

## Dr. Samuel Bentsen To Be New Principal Next School Year

**By Michelle Agyemang**

Dr. Samuel Bentsen has been named the new principal of Fenton High School. His new role as principal will start in July 2021.

Bentsen’s path to path to principal started in his undergraduate years, saying, “Initially I wanted to be a business major in college but after taking a few classes I realized that it wasn’t for me. I helped coach at my high school while in college and really enjoyed coaching. I was always interested in history, so it seemed natural to work towards being a high school history teacher and coach.”

Bentsen eventually achieved his goals and became a social studies teacher while being the head of three sports. He later became the dean of students and then the director of student services at DuPage High

School District 88. Currently, Bentsen serves as assistant superintendent for human resources and operations.

Commenting on his past experiences, Bentsen says, “I will rely on all of these experiences as principal at Fenton starting next school year.”

Bentsen shares that he is eager to meet students next school year. “I am fortunate that I have already been at Fenton for the past three years. I am most excited about getting to know the students better. To this point most of my focus had been on supporting the staff.”

Having students meet and learn more about him is also something he is looking forward to. Sharing a fun fact about himself, Bentsen says, “Most people don’t know that I played the cello from elementary throughout high school.”

Ultimately, this year has been one for the books, but Bentsen wants people to know that he will try to support students to the best of his ability in going into the next school year.

“My main goal is to support students as we hope to return to a regular school year in August. We realize that it has been a challenging year and students will need our help transitioning back to school. I want all of our students to realize their potential and understand the many opportunities at Fenton so they can find their passion in life.”

Bentsen is prepared and trilled to step into the position of principal, saying, “I am excited to get started and will spend the remainder of this school year listening and planning for next school year!”



## Important Dates, Final Events of 2020-2021 School Year

Friday, May 7, 2021	
Senior Finals	Last day of new instruction for Seniors.
Friday, May 7, Monday, May 10, Tuesday, May 11	
Class of 2021 Early Exams	No final exams for Seniors. Staff can use these 3 days to update grades, work with students on previous work, or finalize details for Seniors.
Senior Chrome books	Return chrome books to the Chrome Zone. Pay any fines associated at the bookstore. Return when your are done with all courses.
Senior Textbook Returns	Seniors will return their textbooks to Community Room, during lunches, or study halls.
Senior Library books	Seniors will return books to the library during study hall or lunch periods.
Wednesday, May 12, 2021	
<b>Last day for Seniors TCD Attendance</b>	Last day that Seniors are required to attend TCD. Buses will run for Juniors.
Senior Awards Night	Field house 6:30 PM
<b>Last day of school for all Seniors</b>	

Thursday, May 13, 2021	
Graduation Practice	Mandatory practice from 8:00-10:00 on the football field
Cap & Gown & Tickets	These items will be distributed at graduation practice. Graduation tickets will not be distributed to seniors who have not paid fines, fees, or served their penalties. No decorated caps allowed.
Senior Brunch	10:30 at Chez Hotel
Friday, May 14, 2021	
Senior Fines Due	All fines must be paid by Seniors in order to receive graduation tickets.
Last day of new instruction	Freshman, Sophomore, Juniors
Sunday, May 16, 2021	
<b>Commencement</b>	10:30 AM- Football field
Monday, May 17, Tuesday, May 18, Wednesday, May 19, Thursday, May 20	
Textbook Returns	
No finals schedule. Ask your teacher if you have a formal final during class.	<b>Monday and Tuesday will be orange days. Wednesday and Thursday will be blue days. Afternoons will be office hours.</b>
Thursday, May 20	
<b>Last day of student attendance for freshmen, sophomores and juniors</b>	
Last day for Junior TCD Attendance	This will be the last day Juniors are required to attend TCD.



# Seniors Share Plans For Life After High School



MAJOR

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

SOFTBALL COMMIT



Claira Panos



PATH

MARINE CORPS



Vince Eltman



MAJOR

MIXED MEDIA ARTS

MINOR

JOURNALISM & POLITICAL SCIENCE



Noelia Montoya



MAJOR

BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING



Kylie Peterson



MAJOR

NURSING

SOFTBALL COMMIT



Madison Spencer

Congratulations to the Class of 2021!

