

# The Signal



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## *Board Meetings, Equity Statement Lead to Controversy*

by Jenny Aguilar

The United States has had a recent social re-awakening regarding racism, first beginning with the death of George Floyd at the hands of Minnesota police officers. The videos capturing his last few moments of life brought to light other police brutality incidents towards African Americans, such as Breonna Taylor of Louisville, Kentucky, and, most recently, Jacob Blake of Kenosha, Wisconsin. The Black Lives Matter movement has picked up momentum with protests being organized in every state consistently since May 2020.

Many individuals are doing their part to attempt to dismantle these racial prejudices that our country has had since its foundation, including schools. On July 29, 2020, the Fenton Board of Education began discussing a new school resolution to reaffirm its commitment to equity and diversity.

While discussing the purpose of the equity statement during a board meeting, board member Patty Jalowiec voiced her concern over listing the different marginalized groups: "What about the tall people? What about the short people? What about the fat people who feel very ousted often... I don't know if we have to list all of them."

Jalowiec did not respond to our request for comment.

In contrast, board member Juliet Rago felt it very necessary to include the different groups, saying, "I felt it was necessary to include all historically marginalized groups so they would know they are seen and that our policies and procedures do everything possible to make sure each student, staff member or person walking into Fenton is treated equally and feels safe."

The board members decided that Jalowiec and Rago would work on two final drafts that would be voted on at the next meeting.

In the meantime, the statements made by some Board members sparked anger in the community.

Mr. Patrick Escobedo, President of the Fenton Education Association, was "shocked to hear the discussion. I thought, in terms of purpose, there really wasn't a strong, genuine purpose. I feel like that's the kind of work that should come from a strong moral center."

When the topic of purpose came up during the July meeting, Paul Wedemann, President of the Board of Education, first cited how "other school districts are coming out with similar resolutions because of the recent social movements... The purpose is to just reaffirm the diversity and equity policies and procedures and statements that we have in place."

Wedemann did not respond to our request for comment.

What ignited the most controversy was the argument originating with Jalowiec and echoed by other board members that overinclusion leads to exclusion.

Malien Tingpalpong, a 2020 Fenton graduate, responded to this sentiment in the subsequent board meeting, saying, "Race, and the other items discussed, divide us simply because you [the Board] are uncomfortable acknowledging the inherent disadvantages of people of color, LGBTQ+ individuals, immigrants, women, and so many communities that have a legitimate reason to feel ousted because they have been systematically oppressed since the founding of our country... You must acknowledge that it is your privilege to even argue about the inclusion of these groups. Inclusion should not even be up for debate."

Escobedo echoes this idea, stating, "The truth is, for a lot of people, they haven't felt united. To gloss over those groups felt like furthering the exclusion."

Community members sent in their remarks to be read during the public comments section at the August 26 meeting. Included in these comments was a statement from Noha Zaggoti, a Fenton alumni.

In it, she describes her experience "as a Muslim female who wears hijab. It was extremely difficult for me to feel as though I am not an outcast at Fenton."

She retells a moment in her sophomore year where a girl pulled on her hijab, and how the school did not take action: "They told me they would handle it, but nothing was done. The school made absolutely no effort to validate me and making me feel wanted at a school where I was already an outcast."

Omar Marin, another Fenton 2020 graduate, also gave his perspective as a Latino at Fenton: "In my four years, Fenton was riddled with racist white peers who would constantly do things like crack immigration jokes, exclude ESL students, and throw around the N-word. I have even been profiled by school hall monitors."

Marin explains how, at least once a week, hall monitors would follow him into the bathroom, assuming he was going to smoke. Jalowiec directly addressed him after his statement, telling him he should have told an adult.

Despite the strong outcry from the community, the Board ended up with a 4-3 vote in favor of the statement, which failed to list the marginalized groups that the statement is meant to protect.

Rago responds to the aftermath of the voting, saying, "I was of course disappointed. On the other hand, this is what democracy is about and the oath I took when I took my seat as a board member. I am one of seven people and decisions can only be made by a majority vote."

That wasn't the end of the equity discussions, however. On September 23, the Board of Education had a special board retreat centered around equity. The meeting was held in-person with limited seating. No live-stream or recording of the meeting was made available to the public. Fenton alumni Jessica Bango attended the meeting as a representative for the Fenton alumni who created a petition that now has well over 500 signatures, asking for a more active approach in recognizing and supporting diversity through a continuous action plan that can be implemented into Fenton's curriculum, as stated in the change.org petition description.

The meeting consisted of Bango and other community members reading their public comments and sharing their petition with over 500 signatures, each board member describing their own ethnicities, and the board participating in a cultural responsiveness continuum where they each placed points where they thought the school was at in cultural acceptance compared to where students believed the school to be at.

