently this year and struggled to get some footing, although Eve Darfus advanced to the district as an individual. In addition, head coach Wendy Russell said the Boys' team had two standout bowlers this season.

"Bryce Kale and Drew Scott were out high averages throughout the year all the way to the very end. Bryce only missed qualifying for state by eighteen pins," she said.

LHS junior Tyler Olson said the head coach Wendy Russell has taught the team a lot about self-confidence, perseverance, teamwork, and sportsmanship.

"I learned from Coach Wendy to relax and have confidence when you do something. If you do not believe that you can not do something, then the chances of success are far from reach," said Olson.

The teams are able to come together and celebrate highlights that they never expected to achieve.

A favorable highlight of this season was definitely breaking the school record. The other team was also doing well so we needed to step up and do what needed to be



LHS 2021-22 Bowling Team.

done," said Olson.

Senior Eve Darfus was able to meet multiple goals and create memorable highlights throughout her last season as a bowler for the Gales.

"Being the anchor of my team, beating my highest series from when I was a junior of 412 to now 497 as a senior, and reaching my goal of continuing onto Districts were some of the highlights I experienced this season," said Darfus.

Senior Jack Kempton's highlight of the season was spending time with the team and forming bonds.

"My senior year has been amazing. Wasn't the best on the lanes but the memories with the team are unforgettable. My teammates have taught me how to keep myself up and what it's like for someone to have my back," said Kempton.

Though the team had great success this season, there were also problems they had to overcome and times where they had to learn to trust each other.

The most challenging thing the team faced this year was

COVID-19. Multiple positive tests and quarantine prohibited the team from competing in tournaments.

"My team had a lot of challenges during the season. The worst thing that we faced was that we ended our season with three girls instead of five," said Darfus.

Coach Russell said the team was going to be working on different things towards next season.

"The team needs to encourage underclassmen girls to give bowling a try. The players also need to strive to advance junior varsity boys' bowlers to the varsity level since we lost all but one current varsity player this season," said Russell.

As the senior players end their last season, they begin to think about memories that the team has brought them and plans for the future.

Darfus says she will miss her friends and family she made at LHS the most.

"The thing I would miss most about my team is the family that I was able to make over the last three years. The girls that were on the team became some of my closest friends and our friendship is something that I will hold close to me for the rest of my athletic career," said Darfus.

"We have truly formed an interesting bond with one another, everybody has their own piece of the puzzle that comes together and forms this team," said Olson.

“Call Me If You Get Lost”

LHS fans find the concert something to rave about

By I. Hershey, Website and design editor

Rapper and style icon Tyler, The Creator performed at the Schottenstein Center in Columbus, Ohio recently with his “Call Me If You Get Lost” tour with openers, Teezo Touchdown, Vince Staples, and Kali Uchis. He performed songs from his newest album “Call Me If You Get Lost,” hits from his album “Igor,” and a couple songs from his older albums “Cherry Bomb,” “Wolf,” and “Goblin.” LHS students are part of a huge fan base and were very excited to see his live concert.

“I went to the Tyler, The Creator concert because he, along with Kali Uchis, have been some of my favorite artists since I was thirteen,” said LHS junior Gracie Stuart.

Tyler made an unusual and fantastic entrance to the stage as he rose from under the stage and appeared next to a vintage baby-blue 1939 Rolls Royce. He broke out singing three songs from his most recent album, “Call Me If You Get Lost.” The first song was “Sir Baudelaire,” then “Lemonhead” and finally “Corso.”

LHS sophomore Cameron Castle said he enjoyed the showmanship that Tyler displayed on stage.

“I would have to say that my favorite part was when Tyler started singing “WUSYANAME” while riding on a prop boat across the stadium. I loved that everyone sang the songs together. It was a very good experience to enjoy music with other

people,” he said.

Towards the end of the show, Tyler performed a couple of his older songs which resonated with his fans.

“The energy of his concert was literally insane! I loved that he sang old songs,” said LHS senior Leandria Brandt.

“My favorite part of the concert was when Tyler did a collection of older songs in the middle of his set. My favorite song by him is SMUCKERS and to hear him perform it live blew my mind, it was amazing,” Stuart said.

The show wrapped with Tyler giving maximum energy and effort into his last song “NEW MAGIC WAND.” Fans fell for the artist’s passionate and creative performance.