To see more senior decisions, check out @fenton\_ccc and @fenton2en1ors on Instagram



MAJOR

Health Promotion & Performance

BOWLING COMMIT



Mathew Sipes

# Writers Attend Lit Fest, Receive Numerous Accolades

By Jadyn Golz

Among the many other things that have occurred so far, this year is Fenton’s second year as a participating school in Lit Fest. However, it’s the first time any Fenton student has ever participated. It was held virtually, but sophomore Delilah Johnson comments that “[she] thought that Lit Fest did a great job adapting to a virtual setting! [She’s] never been to lit fest in person, so [she doesn’t] have anything to compare it to, but the organizers made it as normal and as smooth as possible.” Patrick Escobedo, the organizer for Kaleidoscope’s monthly Open Mic, notes that he is “looking forward to [an in-person Lit Fest].”

Students first attended a presentation by Kyle “Guante” Tran Myhre from Minneapolis, Minnesota. Myhre specializes in spoken-word poetry which is a form of poetry which is intended to be said out loud.

A new and very popular example is Amanda Gorman’s “The Hill We Climb” which was read out loud at the 2021 Presidential Inauguration of President Joe Biden. Myhre’s poems face social issues such as toxic masculinity and challenges narrative related to race or racism. Visit <https://guante.info> to hear, read, or see more of Myhre’s stuff.

After the presentation, students were separated out into groups of their choice which were specialized classes to different categories of writing. I attended the Short Fiction group but there was also Descriptive Sketch (which is essentially a piece of writing that describes a scene), Poetry, and Personal Essay (which is a short autobiography of a memorable moment in a person’s life). Word on the grapevine is that there used to be more categories such as Slam Poetry but they were canceled due to the

pandemic. Johnson, who attended the Descriptive Sketch group states, “I decided to go to the descriptive writing lesson since that’s something I need to work on. I learned a lot about how to paint a detailed image in a reader’s head!”

And lastly was awards. Around mid February of 2021, students were able to submit their works into one of the four categories mentioned above: Short Fiction, Poetry, Personal Essay, and Descriptive Sketch. Each category has their own specifications and requirements to submit. Xochitl Quinones won 3rd place in Poetry for her poem “Garden Of Eden” and won Critic’s Choice Award in Short Fiction for her piece titled “Marigold, Honey, and Cider.” Olivia Chavez won an Honorable Mention in Poetry for their poem titled “The Outcasted Fish.” Gloria Diaz won an Honorable Mention in Poetry for their poem “COVID 19” and an Honorable

Mention in Short Fiction for “You’re all hers, and I’m all Mine.” I myself won an Honorable Mention in Poetry for my piece titled “I Am The Girl.” And last but not least, Delilah Johnson won 2nd Place in Short Fiction for her piece titled “There’s a Cliff on the Edge of Town.” Congratulations to all of the writers who participated this year!

Many of the pieces this year will be available to read in the Kaleidoscope Magazine which Escobedo says will be coming out sometime in May of this year. Students were able to submit anything they wished regardless of participation in Lit Fest or Open Mic. Like most things this year, it will be digital so keep an eye on your inbox!

In closing, Escobedo notes, “Huge thank you. I literally just create the venue. It’s awesome to see what you all do. It’s the best part of my job. Big thanks to everyone who watches.”



# New Blended Learning Spaces Set To Finish Early Fall 2021

By Michelle Agyemang

Despite many students not being in the halls of Fenton this school year, Fenton has been working on spaces where students can learn independently in a comfortable environment.

During remote learning, all students had to control their own learning by managing their workload and time. Students had to take on an individualized form of learning, similar to the blended learning model Fenton has been working on prior to the pandemic.