Bango said that going into the meeting, "I knew this was going to be a process... Prolonged change takes a long time. I knew immediate gratification would not be the case." Bango explains how during the meeting the board's tone was "mixed. Some had their backs turned while we spoke, some took notes."

The meeting concluded with, as Bango describes, "vague and empty promises like 'move to the right on the cultural responsiveness continuum,' 'recognize positive work,' and even 'proactively reach marginalized groups.' The how seems to be lacking."

Rago described the meeting in a more positive light, stating, "I felt really good about our retreat on Wednesday. I feel we are headed in the right direction. All the board members were invested in the meeting and we all learned a lot. I believe we all agreed that this was just the tip of the iceberg as far as equity and diversity training."

Despite the stark contrast in how the meeting was perceived, both board members and community members can agree that this isn't the end for diversity discussion at Fenton.

As Bango puts it, "We are urging the community to continue to watch and participate in meetings and see how they [the board] respond to our distress. and continue to connect with each other... Most importantly, do not give up. We will keep fighting for you, and with you. The work is just beginning and this is a lifelong journey."

All members of the Board of Education are voted in by the community under general election laws "on the first Tuesday in April in odd-numbered years," as stated under section two of the Board's policies. Fenton is a majority-minority high school, with 71.8% of the student population being made up of Blacks, Hispanics, and other non-white races.

As Patrick Escobedo puts it, "Ultimately, the students are the center of everything. The most powerful voice is actually you. If we are not listening to you, we are fundamentally failing."



# Micor Offers Students Strategies To Succeed in E-Learning

by Anna Micor

Completing school work in an online setting is very different from what students are used to. It can be tough to find motivation to complete schoolwork, and stay on top of assignments. This change comes with many challenges including finding a quiet space to work, staying motivated, dealing with internet issues and lagginess, staying focused during class, and much more. If you find yourself struggling with these issues, this article has some tips for you that will help you rock e-learning!

Fenton counselor Mrs. McDougal has some valuable advice for students.

She “would like to remind everyone that self-care is so important during Remote Learning. It’s

important to have a structure to your day that includes breaks, connecting with friends, fresh air, and exercise. Also remember that your trusted adults at school are STILL your trusted adults and you can reach out to them anytime. Teachers and school staff aren’t with their students physically, but we still care very much that you are doing well and staying physically and emotionally healthy.”

She makes some great points! Having a structured daily routine can significantly help with productivity, and staying on top of schoolwork. Although we aren’t with each other physically, she reminds students that the Fenton staff is still there for students, and is willing to help out in any way possible.

Another great way to stay

physically and mentally healthy is by exercising! There are so many benefits that come with consistent physical activity, so it’s important to be incorporating some fitness activities into a daily routine to stay in shape. Some great ways to do this are going on walks or runs, going to the gym and lifting some weights (don’t forget to wear a mask!), doing some yoga before or after bed, and so many more! Not only will you feel better after working out, you may find it easier to focus, and it helps boost your mood throughout the day! This can help with staying focused during class, and being more productive throughout the week.

Fenton student Evelyn Perez also has some tips for staying organized. She says that “because this

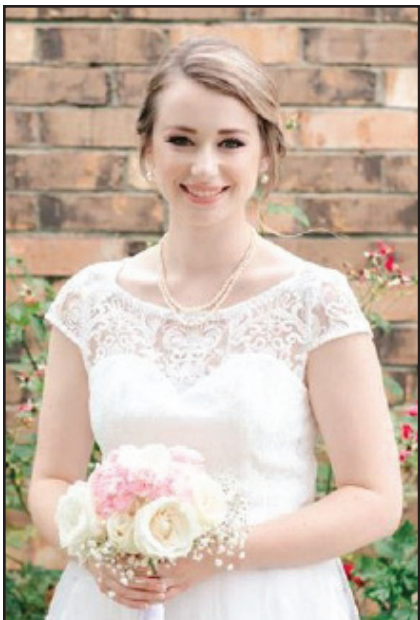
school year started so differently, I wanted to make sure to be on top of my work. I’ve been using my planner everyday as well as dividing the work I’ve been given for the week in a way that best suits my schedule.”

She recommends that students try to use their planners to stay on top of work. Using her planner has made it easier for her to keep track of assignments. What a great way to stay organized!

Remember, remote learning is tough! We are all experiencing many challenges, but it’s important to persevere through them and try to make the best of it. We’re all in this together! If you are struggling with any aspect of it, feel free to reach out to your counselor or a trusted adult for extra support. You’ve got this, and remember to keep your Bison Pride!