“He is such a performer and you can tell that he has a huge love for his fans and genuinely loves what he does. Even though his songs are pretty hard to sit still to, he adds that extra level of excitement to ev-



Tyler The Creator on stage in Columbus, Ohio. Photo courtesy of the Columbus Dispatch.

everything that he does,” said Stuart.

The Columbus Dispatch reported that Tyler didn’t hit the stage until 10:15 p.m. to perform his 90-minute set after the opening acts because there was a suspected mechanical problem on stage that would later shoot fireworks and flames (Quamme).

In addition to Tyler, LHS fans said they enjoyed the opening acts, too. Senior Leandrea Brandt said Teezo Touchdown had a great setup.

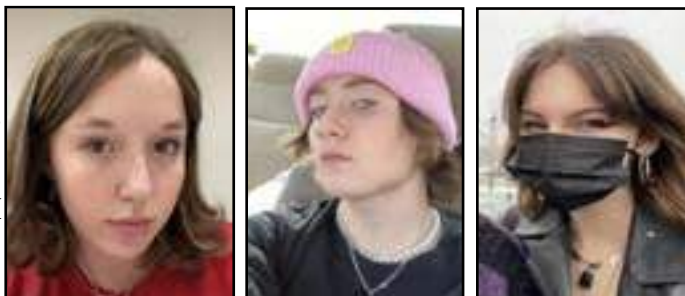
“The background was amazing! Very artsy,” said Brandt.

Sophomore Cameron Castle said the second opener rapper Vince Staples was cool.

“I found his performance to be much more laid back with a good chill atmosphere,” said Castle.

The last opener was Kali Uchis.

“Kali had an amazing performance that included backup dancers and amazing visuals that really set a mood for the rest of the show” said Stuart.



LHS students Leandrea Brandt, Cameron Castle, and Gracie Stuart. Photos courtesy of Brandt, Castle, and Stuart.

Red Hot Chili Peppers Return

The band's six-year hiatus ends

By E. Masten, *Entertainment Editor*

Red Hot Chili Peppers recently released a new song coinciding with their world tour and the upcoming release of their new album, *Unlimited Love*. The new song, *Black Summer*, adheres to what many listeners love from the Chili Peppers and revamps that style. One major headline includes guitarist John Frusciante returning to the band after 16 years. Band members said the tour and upcoming album is a new beginning for the band both morally and musically.

Lead singer Anthony Kiedis talked with New Musical Express (NME) about Frusciante. "We feel fresh, like a new band, I put a lot less of my ego [into it] than I had previously and I think that was true with everybody. It wasn't so much a competition thing as really wanting to give a part of ourselves to one another [and] being excited to listen to what the others were bringing in."

Lancaster High School sophomore Emerson Inboden commented that the song *Black Summer* had a familiar yet different vibe.

"It wasn't mind-blowing but I really liked some of the wordplay, notably 'riding on a censor-ship.' I feel like it had a different mood than



Cover of upcoming Red Hot Chili Peppers Album.

Photo courtesy of Spotify.

most of their most popular songs," he said.

LHS sophomore Gabriel Heetland agreed and said that while the record is different from previous RHCP projects, he likes the updated sound.

"I was glad to see them making new music and liked the song pretty well. You can definitely hear that it is the same band, but there are slight differences."

On the flip side, LHS alumni Skylar Peterson thinks that the

song doesn't live up to previous songs.

"I think it's alright, although the classics are in another class. Not too big on it though, I thought it was cheesy but I really like it, very early 2000s-esque, reminiscent of Lincoln Park. I didn't mind the guitar riffs, truth be told I actually enjoyed the sound, but the singer's more robotic tone didn't resonate with me," said Peterson.

While the album *Unlimited Love* has drawn some attention from fans, especially in relation to the newly released single, most fans are just happy that the RHCP are back on tour and making music.

"An average start to an album; like Weezer, the fans only want to hear the genre they fell in love with when they listened," said Peterson.

Inboden is excited about the return of the band.

"I'm happy that they're coming back. I just hope that it was because they like doing it rather than a necessity," said Inboden.

The *Unlimited Love* tour in the United States starts Saturday, July 23rd. Although no concerts have been scheduled in Ohio, the tour does include Philadelphia, Chicago, Detroit, and Louisville, Kentucky.



Gabriel Heetland.
Photo courtesy of Heetland.



Skylar Peterson.
Photo courtesy of Peterson.