Ms. Michelle Papanicolaou, director of curriculum and instruction, shares, "As we learned through the pandemic, our students are able to manage their time and work asynchronously and more independently and take ownership of the learning. We'd like to create spaces where students can go and work more independently and in a self-guided way."

The ultimate goal for these spaces is for students to guide their own learning in a place where they feel comfortable doing so. Fenton plans to make these new learning spaces places where students can go during blended learning, lunch, or study hall periods. The school also plans to creates spaces where students can reach out for academic support: one room for math support and another for reading and writing support.

"In addition to just having a space, we'd like to have supports available in those spaces. So if you needed help with writing or if you needed help with math there will be tutors or coaches available in those spaces to help students

that come in and use those spaces as learning spaces," says Papanicolaou.

The learning labs are set to look like "mini-arc's" around the whole school. The spaces include lounge furniture, booths, and tabletop seating, allowing students to work efficiently while feeling comfortable.

"It's a space where students feel comfortable to learn and a space that's inviting. So, you know, depending on what your needs are, you feel welcomed and, you know, there's a sense of belonging in those spaces. So, everybody can either get the help or have the nice, comfortable place to learn, um, that they need."

Additionally, certain rooms in the building are being transformed into flexible learning areas perfectly made for project-based learning.

The learning labs are projected to be finished by the start of the 2021-2022 school year. Therefore, the school is still working on the final look of the learning spaces. Volunteer students have spent time with the designing process, where they give their opinions on the new pieces' finishes, fabrics, and colors. Fenton has been working to make sure these spaces are conducive to learning and pleasing to the student's eye.

There is still so much about the processes and rules that the school has to finalize. Additionally, We have yet to find out what the final version of the learning labs will look like since designs for the learning labs are still in development. Nevertheless, we are eager to see what these new learning spaces have to offer to the community here at Fenton.

## Photo Op: Retiring Teachers Bid Fenton Final Farewell

By Olivia Baran



Rick Johnson

"I started in the Fall of 1991...so this is my 30th year. I've coached Football (9yrs), Baseball (5yrs), Track (2yrs), Badminton (10yrs), and Golf (17yrs).

When I started here 30 years ago, it felt like I was meant to be here, and I was meant to be a teacher. I'll miss my classroom and the kids.... we had quite a few laughs over the years.

It was awesome...truly awesome."



Greg Lehmann

" I have been at Fenton for 32 years.

As far as how it has felt to be a teacher at Fenton...it's been a wonderful experience...the years have gone by quickly...each year

different from the previous year. The student body and fellow teachers have been incredible...I will miss them dearly.

I consider Fenton my second home since I have been there for more than half my life and have spent an incredible amount of time there. Teaching never felt like a job (okay sometimes it did)...you have your good days and your bad days. I have had a lot more good days than bad at Fenton. Fenton is going in the right direction as a district and I have been lucky to have been a part of it.

There are so many people I would like to thank but I don't think you have enough room in the Signal :)...Thank you Fenton for all that you have given me...I hope to be back next year announcing various sporting activities."

Clint Porter

"I have been a teacher at Fenton for 21 years. The greatest part of being a teacher at Fenton is working with our amazing students, families and the staff. I have been blessed to have been in a career that I honestly looked forward to every day! Go Bison!"



Thank You For Your  
Time At Fenton!

We Will Miss You!



## Group Interpretation Ends Their Season; Members Reflect on Experience



Photo courtesy of Nicole Hendricks.

By Sarah Guerrero

"This season reminded us all that at the end of the day, when you have a cast that is fully committed to their message, when they make you hear them and believe them, that will overpower any other circumstance," -Director Melissa Feinberg.

The 2021 Group Interpretation cast, composed of juniors Yarely Galeno, and Xochitl Quinones, sophomores Tera Pabico, Alex Carillo, and Angel Sanitago, and freshmen Paola Aguilera, Ariana Acosta, and Sarah Guerrero, with the help of dedicated directors Nicole Hendricks and Melissa Feinberg, were able to share the nostalgic and heartfelt story of *Charlotte's Web*.