## New Teacher Photo Op: What Is Your Favorite Thing About Fenton?

by Michelle Agyemang



**Kellie Engle**  
(family, consumer sciences)  
“My favorite thing about Fenton is how kind and welcoming everyone was when I first started meeting other faculty and staff! I could tell right away that establishing community and positive relationships is a priority at FHS!”



**Melissa Rausch** (english)  
“The students are my favorite thing about Fenton. Everyone is welcoming and trying to do their best, which I appreciate!”



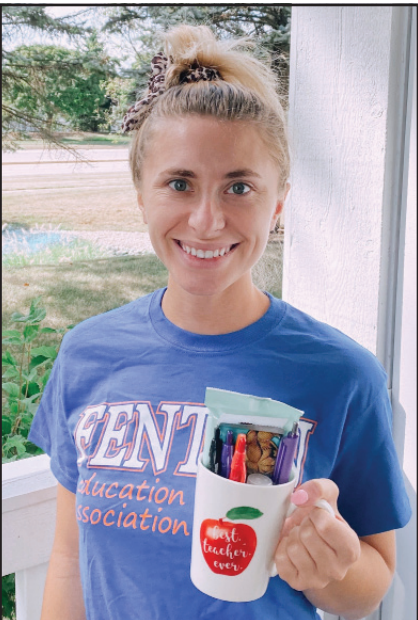
**Andy Todaro** (special ed)  
“My favorite thing about Fenton so far is the students I get to work with every single day... I couldn’t be more happy and thankful for the fantastic students I get to work with every day!”



**Anne Wadzinski** (math)  
“My favorite thing about Fenton so far are my students. I know I have excellent classes and I can’t wait to get to know everyone more.”



**Tara Chavez** (science)  
“My favorite thing about Fenton is definitely the people! Everyone here has been so kind and I am beyond fortunate to now be a member of this wonderful community. It genuinely feels like a family.”



**Lauren Barry** (science)  
“My favorite thing about Fenton so far is how supportive all of the staff has been. This year is very different but it has been so reassuring having a team of teachers really reaching out and offering any help I need.”