Emerson Inboden.
Photo courtesy of Inboden.

Celebrating Uniqueness

Encanto's magical power

By I. Hershey, Website design editor

Disney's 60th animation film *Encanto* portrays the message that people don't have to be special to be unique. It focuses on the Madrigal family in Colombia and how all but one family member, Mirabel, has a special magical power. Ironically, this makes Mirabel unique because she demonstrates how average people like her can be heroic. Reviews about the new film are mixed.

"A thin story, dull characters, endlessly regurgitated gags, and a general air of pointlessness dog this fantasy about life in an enchanted house in an unspecified Latin country" said a reporter from National Review.

However, other critics such as New York Times writer Maya Phillips and CNN's Kadesha Adelakun had a positive input on the film.

"The computer animation, some of the best from any major studio in the last several years, presents a dazzling confabulation of hues and a meticulous weaving of precious details — like the embroidery on skirts, the golden-brown crust of a cheese arepa and the selection of native Colombian flora," said Phillips.

"I think it's going to have a great impact on society. People are seeing this movie and they're realizing they're seeing themselves in it," said Adelakun.

The movie shows the struggle of family



Disney's film *Encanto*.

members trying to meet their Abuela's expectations, which is the main source of conflict during the movie. Abuela high expectations can be very mentally and emotionally draining on the younger generations of the Madrigal family. Little Mirabel struggles to find her rightful place in the family against the harsh grandmother.

"Encanto shows the reality of how some people are expected of so much in their family. I feel like the song that Luisa sings really represents how overwhelming it is that so much is expected of her," said LHS sophomore Kennedy Morehart.

Critics appreciate the film's diversity, quality of animation, and its soundtrack. It features songs from

Lin-Manuel Miranda and a fine voice cast.

Each character is unique in their own ways and that's what makes it stand out from other Disney films. The culture in the music is also a big factor in this new film gaining so much popularity.

"The movie *Encanto* is filled with likable characters and vibrant settings. All of the characters of this movie are unique in their own way and each character plays a part in the incredible story. Also, the music is very enjoyable and each song is catchy," said LHS sophomore Luke Franke.

There is a belief that Disney movies follow a very predictable format where the "outcast" in the family ends up saving everyone with courage and ambition. Some say *Encanto* is different.

"Encanto stands out from other Disney movies because it is one of the Disney movies that shares culture and I love their representation of POC through diversity in the family" said LHS sophomore, Aubriannah Austin.

Encanto has been hailed for its use of music, culture, and diversity. Most importantly it also expresses the message that individuals can be uniquely powerful even if they don't fit in with everyone else.



LHS sophomore
Aubriannah Austin.
Photo courtesy of
Austin.



LHS sophomore
Luke Franke.
Photo courtesy of
Franke.



LHS sophomore
Kennedy Morehart.
Photo courtesy of
Morehart.

Long Awaited Journey Back to Pandora

Avatar sequel finally has a release date

By A. Rushin, *Editor in Chief*

Avatar 2, officially titled, "Avatar: The Way of Water," will hit the theaters in December 2022; thirteen years after one of the most successful and visually stunning movies of all time thrilled movie fans. In 2009, Avatar was one of the highest grossing movies of the year, contrasting humans driven by greed and the Na'vi who consider themselves one with life surrounding them.

According to Entertainment Weekly, director James Cameron decided Avatar 2 would be set primarily underwater with most of the film being shot in a 900,000-gallon tank.

Cameron stated that it required years of technological research and months of training actors to hold their breath for lengths that "would impress even a Navy SEAL."

Sam Worthington, the actor who plays one of the main characters, Jake Sully, hinted at the plot.

"The second installment of Cameron's massive series is set to showcase an underwater vision for the world of the Na'vi. Taking place more than a decade after the events of the first film" (Variety).

"Avatar: The Way of Water" comes back to the Sully family and the trouble that follows them.

Bree Smith, a senior at LHS, is hoping the sequel is just as successful as the first movie, but still has doubts.



For complicated scenes, James Cameron hired experts in underwater dance and gymnastics. Photo courtesy of Entertainment Exclusive.

"Sometimes, when movie producers try to bring older movies back to life and try to make it better; they end up ruining the entire movie," said Smith.