Last year, due to COVID-19, Fenton's inaugural Group Interpretation Upstate Eight Conference performance was cancelled. Heading into this year, casts and directors across the state were challenged to reinvent the definition of Group Interp. Director Nicole Hendricks commented on that challenge, and the growth that was possible because of it, saying, "GI is a specific type of theater in a competitive

form. So there were many rules we were used to, and then we threw in the choice of an in person or remote performance. Making that decision was difficult. We had a vision of an in person performance, but we had to translate that into a Zoom recording, which was a challenge all around. Not one that didn't let us grow though, we definitely grew because of it." Yarely Galeno added to this, saying, "I was excited to see how we would tackle this new environment because I know the coaches are always up for a challenge. Although I was nervous because we had the disadvantage of not being able to incorporate choral lines, which in previous years had been a big factor in GI, instead of dwelling on this I worked with what we did have and tried my best to improve other aspects of my performance."

Yarely Galeno and Alex Carillo touched on the significance of being together when producing a Group Interpretation show. "It really bothered me that we couldn't have been in person this year. Realistically, we would be able to stand at least 3 feet apart during rehearsals and

performances, unlike sports, which required not-so-COVID-friendly physical contact. We really missed the opportunity to have and use our own set, and have our own practice space. Fortunately, we have such a strong community in GI, and we overcame all of our adversities this year by sticking together and supporting one another," said Alex Carillo. Yarely Galeno contributed to this, as they felt "very disappointed that we weren't allowed to perform in person even though contact sports like basketball were going on at the same time. This robbed us from the ability to make scenery using our bodies, from using choral lines, and from having the experience that makes Group Interpretation so different from other theater events. I firmly believe that had we been in person, we would have made State. Nevertheless, I am endlessly proud of our cast for never giving up no matter how hard things got and telling this impactful story! I am so thankful for the coaches who always help us improve and who always push us to give the best performance we possibly can!"

The sense of community and comfort within the cast proved to be vital as we progressed through the season, continuously encouraging one another to develop as characters and performers during every rehearsal, while still having a good time. "We mostly bonded through joking around when the atmosphere was light, and before our rehearsal, we'd just talk about our days or whatever we found interesting. When we weren't rehearsing, we were talking and joking around," Paola Aguilera recalled. Ariana Acosta shared that her favorite part of rehearsals was "seeing the chemistry between all of us. Being in separate rooms was a challenge to the connection we had to build as a cast, but everyone's kindness and acceptance made us all more comfortable to become experimental and play around with our characters. It really let us take our show to that next level."

On March 13th, *Charlotte's Web* placed 1st at the Upstate Eight Conference. Although we weren't physically together to celebrate, we were able to share the excitement and pride via messages and phone calls, making it the most magical moment of the season yet. "When I heard our name being announced as the victor's at conference, I was pretty shocked, considering the tough competition between 8 diverse productions in a never seen before environment. Regardless, I was proud of all the hard work we put into the show, and how we were able to convey our message," said Tera Pabico.

On March 20th, Fenton took 4th place at Sectionals. Yarely Galeno and Xochitl Quinones, who played Wilbur and Charlotte, were recognized with both All-Conference and All-State cast. Angel Santiago, who portrayed the role of Templeton, was also awarded with All-Conference cast. "I felt really happy when I heard we got first place at Conference. I often handled the tech aspect of the production, which proved to be tedious at times, and I got an all-conference shout out. Overall, I'm just really proud of us as a team." Angel also expressed his anticipation for the next show, saying "I am definitely excited to compete next year, and prove that with resilience, we can produce a powerful and meaningful show, whether it is remote or traditional."

Yarely Galeno encourages students to become involved at any capacity in Fenton's Speech and Theater programs, saying, "If you are considering joining any theater groups at FHS, you should most definitely do it! Being a 3 year member of the Speech team, a 2 year member of the GI cast, a member of the Contest Drama cast, and having done both musical and freshman play, I can easily say theatre has shaped me into the person I am today and I am forever grateful for the friends, growth, and memories it has provided me."