**Yesenia Favela**  
(school psychologist)  
“So far, I have really appreciated how welcoming everyone has been!”



# Fenton Fall Sports, Activities Meeting Information

by Erica Ayala

Club Name	Sponsors	Google Classroom	Meeting Information	Important or exciting news
Boys and Girls Soccer Student Council Class of 2021	Victor Ruiz ruiz@fenton100.org Mike Berry berry@fenton100.org - Simon Sanchez sanchez@fenton100.org - Alexis Herrera herrera@fenton100.org		We will be meeting soon via Zoom	Boys soccer season is scheduled to start February 15 to May 1st - Girls Soccer May 3 to June 26
	Ranjana Rajendran - rajendran@fenton100.org Mr. Barr barrje@fenton100.org Dr. Mussman mussman@fenton100.org		Thursday mornings at 9am	
Stage Crew	Stephanie Jackson jackson@fenton100.org		Starting in October we will meet for December production Bi-weekly on Wednesdays from 3:00-3:45	Looking forward to seeing everyone and welcoming new folks. It is gonna be great.
Signal student newspaper	Mrs. Valente valente@fenton100.org		Every other Thursday at 3:15pm- Google Meet	We are in need of reporters! Join any time. We are incredibly flexible with your schedule.
STUNT- Students United	FLO Brock. Email- Brock@fenton100.org	dzlgbsn	Every wednesday @ 3:30pm	Our first meeting is Thursday, September 3rd
L.I.P. ( language Is Power)	Dr. Mitchell mitchellm@fenton100.org Dr. Mussman mussman@fenton100.org Mr. Escobedo escobedo@fenton100.org	For SOS-rsrove5t; Fall Play has not been created yet	We will be meeting Mondays-Fridays 3:30-5:15; this has not yet been scheduled	Yes- We will be switching the order of this year's shows (SOS will take place first and the Fall Play will be later in the year).
Fall Play & Students On Stage	Mrs. Seredy M. Williams williams@fenton100.org		Wednesday evenings from 6-8pm	Congrats to our 40 members this fall!
Swing Choir	Mrs. Seredy M Williams williams@fenton100.org		Once a month after school (Mondays or Wednesdays)	We are so excited to serve the Fenton HS community and music department this year!
Tri-M Music Honor Society			Monthly via Google Meet --- Visit Classroom for more information!	This school year, International Thespian Society will function remotely until further notice. Hours and points toward induction and to maintain membership will be collected through personal projects.
International Thespian Society	Amanda Baker (Ms. Baker) bakera@fenton100.org	yyuh3mt		
National Honor Society	Dr. Mussman mussman@fenton100.org Mrs. Pahl pahl@fenton100.org		Monthly	The NHS officers are working to ensure that the chapter provides opportunity for service and leadership during remote learning and beyond.
Hiking Club	Stephanie Downen downen@fenton100.org	5irr2cr	Tuesdays at 3:15 pm	Join the Google Classroom to get important information. We are hoping to do in-person hikes as soon as we get approval from the district!
BRAVE	Mrs. Muscarello Muscarello@fenton100.org	35dsfbn	Friday's at 3:15	We will be promoting Ally week October 5th-9th. During this week we will put out information on how to be a supportive ally to the LGBTQ community.
Fenton Chess	Stephanie Downen Downen@Fenton100.org Michelle Bibel Bibel@Fenton100.org	mo4hqnd	Preseason: Wednesdays 3:15 via Zoom Link	Our regular season begins Oct 14th. Join our Google Classroom for updates and further information.
FCCLA (Family Career & Community Leaders of America)	Kellie Engle engle@fenton100.org	trhjkfy	Once/Twice a month after school (Tuesdays)	First meeting is Tuesday September 22 (3:00) via Google Meets!
Makerspace Club	Mrs. Wright wright@fenton100.org AND Mrs. Olson olson@fenton100.org	g2mcehr	TBD by those interested in the club - 3rd week of Sept.	Please take this brief survey to help us choose a meeting day and time: <a href="https://forms.gle/ANZ5bMWEoYZjFT1N8">https://forms.gle/ANZ5bMWEoYZjFT1N8</a>
			We audition new members on September 17th and 18th (returning members are automatically on the team). We will have new coaching times this year posted in Google Classroom after we audition.	We are open to any and all members. We can compete with other schools virtually. Our virtual competitions happen via Zoom asynchronously during the week and on Saturdays.... We have produced 3 state champs in the last 2 years and many students can advance to state competition and also apply for college scholarships because of speech team involvement.
Speech Team	Ms. Hendricks hendricks@fenton100.org Ms. Feinberg feinberg@fenton100.org	urwymot	Fourth Tuesday of the month @ 3:30pm	First Meeting will be September 22nd. Look for the meeting link on our Google Classroom.
Language Club	Mrs. Vazquez vazquez@fenton100.org	dhad77m		Bison Buddies will have its first meeting Wednesday, September 9th, at 3:15 PM, via Google Meets. Please join the Bison Buddies Google Classroom using the code vii6w30 to find the Google Meet link. We look forward to meeting you!
Bison Buddies	Mrs. Taylor taylor@fenton100.org Mrs. Szkorla szkorla@fenton100.org	vii6w30	Every other Wednesday, at 3:15 PM	
Highlights	Mr. Kambic kambic@fenton100.org Mr. Nelson nelsonm@fenton100.org		Virtually every Thursday at 3:20pm	The Highlights Yearbook Club invites all Fenton students to join our staff. Will involve researching neat areas of our school, interviewing other students, teachers/coaches, and designing pages... Be a part of looking back and documenting your 2020-2021 school year in a keepsake you will cherish for years.
Math Team	Ms. Santinello santinello@fenton100.org, Ms. Stern stern@fenton100.org, Mr. Porter porter@fenton100.org	dk2gsxg	We meet typically before school and each grade meets at a different time.	Practice will begin in October:)

In Illinois, the early voting period starts September 24th and ends on November 2nd. National Election Day is Tuesday, November 3rd. The largest trend between both parties was the urgency of voting for this election; they encourage everyone who is eligible to go out and cast their ballot and make sure their voice is heard.



# Fenton Starts 2020-2021 School Year Remotely

By Olivia Markowski

As we all know, the coronavirus has played an enormous part in the ending of the 2019-2020 school year, as well as the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year. Going from interacting with our friends and teacher, waking up every morning to go to school to now three weeks of isolation that had us never returning back that semester. From staying 6 feet apart, wearing masks, and getting our temperatures checked out in public, no one could have ever anticipated the immense changes in the world due to this virus.

One of the major changes this year would have to be for students and our year of adapting to a new way of learning. There has been an ongoing debate in America, and around the whole world, on whether or not students should attend school in person. While staying home may seem like the most obvious thing to do in a time like this, some educators have welcomed their students back onto campus either full or part time.

A school that has brought a lot of attention to the media recently has been North Paulding High School located down in Dallas, Georgia. A student had posted a picture on Twitter of the hallways in her school, and people were appalled to see that

many students were not wearing any form of face covering nor had they been following any sort of safety precautions. Very soon after, North Paulding High School closed for a cleaning after six students and three staff members had tested positive for the virus. Adding on to that, the Covid-19 rates in their school alone rose to about 35 new cases just from reopening. Through that, many reopened schools have chosen to go to virtual learning.