According to the New York Times, the first Avatar movie did



LHS students Bre Smith and Tylor Rager. Photos courtesy of Smith and Rager.

a wonderful job at grabbing the audience's attention with eye-popping detail and comically broad dialogue. Smith said she appreciated the visual qualities of the first Avatar film and remarked on the stunning colors and beautiful images.

"I liked the movie because there were a lot of cinematic scenes that really stood out," Smith stated.

"I loved the story and how it really captured the audience."

Film and television producer, Ken Aguado, said that audiences want to see stories that grab their attention and captivate their imagination.

"A good story is where the audience really cares about the characters and what will happen to them," Aguado stated.

Tylor Rager, a senior at LHS, believes the first movie made so much money due to the use of Computer-generated imagery (CGI) and visual effects (VFX).

"They used it in a way that hadn't been seen before, this made more and more people want to see it," Rager said.

"Considering the effect the first Avatar movie had on people, the sequel should attract a large audience."

Zoe Saldana, who played Na'Vi character Neytiri in the original Avatar told People.com that Avatar 2 is compelling and a leap from the first film. Saldana also said that she was able to view some of the sequel and that it made her emotional and it was worth the wait.

"I think that you really have to brace yourself for it, but it's going to be an adventure that you will not forget," she said.

Differences Shouldn't be Shamed

Society should respect all variations of cultures

By L. Overby, *Editorial Editor*

Nine years old. That is when I became aware that I looked different. I am biracial; African-American and Indonesian.

I felt insecure about not looking like other girls in my class, their hair straight and silky like the pillow cases I used for my nappy hair. The worst feeling was when my mother would take the time out of her morning to make lunch for me to take to school. One day she made me one of my favorite Indonesian dishes; my mom's cooking always made me feel loved. Yet, young children made comments on my lunch.

"That looks gross," "It smells weird," "why do you like that?" and "that's not normal."

After that day, I threw away my lunches and stayed hungry.

It still hurts.

It always hurts.

It hurt when children poked fun at me speaking another language. It hurt when one of my friends' parents said my skin looked ugly and dirty.

It especially hurt when a peer called me the one word that still

"I never experienced racism on this scale until I went to high school, and I had never been angrier."

- Sarah Woo



Artwork by Trinity Kiger, Art Director, Eye of the Gale.

rings in my ear until this day. A word that has haunted me and other dark skinned people for centuries.

My freshman year of high school it got worse. In one of my classes we were sharing a fun fact about ourselves and I talked about my culture. A student turned to me and in my face said, "Do you eat dog then?"

For the longest time I felt helpless in moments like this one, I felt unheard, I felt completely humiliated. After that, I started to speak out about these issues and I discovered I wasn't alone. Sarah Woo, a sophomore at LHS has her own story.

"During the first quarter of the 2020-2021 school year, a white male in my study hall sprayed me with the cleaning solution for the desks, making jokes about cleaning the dirty Asian. A teacher even made a comment about how it's always the Chinese," Woo said.

"Growing up in a city where Asians only make up 0.5 percent of

the population I tried so hard to let go of my own culture to fit in with my classmates, dyed my hair blonde, didn't bring my Chinese food to lunch, I learned how to be a model minority," said Woo.

LHS sophomore Denise Sherrick, who is African American, said she thinks that adults in the school should use displays of big-

otry as teaching moments.

"I think LHS is starting to find its way in handling the racism and hate in the school," said Sherrick.

"I feel that you should explain why something is not okay to be said or done to help people understand," said Sherrick.

It is essential that we engage in meaningful and respectful conversations about the differences in culture and ethnicity because it will create tolerance and acceptance rather than shame. With more people working together to help stop bigotry and protect minority students, LHS can truly be the place to be.



LHS students, Sarah Woo and Denise Sherrick.

Creating a Safe Space for Them

Attitudes about preferred pronouns and genders

By S. Vanover, *Community Editor*

Many students do not identify with the name on a teacher's class roster and prefer to be addressed with different pronouns and preferred names. When teachers honor a student's preferences, it can create a safe environment for them.

"Some teachers won't let you use your chosen name. Last year only a handful of teachers used my chosen name, and this year only one teacher hasn't used it," said Michael Miller, a sophomore at LHS.

Freshman Max Flagg said teachers and other students should be aware that making assumptions about a students' gender can be frustrating and hurtful.

"Teachers and students who are mindful enough can memorize the name someone goes by and ask for pronouns instead of just assuming," Flagg said.