## Fenton Holds Vaccine Events, Superintendent Ongtengco Spreads Vaccine Awareness

By Julissa Velazquez

After a long and hectic year, vaccines are finally available to help slow the spread of Covid-19. The two forms of vaccines are Pfizer, which is available for ages 16 and older, and Moderna, which is available for ages 18 and older. The Johnson and Johnson vaccine was paused for a short time due to the dangerous side effects being seen in those who received it. It has now begun to be readministered. Fenton began distributing the Pfizer vaccine to the community.

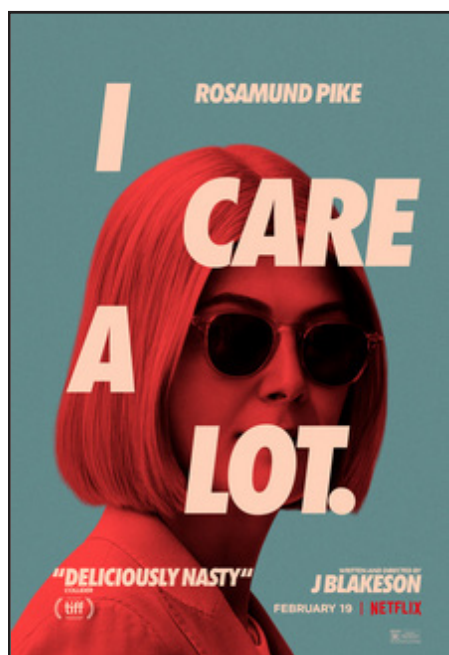
According to Mr. Ongtengco, "Fenton has vaccinated 1,300 individuals, which include 16 and older kids." He also stated, "We would love to have all of our students be vaccinated, if they want." The Jewel-Osco pharmacists were very efficient at vaccinating the thousands of people in Bensenville and Wood Dale. Side effects of the vaccine can include a sore arm, pain at the injection site, and others depending on each individual. Being vaccinated is voluntary, but there would be many positive outcomes if everyone chooses to do it. The spread of Covid-19 would be slowed as well as the amount of people hospitalized and dying. By getting vaccinated, everyone would be doing their part in protecting themselves and others around them.



The April 16th Vaccination Event at Fenton. Photo courtesy of Rick Kambic.



## Aguilar Shares Riveting Review of 2021 Netflix Film "I Care A Lot"



By Jenny Aguilar

There are no good people in this world. That is the underlying message of the 2021 Netflix film *I Care A Lot*, written and directed by J Blakeson. The movie follows legal guardian Marla Grayson, played by Rosamund Pike, as she makes a living by persuading the court system to give her full guardianship over perfectly capable elders and selling their assets to make a quick profit. Assisting Marla in her schemes is Fran, Marla's girlfriend, who is played by Eiza González. Along with the aid of doctors and managers, Marla and Fran practically rob dozens of unsuspecting elders, all without the law ever suspecting a thing.

However, Marla's plans take a turn when she discovers Jennifer Peterson, an elderly woman who just so happens to own a slew of valuable goods, including a batch of diamonds. Marla believes she has struck gold until she is asked by an unknown lawyer, played by Chris Messina, to remove Jennifer out of her control or else she will face the consequences. Little does Marla know that those "consequences" will result in a cat-and-mouse style conflict with a very powerful mobster, portrayed by Peter Dinklage.

From the very beginning, the film does not try to excuse any of the cruelties from both the protagonist and antagonist but rather heightens them into an almost unbelievable, definitely hateable manner. Marla is constantly shown as a gritty, heartless person, minus a few tender moments shared with Fran, which makes it very difficult for audiences to root for her success. From her opening monologue, Marla makes clear the type of person she is: "There's two types of people in this world: the people who take and those getting took. Predator and prey. Lions and lambs. My name is Marla Grayson, and I'm not a lamb. I am a... lioness." Although this is very off-putting and even anger-inducing to many people, the whole point of Marla's character, and the movie as a whole, is to show that if you want to succeed in life you have to put aside your own morals because that is how the system is set up.