On the other hand, Fenton has taken a very responsible approach to the school year by having all students start off virtually. Thinking of new ways for teachers to teach and students to learn, this school year will be full of adapting to the change around us.

Though it has been a crazy few months of change, Mr. Garrett George, band director at Fenton High School, has shared his experience through the changes in learning, his thoughts on this school year, and has pointed out some of the new things his students have been learning in class.

"We are doing band a little bit differently this year just like everyone else! While we are chomping at the bit to get a socially distanced gig somewhere, we are developing our individual musicianship skills and

focusing on how to learn music and become independent in this process. We are also spending time learning about our Musical Heroes as well as a few other unique projects throughout the year that will incorporate creating music in different ways. We're doing this while keeping the spirit, pride, and tradition of Fenton Bands alive! We will get through this!"

The environment of a classroom can be very beneficial to a student's learning, along with a teacher's teaching. With remote learning, there may be that barrier of learning through things such as computer lags, disconnection of the internet, or even just miscommunication.

Ms. Aida Zubovic, a language teacher at Fenton High School, has shared her thoughts regarding her experience in a virtual classroom.

"Being able to communicate in more than one language is an extremely valuable skill and a powerful tool with cognitive, economic and intercultural benefits. While learning a second language may be challenging without total immersion, learning remotely adds yet another level of difficulty as personal connection and language experience is communicated electronically only. Due to unstable internet connection and the nature

of electronic voice transfer, words do not sound as authentic or as complete and are sometimes misunderstood as a result of that. It is not the most ideal and, at times, a very challenging method to learn or to teach a language, however, Fenton students have been very engaged and adapted well as they remotely explore authentic video, audio, and print materials and further explore the language and build fluency. We ask our students to participate even more and to not hesitate to unmute and speak in German, French and Spanish during live sessions. That is our ultimate goal, to communicate without hesitation in a world language despite any obstacles that come along the way!"

As we are all trying to live past this pandemic, only time can tell as to what will be held in the future. For now, we can all do our parts in wearing our masks, distancing ourselves from others, washing our hands, and taking precaution everywhere we go. This is a time when everyone is learning new things and adapting to change. This may be our new normal for a long time, so being nice to one another is very important as this may not be easy for us all. We do not know when the exact time will be for us to come back to a normal class setting, so keep your hopes high, and we will all get through this.

## Zoom vs. Google Meets: Students Voice Their Opinions

By Olivia Baran

Zoom vs. Google Meet. Classes are online, and this has turned into the latest controversial topic. Some say they prefer Google Meet, and others say they prefer Zoom. There are obvious pros and cons of both, and we will uncover some opinions from our fellow Bison.

As a result of our current situation, remote learning can serve as an obstacle for many. Whether it be internet issues, finding a functional workspace, or even staying focused. The last thing the majority of us, students, need are complications with our online meetings. Sadly, this is a problem that has been surfacing.

"I prefer Zoom because the lagging is reduced and it takes less time for the chat box to appear", states Olivia Chavez.

"I prefer Zoom because, lately with Google Meet, I get kicked out at least once during each class, and I miss out on important content. It is also really slow," Audrey Benitez reveals.

There are evidently many fans of Zoom. Students have been complaining about Google Meet, expressing that it adds to the frustration of e-learning.

However, others prefer Google Meet.

"I personally like Google

Meet because when using Google Classroom, the code is always on top, ready for me to go on," describes Jessica Pykosz.

There are numerous contrasting opinions. Only time will tell what is bound to occur. However, we are sure that the Fenton staff will choose a database that will allow this year to run as smoothly as possible.

Focusing our attention away from the students, the teachers also have their own opinions.

"With Zoom, it is relatively easy to put students in groups. I can also put them in pairs so that they are talking to someone different each time we switch topics. The ability to do this makes my online classes feel a little more like my in-person classes would have been," says Mrs. Vazquez.

It is amazing to see how optimistic our teachers are throughout this tough time. Our teachers hope to make online classes feel a bit more like in-person classes. This is made possible with an effective database to perform these meetings. Fenton's staff and teachers are doing everything in their power to ensure that this year will fill the students with a sense of normality.

The switch to e-learning has not been easy, but in accordance with our Bison nature, we will push through and make the best of this crazy year.

## "TikTok" Ignites a Large Impact

By Morelia Aburto

Just last year, most of us were wondering what the "hype" was about this new app, TikTok. Now, although we might hate to admit it, we all probably have it on our phones and are addicted. Tik Tok is a social media platform where creators can post 15-60 second videos. What started off as just another app, has now impacted most of our lives.