"I think just being respectful of pronouns and names, and shutting down other students' nonsense is good. Also, not outing people to their parents if they aren't already out!" said Miller.

Sophomore Winter Winslow and Miller explained that when teachers show that they are trying to acclimate to a student's preferred gender and pronouns, it sets an example for the whole class.

"When a teacher makes any kind of an effort to make me feel safe it's the best thing in the world," said Winslow.

"When it comes to teachers respecting pronouns and names, it makes me so happy! It makes me



Artwork depicting preferred pronouns. Image courtesy of the Wall Street Journal.

enjoy going to that class, and try to work hard instead of losing interest and not doing anything," said Miller.

According to Penn State University, using language to avoid incorrectly addressing a student is one of the easiest and most effective strategies. Using terms such as "folks" and "everyone" instead of "boys and girls" or "ladies and gentlemen" is one of the easiest ways to avoid misgendering students.

Latin teacher Chelsea Durdal said she admires students for standing up for their preferences.

"I try to show my respect and kindness to anybody that comes in regardless of their differences to me," Durdal said.

Choir teacher Sandy McCoy said

it is important for her students to feel accepted, heard, and included in her classroom environment.

"Students going by preferred pronouns, and preferred names was a challenge for me to get used to. But I think everyone deserves to feel respected and accepted," said McCoy.

Many times students are hesitant to say their preferred name or pronouns in fear of rejection, embarrassment, and judgment from the teacher and students

around them.

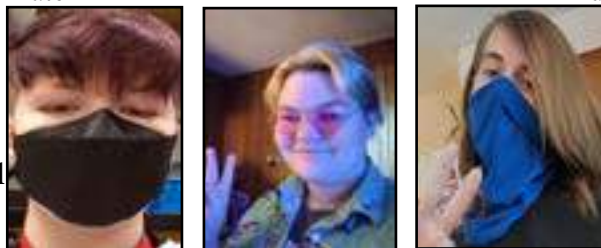
"So, the challenges I face are trying to pass as a guy. I'm a demi-boy, which means I prefer he/they pronouns. Trying to pass, for me, is hard, since some kids will still call me a female and it's just hard to get pass," said Miller.

As a simple solution to help quickly identify how a person wants to be identified, Winslow suggested a simple ID bracelet that depicts the pronoun and name that the wearer prefers.

"If everybody used them then nobody would have to make assumptions anymore. Nobody would need to feel inhuman because they were misgendered by somebody who didn't know," Winslow said.

No matter one's preference, feeling safe and respected is something that all students want.

"A safe classroom should be accepting no matter the gender, looks, names, and pronouns and even in cases of internalized homophobia and sexuality between students," said Flagg.



LHS students Max Flagg, Michael Miller, and Winter Winslow. Photos courtesy of Flagg, Miller, and Winslow

Fast Fashion Frenzy

How cheap clothing is killing the environment

By L. Overby, *Editorial Editor*

In one day and out the next. Those ultra cute clothes at really cheap prices on certain websites seem too good to pass up. But according to Ethical Consumer, buyers beware, the inexpensive clothes are meant to be worn a few times and then tossed out.

While the production, purchase, and delivery of fast fashion is quick and convenient, most of the imported clothes have a short life span and end up in landfills. In fact, the New York Times reports that more than 60 percent of fabric fibers are now synthetics, derived from fossil fuels, so if and when our clothing ends up in a landfill (about 85 percent of textile waste in the United States goes to landfills or is incinerated), it will not decay (Schlossberg).

Looking and feeling good in clothes may be important to many people, but at what cost? Allison Allen, a junior at LHS addressed her concerns.

"Fast fashion is an unethical and irresponsible industry that makes millions off of exploiting women and children and destroying the environment," Allen said.

Teens all over the U.S. indulge in fast fashion companies due to the attractive price but is the ethical sacrifice worth the trendy yet cheap fabric that is being made from sweatshops? Josalyn Crumet, a sophomore at LHS, said while some may



Fast fashion adds to waste in landfills.
Photo courtesy of The New York Times.

not believe fast fashion is unethical, there are alternatives to buying clothes on the cheap.

"There is a difference between buying clothes cheap from your local thrift store versus buying clothes from sites like Shien where they're coming from a factory in another country to your front porch," Crumet said.

According to The Green Business Bureau, 92 million tons of textile is thrown into landfills which creates financial and environmental waste.