While at times the movie takes the situations to the extreme, what makes it so compelling is the driving force of the plot: the idea that professional guardians, whose job it is to protect those who can't protect themselves, is able to steal and destroy the lives of both elders and

their families. The opening scenes of the movie revolve around a man who just wants to visit his mother in the nursing home but Marla, for fear of losing her earnings, blocks any sort of interaction between the mother and son. And, mind you, all of this, from faking medical assessments to having full control over the elder's medication, is all done under the nose of the law. The judge, played by Isiah Whitlock Jr., never once questions Marla's credibility, always seeing her as, in Marla's own words, "just someone who cares."

Although *I Care A Lot* is a completely fictional story, Director Blakeson revealed in the press notes for the movie that the concept was inspired by news stories on guardians who took advantage of the legal system for their own benefit. One guardian, April Parks was sentenced to 40 years in prison for theft, exploitation, and perjury.

The film is filled with its share of witty lines, action scenes, and suspenseful moments making it an all-around entertaining movie with an engaging, albeit irritating, storyline. At the end of the day, Marla really does care a lot, just not what you expect her to care about.

## Contest Drama's *Good Kids* Cast Place 4th Overall in State Tournament

By Sarah Guerrero

"Something happened at a party. Something everybody is talking about. Set at a Midwestern high school, in a world of Facebook and Twitter, smartphones and YouTube, *Good Kids* explores a 'casual' encounter gone wrong and the very public aftermath of that encounter. Who's telling the truth? Whose version of the story do you believe? And what does that say about you?"

Seniors Lauren Kissane, Christopher Kovich, Bartlomiej Sporna and juniors Yarely Galeno, Carolina Rosas, Joan Hitt, and Emanie Kashif, along with directors Mike Mitchell, Jeremiah Barr, and Amanda Baker took on the challenge of producing the Contest Drama show *Good Kids* in a fully remote setting this year, proving that with communication, dedication, and passion, what may seem impossible can be achieved when you truly work as a team.

This year's production was a first for many cast members, but the students seemed to embrace their adversities to become closer as a team. Carolina Rosas recalled "having to do a lot of individual work because of our remote situation. The hardest part was acting as if we were in the same space." But Dr. Mitchell was able to highlight a silver lining in that. "We had the opportunity to work one on one with each performer, which really

benefited our performance this year. When we did get together to rehearse, every student was able to showcase their progress, which made our growth very apparent, and it really helped us all bond," he said.

Carolina Rosas also emphasized the role communication played in the show's success, as she said "It was all about the effort we put into communicating that really made this work. Thankfully, forming that connection was easy because everyone was so comfortable with one another. It was so open and welcoming from the very start."

In March 13th, Fenton placed 3rd at the 2021 Upstate

Eight Conference tournament. The following week, with a triumphant win at sectionals, Fenton's 2021 Contest Drama production advanced to state, and the team was ecstatic. "I will never forget the moment we found out we advanced to state. It was pure joy from everyone! It was screaming, dancing... ridiculous dancing, but it was just so beautiful because we were celebrating our hardships and accomplishments- and we were celebrating it together," Carolina Rosas shares.

That following weekend, *Good Kids* went on to take 4th place at State. Joan Hitt celebrated the victory of not only the cast and the directors,

but of the message they worked hard to share. "'Good Kids' theme deals with a very difficult and heavy topic to discuss, yet is still very relevant today. The cast and the directors were very kind and understanding to the story we were trying to tell. And I think that speaks volumes to the people they are. I don't know if we would have been able to put on this show if we weren't who we are as a team."

Each cast member was recognized at least once throughout the season with either an All-Conference, All-Sectionals- or All-State Cast award. Carolina Rosas, Joan Hitt, and Lauren Kissane were specifically awarded with All-State Cast honors. Rosas, who was recognized all 3 times, congratulates her fellow cast, and commemorates everyone's support because "it was just so perfect, and being able to celebrate our victory together was so heartwarming and magical."