TikTok has the power of taking regular teens and making them internet sensations over night. Many people believe that anyone has potential to become TikTok famous. TikTok's algorithm helps many creators get on the For You Page, where they could be seen by thousands or even millions of people around the world. This is the reason why many creators such as Charli D'Amelio, Addison Rae, and Noah Beck have accumulated a mass amount of followers in such a small amount of time. Tik Tok has become an easy platform for anyone to gain a following.

This app has now become part of day to day life. Most of us can't go 5 minutes without making a reference to a famous tiktok. Whether is the hand gestures that are used in some viral videos, or phrases, we can't seem to get them out of our heads. One of many phrases used might include "chile anyways so" which is used to move on from an awkward

conversation or topic. The dances are also pretty catchy. You'll see kids dancing along to TikTok dances even when they aren't filming a Tik Tok. They could be in the hallways, at stores, or even eating while they dance along.

Many famous artists and brands have also moved to the app in hopes of getting more recognition. The truth is that TikTok could take any song and make it a hit in matters of days. This means the artist would be listened to more and gain a bigger audience. An example of this is Doja Cat. Doja's single *Say So* became very popular after creator Haley Sharpe created a simple dance to it. The dance became viral and soon everyone on the platform was doing it. This increased Doja Cat's streams. Brands such as Morphe have started collaborating with creators to get their products out there. Charli D'Amelio, the most followed tik toker with 87.1 million followers has endorsements with brands such as Hollister, Morphe, and even Dunkin. Charli is the face of "Morphe 2" a natural makeup line, and even has her own drink "The Charli" at Dunkin. This has helped the brands gain popularity.

Overall TikTok has changed day to day lives for normal teenagers and artists. It is now one of the most downloaded apps with over 800 million users.



# Inktober: Trademark Controversy in the Art Community

By Jadyn Golz

As the summer fades into fall and the green leaves turn to red, the art community readies themselves for one of the biggest events of the year: Inktober.

Inktober is a digital event that takes place over the month of October. It was created by Jake Parker in 2009 as a way to improve upon his artistic abilities. The challenge comes with 31 single-word prompts, one for each day of the month. Artists, including Parker, draw their submission according to the prompt and then post it on Instagram or Facebook with the tag "Inktober2020" or "Inktober."

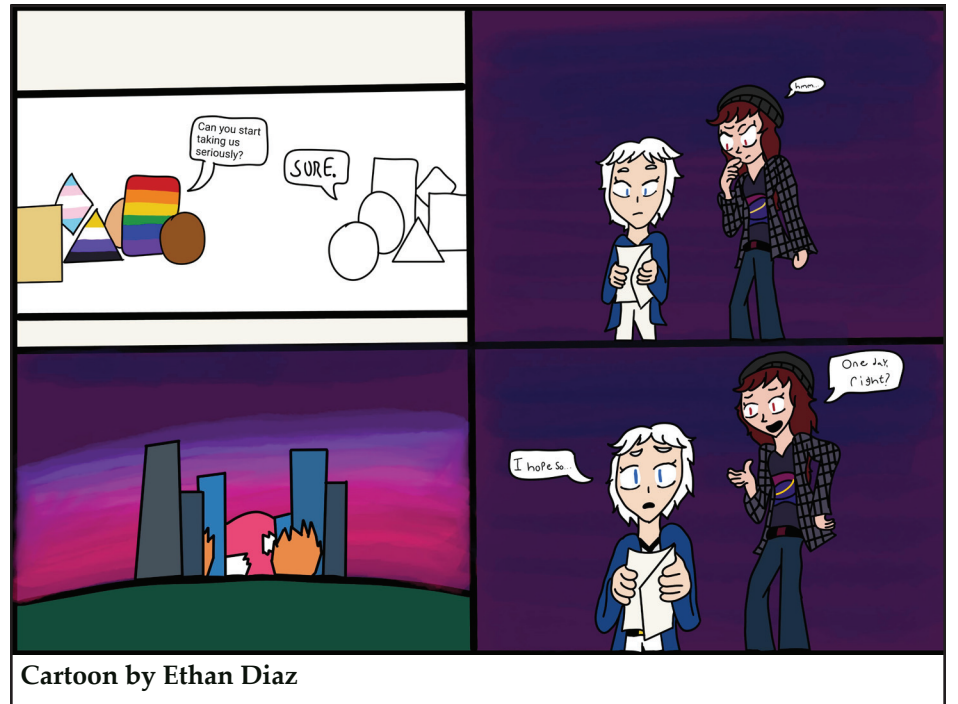
This event is a great way to promote yourself as an artist, as well as develop yourself as an artist. But as of late, Parker and Inktober have been under fire from the community; bringing some artists to abandon Inktober and opt for lesser-known October challenges. There are two major reasons for this controversy.