The New York Times reported that fast fashion is only construct-

ed to typically last for about ten wears before tattering and getting discarded. Smart and conscientious consumers can break the cycle of disposable clothing by buying purchasing secondhand. Addy Smith, a senior at LHS said she has found joy in thrifting and second-hand shopping.

"You can still get cute clothes at more affordable prices. I do think buying second hand helps the environment, and you can find a lot of good finds at thrift stores for more affordable prices. I also find it way more fun than online shopping. It's like a scavenger hunt!" Smith said.

Sweatshops in China, Istanbul, India, and some developing countries exploit workers, including children, in environmentally hazardous production. Moreover, according to experts, the fashion industry needs to fundamentally change in order to mitigate the environmental impact of fast fashion (The Guardian).

"I personally find many, many great options from the local thrift stores in town and I do believe that it is way better for our economy to buy cheap locally instead of from a sweatshop in China," Crumet said.

How does a consumer stay stylish on a budget and protect the Earth? Buying second-hand, swapping clothes with friends, or even learning to sew clothing are just a few of the many ways to keep the environment healthy and take the moral high ground.



Addy Smith.
Photo courtesy of Smith.



Josalyn Crumet.
Photo courtesy of Crumet.



Allison Allen.
Photo courtesy of Allen.

Xbox vs Playstation Saga Continues

Gamers worry about big tech acquisitions

By P. Scarbro, *staff writer*

The video gaming industry is shifting dramatically. With the acquisition of two of the most notable gaming companies, a decades long business rivalry between Sony and Microsoft grows. Fans are expressing concern over the changes in the gaming landscape.

Microsoft has made the proposition of buying Activision, scheduled to be finalized in 2023. According to the New York Times, the \$68.7 billion deal is an ambitious bid to transform the tech giant's present and future. If completed, it would be Microsoft's largest-ever deal and the biggest all-cash acquisition in history (Woo & Browning).

Meanwhile, right on the heels of Microsoft, Sony Interactive Entertainment (SIE) made a huge bid for Bungie. CNN reported that the \$3.6 billion buy is just the latest in a string of big-ticket consolidation deals in the games industry (Fung).

The future of Xbox and Playstation games' platforms is in jeopardy. Sony fans are concerned that Microsoft may make Activision games Xbox exclusive. Whereas the acquisition of Bungie from Sony could make previously Xbox exclusive games, available on multiple platforms.

Lancaster High School



Xbox vs Playstation rivalry continues.
Image courtesy of Google Images.

Searles said he thinks the consolidation of these companies might be a good thing.

"Microsoft purchasing Activision has brought new video games to Gamepass and the Microsoft store causing people to get more involved with Xbox. I think it's great because it expands the already wide variety of games to bring everyone more entertainment," said Searles.

So just how worried should PS5 players be? According to the website The Gamer.com, Call of Duty exclusivity probably won't be in jeopardy for some time since

Microsoft promised to honor all existing agreements between Activision and Sony.

LHS freshman Jakob Gibson said he thinks the concern these acquisitions means something different to every gamer, depending on the

games they like to play,

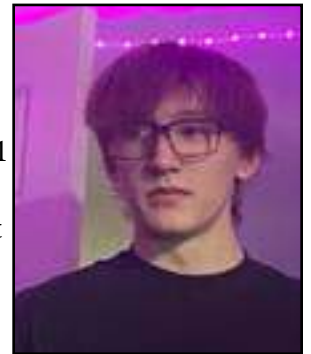
"I think Microsoft purchasing Activision is a big deal as they have the option to make some big games like Call of Duty and Overwatch Xbox exclusives even though I don't think they will," said Gibson.

"Sony buying Bungie isn't as big of a deal because the only game I really know by them is Destiny, and in my opinion, it's not that good of a game. So if Sony made that PS4 exclusive, I don't think many people would care," Gibson added.

Sony raked in higher revenue at the close of 2021 compared to Microsoft and Nintendo.

Sony's PlayStation division earned over

\$24 billion for the calendar year, which compares to \$16 billion for Microsoft and \$15 billion for Nintendo (Gamespot). But the rivalry between Xbox and Playstation is epic and anyone who has an interest in video games knows it. What's in the future for video game company acquisitions? Without a doubt, it's in a loop.



Freshman Jakob Gibson said videogame exclusives are a big deal.



LHS freshman Donovan Searles said the latest acquisition is a good thing.



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