Dr. Mitchell recognizes the immense dedication of the cast and of his fellow directors. "There's that theater phrase: 'The show must go on,' and we found a way to make it go on this year, despite all of the obstacles, all of the restrictions, all of the cans and cannot do's...we found a way to make it work. And that's what made this season all that much more sweet."



Photo courtesy of Mike Mitchell.



# Derick Chauvin Found Guilty of All Charges in Monumental George Floyd Case

By Jenny Aguilar

Almost a year after the death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police, the trial of policeman Derek Chauvin was held over the course of three weeks with jurors reaching a verdict on April 20, 2021. Chauvin was convicted of unintentional second-degree murder, third-degree murder, and second-degree manslaughter.

On May 25, 2020, George Floyd was accused of using a counterfeit \$20 bill at a local store in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Once police arrived on the scene, altercations occurred, resulting in Floyd on the ground with Chauvin's knee directly on his neck. Onlookers watched in horror as Floyd pleaded with the officers, saying, "I can't breathe!" Bystander Darnella Frazier recorded the whole incident which went viral on social media. People all over the country and the world viewed the moment when Floyd eventually went silent, losing his life at the hands of police.

Floyd's death sparked a wave of protests across the nation and brought attention to other individuals who were hurt or died because of police, such as Breonna Taylor who was fatally shot inside her home in Louisville, Kentucky and Jacob Blake who was shot seven times by Kenosha

police, resulting in paralysis from the waist down. Throughout the past 10 months, protestors and advocates alike have been waiting for a chance for justice and accountability.

Chauvin's trial began on Monday, March 29, with each side presenting their opening arguments. The prosecution argued that Floyd's death was directly caused by Chauvin's actions. Witnesses including Frazier who took the initial video, Genevieve Hansen, a firefighter who was off-duty at the time of the incident and told the police to check Floyd's pulse, and Philonise Floyd, brother of George Floyd, who provided a "spark of life doctrine" testimony. This specific type of testimony allows lawyers to give more humanity towards victims, in Floyd's case, showing him as a brother, father, and friend. As Philonise said in his testimony, "He just was a person everybody loved in the community. He just knew how to make people feel better."

A large number of Minneapolis police also testified against Chauvin. Medaria Arradondo, the Minneapolis Department Chief, told the jury that Chauvin's actions were in violation of the police department's policy on the use of force: "There is an initial reasonableness in trying to get him under control in the first few seconds,

but once there was no longer any resistance, and clearly when Mr. Floyd was no longer responsive and even motionless, to continue to apply that level of force to a person prone out, handcuffed behind their back — that in no way, shape or form is anything that is by policy, is not part of our training and is certainly not part of our ethics or our values."

Prosecutors also included an array of medical professionals, including Dr. Andrew Baker and Dr. Martin Tobin, who agreed that Floyd died from cardiopulmonary arrest caused by the pressure of Chauvin's knee on his neck. A pulmonologist, Dr. Tobin showed the jury a slowed down video of the moment Floyd's "life goes out of his body," highlighting the flickering in Floyd's face during consciousness and the lack of movement once he dies.

The defense team argued that Floyd's death was not caused by Chauvin's actions, but rather the drugs already in Floyd's body. Of the 45 total testimonies in the trial, the defense team chose only six of those people. They include a retired policeman and a retired paramedic who had encountered Floyd in 2019.

Dr. David Fowler, a retired forensic pathologist, was a key person for the defense. He stated that Floyd's death was also impacted by the methamphetamine already in his body along with possible carbon monoxide poisoning from the nearby police car: "There are multiple entities all acting together and adding to each other, and taking away from a different part, of the ability to get oxygen to his heart, and so at some point the heart exhausted its reserves of metabolic supply and went into an arrhythmia and then stopped pumping blood effectively." Dr.

Fowler also refuted statements made by Dr. Baker and Dr. Tobin, who in turn countered back.

Chauvin denied giving testimony, invoking his fifth amendment right.