The first reason is that Parker has recently placed a trademark over "Inktober," which prohibits the use of "Inktober" and the Inktober logo in sales of artwork or other creations without permission from Parker. It's the same concept as why one can't sell unlicensed Nike merchandise, but still use Nike products in a product review online. This action was taken because Parker has recently produced merchandise such as phone cases, pins, and t-shirts. This has angered participants who've published their Inktober drawings for sale. They've been taken down because of the new trademark. Although, this can be easily fixed by consulting the "Inktober Trademark Info" page under "Rules and Prompts" of the official Inktober website.

The second reason for the backlash is that Parker was accused of plagiarizing another artist's work in his new book, "Inktober All Year Long," which will be available to the public on October 20th, 2020.

The artist who accused Park of copying was Alphonso Dunn, an artist who also specializes in ink drawings and has published books. On his YouTube channel (Alphonso Dunn) he published a video on August 26th, 2020 (5 days before the release of the Inktober 2020 prompt list) titled, "Jake Parker Plagiarized My Book."

Parker was alerted of the situation and two days later on August 28th, 2020, released a statement on Inktober's Instagram and Facebook page as well as on his own page: "I want you to hear it directly from me: I have not plagiarized anyone's work...Unfortunately, this artist has made this a public issue, rather than contacting me directly. I still welcome him to reach out to me independently...Because of potential legal aspects, I have been advised against going into further detail at this time."



Cartoon by Ethan Diaz

## Cross Country Teams Stride Toward Regional; No State for 2020

By Michelle Agyemang

Fenton's girls and boys cross country teams have started their season and are not holding anything back. The first meet of the season was on September 5th against Elgin Larkin. Fenton's girls cross country team did exceptionally well with Fenton taking the first six places and scoring a perfect 15! The varsity team was represented by Ally Durkoski who got a 1st place win, Hailey Miller in 2nd place, Angie Gasior in 3rd place, Amy Czauderna in 4th place, Lupita Honorato in 5th place, Carolina Rosas in 6th place, and Alexa Toledo in 12th place. Even with the team's outstanding start to the season, there is still growth to be made.

The boys cross country also did exceptionally well winning their race against Elgin Larkin. The Varsity team was led by Victor Vazquez, who won 1st place, and Matt Sisto, who won 2nd place. Runners Juan Carlos Sosa, Konstantinos Papadopoulos, Chris Kovich, and Emilio Sanchez also helped the Varsity team score their win against Elgin Larkin. The open race was also won by Senior Dom Colantonio, followed by Mark Sisco, John Hernandez, Jordan Wilson, and Mateo Corona.

When asked what his biggest goal for the team was, boys cross country head coach Patrick Fritsch says, "In a typical year, our goal is to make the state meet and that usually happens in November and we have a qualifying series to go through to get there. This year with the guidelines set by the IHSA, there will

be no state meet. There will be a regional championship meet at the end of the season, so our goal is to run as fast as we can at that meet. In the meantime, we are competing against the other schools in our athletic conference, the 'Upstate Eight,' so we are definitely trying to finish with an above 500 record."

The recent coronavirus pandemic has fostered a great sense of uncertainty to all high schools all across America.

This unsure feeling was reciprocated in freshman Antonio DeSensi saying, "I am a freshman and I do not know what to expect."

Luckily, Fenton's cross country teams have overcome these challenges while making sure that all their students are as safe as possible. "Everyone has to arrive with masks. Temperature checks are done every single day, social distancing is enforced, the school has provided us with hand sanitizers, disinfectants, extra masks, cleaning products, so those are the big things.

When we travel to competitions, we also have spacing on the bus," says girl's cross country head coach Frank Kekstadt. The IHSA guidelines for cross country limits to 50 people on a course including all runners, coaches, officials, and workers. Even with all these new restrictions, Fenton's cross country teams have been able to make the most out of it. "There was an uncertainty for all fall sport and we're very very lucky that XC was approved. I'm happy that we just got to have a season, to practice, to be together to, to get healthy, to be fit," says Kekstadt as well.

Both cross country teams greatly value the sense of community and teamwork. "We're a team that really bonds bond like no other," says Kekstadt.

When asked what she is most looking forward to this season, senior Lupita Honorato says, "When I come to practice I look forward to seeing my teammates working hard, improving themselves for the next meet. I love their dedication, and you can't forget about coach K's one of a kind jokes."

The hard work that the cross country teams put into their teamwork definitely shows within their players and on the scoreboard. With the season just beginning, there many memories and accomplishments that are waiting to be made in the future.

It's not too late to join the cross country team. Both the boys and girls teams are still welcoming new members onto the team.