Leading up to the verdict, protestors gathered around the courthouse and all over the country readying themselves for the final decision. Finally, after 10 hours of deliberation over the course of two days, the presiding Judge Peter Cahill announced the jury's verdict of Chauvin being guilty of unintentional second-degree murder, third-degree murder, and second-degree manslaughter. Relief filled the people gathered outside along with people at home who viewed the live broadcast of the verdict. The same message was reiterated by people across the nation, that this marked the start of accountability but the fight is still not over.

The jurors, which consisted of four black people, two self-identified multiracial people, and six white people, were kept anonymous throughout the whole trial. On Wednesday, April 28, though, one juror, Brandon Mitchell, spoke out about the trial. In his first interview on Good Morning America, when asked about any outside pressure from the media, Mitchell said, "I mean, those things are just so secondary because you're literally, throughout the trial, watching somebody die on a daily basis, so that stress alone is enough to take your mind away from whatever's going on outside."

Chauvin's sentencing is set to occur on June 25, with a possibility of up to 75 years in prison but is expected to receive less due to his otherwise clean criminal history.

## FCCLA Ends Their Virtual Season with Successes at Sectional, State Competitions

By Abby Niehoff

Fenton's FCCLA organization (Family Careers & Community Leaders of America) recently competed at the sectional and state levels. Senior Lizbeth Ramirez, senior John Quinto, junior Alexa Toledo, junior Yami Morales, and senior Coral Roque all competed in the Children's Literature section. Students were required to submit a lesson plan of a storytelling experience for preschoolers and then present their lesson in front of a panel of judges.

At sectionals, Lizbeth and John both received perfect scores of 100, and Lizbeth was awarded "Most Outstanding" for the event! Alexa, Yamileth, and Coral received scores in the high 90's.

Later, at the virtual state competition (which all students

advanced to!), John, Yami, and Coral were awarded silver medals, and Alexa and Lizbeth were awarded gold medals. Lizbeth received the "Most Outstanding" award for a second time.

"In all of the judges notes each student was told that they were a natural born educator. I truly believe that all these students are great leaders and that all of them will have a great impact on children's lives," said Mrs. Engle, FCCLA's sponsor. "With the circumstances we were in with remote learning, I was beyond impressed and amazed at all of the hard work these students put into preparing for the competition at their homes."

Congratulations on your success, FCCLA! Fenton is so proud of you!

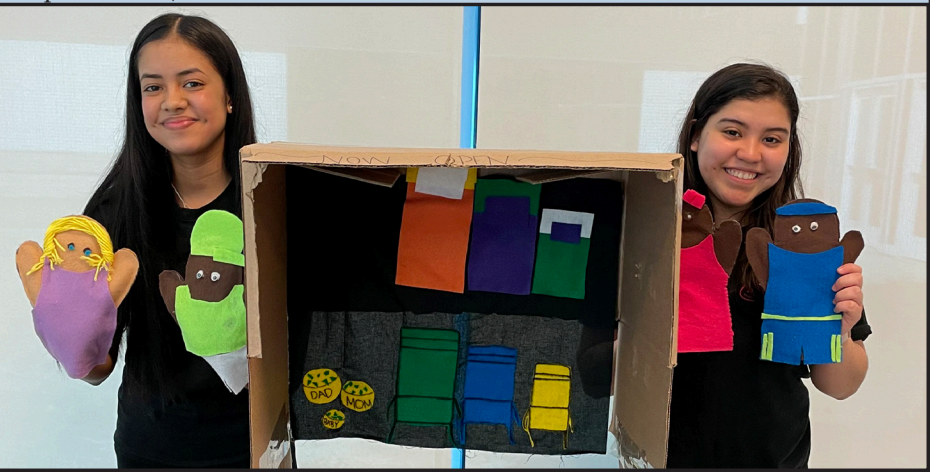


Photo courtesy of Kellie Engle.

## Happy Polish Constitution Day!



Fenton staff celebrated Polish Constitution day on May 3rd. We hope everyone who celebrated had an amazing day!

Photo courtesy of Katarzyna Sader.