"We have a pretty small squad this year; Usually we get a lot more kids when school starts. Since that's not going to be the case this year, our numbers are really low so we are really encouraging new members to come out," says Fritsch.



Girls XC warm-up. Courtesy of Frank Kekstadt



# Colleges Vary in Handling of Attendance, Tuition in Wake of COVID

By Jenny Aguilar

Each school year's start is filled with excitement for what is to come, especially for college students, moving into dorms, meeting roommates, and exploring the campus. That is not the case for this year, however. With no end in sight of the pandemic in the United States, colleges and universities have had to develop ways to start their semesters in safe and healthy ways.

The University of Notre Dame sent "safety packages" to each of their students that included masks, thermometers, and hand sanitizers. Barnard College started off the school year with mostly online classes, single-rooms only, and only allowing half of the students to be on campus for the first semester. College of DuPage has opted for primarily online courses with a few lab classes being held on campus every couple of days.

But despite these changes, COVID-19 cases have drastically increased since colleges have reopened. In over 1,000 colleges across the nation, there have been a reported 88,000 COVID-19 cases, according to The New York Times. With these outbreaks, students are now being forced to quarantine in their dorm for the full two-weeks or go back to their homes and attend online classes.

Mrs. Nancy Connor, a counselor at Fenton, thinks that the schools "are trying. Kids get infected usually at places like sororities and fraternities."

The labor day weekend proved this to be true with photos and videos being posted on social media showing a multitude of college students at parties and other gatherings, ignoring social distancing and not wearing masks.

Another issue affecting many of these students is tuition.

Most colleges and universities are still charging full or slightly reduced tuition and fees regardless of the fact that these students will not be able to have everything they initially paid for, such as videos of the ghastly meals students at the University of New York were receiving went viral on Tiktok.

Senior Dan Barton comments on the tuition dilemma, saying, "What's the point of paying a ton of money just to sit at home or in your dorm room in online classes."

Little Big Horn College, a tribal college in Montana, announced that it would be removing tuition and fees for this semester. However, it does not seem like other colleges will be following Little Big Horn's example.

While college students try to get used to their new school situation, the current senior class and high school students in general, have a lot

to think about regarding their lives after high school.

Connor gives advice to these upcoming college students: "The class of 2021 should be filling out [college] applications and starting, on October 1, to fill out the FAFSA form, which is now a graduation requirement. Most colleges are waving the SAT and ACT, instead focusing on grades, essays, AP courses, and rigor."

Seniors do have the option to take the SAT in either October or April with the juniors if they desire.

For seniors like Barton, who is planning on attending the University of Alberta in Edmonton, this was not how they imagined college planning would go: "I would like this pandemic to end sometime soon, though, so I can go to the University of Alberta... At this point, I don't know if I'll be able to go to Canada seeing the U.S.' COVID-19 numbers."

## DuPage County, Comcast Team Up to Bring Internet to Students in Need

By Febe Reyes

We all know that we are in the time of a pandemic, which has made people have to stop working. This could be especially hard on low-income families. A new collaboration between Comcast and DuPage might be able to take some stress off of these families.

Comcast and the county of DuPage were brought together by a donor who was interested in providing internet to students and families in need. This donor got in contact with the DuPage Regional Board of Education to ask about collaborating to bringing free WiFi to these families for the school year. This program is mainly funded by the donor's money and other school districts.

"The program should last for the next 10 months to assist families throughout the school year" said principal, Mr. Jovan Lazarevic. During that time, students will receive WiFi that currently provides 25Mbps internet download speed and a standard WiFi router.

This is enough speed to stream HD videos or to support multiple video meetings at one time.

You might be asking yourself: am I eligible for the WiFi?

"Details are not finalized, but there will be a process that will help districts identify and offer this service [to] families who demonstrate need and who meet the qualifications for the Internet Essentials program," says Lazarevic.

The WiFi will be installed and primarily supported through the Comcast Internet Essentials program: a program that gives internet access at a low cost for needing families. This includes families from all over the county, not just District 2 and District 100 schools.

If you're worried about not being contacted about this opportunity, don't worry. This program is planned to be available by mid to late September, so there is still plenty of time to receive your internet. If you have questions, email technology director James Batson [batson@fenton100.org](mailto:batson@fenton100.org)

Interested in joining the *Signal* team? Want to write about school, local, state, national, or global issues that concern students?

Come to our next meeting Wednesday, September 30 at 3:10. Email Mrs. Jackson for the Google Meet link! [jackson@fenton100.org](mailto:jackson@fenton100.org)



A now familiar sight for all Fenton students, Mrs. Seredy Williams conducts the first day of choir rehearsal virtually.

Photos courtesy of Seredy Williams