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Purple Press

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Distance Learning 1.0 vs 2.0

New schedule puts more emphasis on synchronous time

Violet Wright
Staff Writer

Distance learning is now a fact of life, what with the coronavirus pandemic. But as school started up again this fall, students might have noticed more synchronous time

and a different schedule.

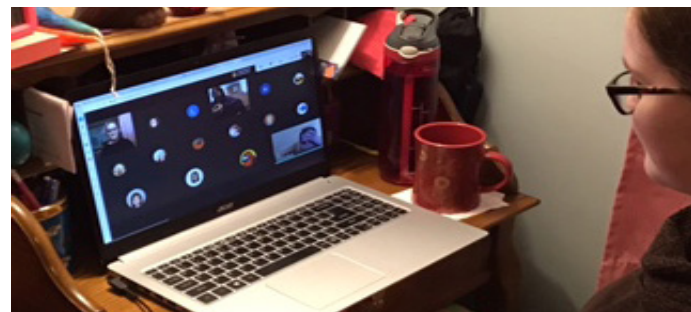
Distance learning 1.0 was an emergency measure implemented last spring, to let kids get back to school. Tuesday, March 10 was the first day of the teacher strike, so kids stayed home because of that through Friday March 13. After that, the governor ordered that schools be closed because

of the pandemic, and there was no school at all until April 6th, 3 weeks later.

"The primary changes to this school year's DL schedule is that last year was nearly 100% asynchronous aside from a couple of synchronous crew meetings a week," said principal Dave Gundale. This year, "there is a lot more live

interaction between students and teachers and students and students." Last year, assignments were posted on Schoology, the same as in distance learning 2.0, but there were no synchronous classes except for a few scattered office hours and crew meetings. The

Distance learning, 5



10th grader Hazel Wright in class on a Google Meet this fall.

Purple Press Staff Photo

Biden wins 2020 election



People lined up at the Frogtown Community Center to vote (left), senior Frankie Buettner voting for the first time this year (right).



Purple Press Staff Photos

Maxwell Juvland
Staff Writer

So, election night(s) have come and gone. After days of tense waiting, Joseph R. Biden has become the next President Elect of the United States of America. It was by a smaller margin than initially expected, and the polls remained quite

inaccurate in this cycle in a similar way to 2016, but Biden is set to become the 46th POTUS. As we transition into this new administration, what can we expect? This article seeks to explain that. Additionally, as this article was written prior to the election results coming out, there is also a "what if"

scenario for if Donald J. Trump had beaten the odds and been re-elected for a second term.

Joe Biden won the election.

Well, the first thing that can be expected is a chaotic experience with the Supreme Court. President Trump has already been very vocal about

his intentions to seek recounts, which could get bogged down in legal proceedings for weeks. Especially in a state like Georgia, which has been extremely close, this will last a while. Additionally, following the controversial appointment of Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court, there has been

talk of court packing to make up for the current 6-3 conservative lean of the Court, so this is sure to be an intense issue following the election.

Another big issue early on will be healthcare. With conservatives pressing to elim-

Election, 6

How are Supreme Court justices appointed?

Amy Coney Barrett sworn in just 7 days before 2020 election

Ted Dobbins
Staff Writer

Seven days before the 2020 Presidential election, President Donald Trump formally swore in Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett as a Justice. Back in 2017, Senate Republicans refused to vote on Obama's nominee Merrick Garland because they deemed it too close to the election, which was seven months away. This raises many questions about how the nomination process even works. This arti-

cle will address that topic.

Appointing Supreme Court Justices is a lengthy process, but, surprisingly, the process doesn't have many strict rules and is only roughly four steps. The first step falls to the President of the United States. Upon the death or resignation of a Supreme Court Justice, the President then proceeds to fill the vacancy. The President will then confer with close advisors and colleagues. They will go over potential nominees and select their first choice.

Senators will also meet with the President about their suggestions, though the President does not have to take in account any of those suggestions.

The second step is for the nominee to go before the Senate Judiciary Committee in a series of hearings. The Committee meetings exist mostly to unearth secrets or dark deeds the nominee has done in the past, these hearings usually span about 60 days, however the process can be shorter or longer. The Judiciary Committee votes on whether or not to send the nomination to the full United States Senate, along

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Will school reopen this year?

Liam Seath
Staff Writer

The earliest possible return to the school building for OWL students would be late January, according to principal Dave Gundale. Some students, including those in certain special education programs, have returned to in person learning.

Saint Paul Public Schools has broken down the potential return to school into three phases: distance learning, hybrid learning, and face-to-face learning. The very first stage of the hybrid phase of reopening took place the Monday after MEA. This included some Special Education programs in the Saint Paul Schools.

The second, third, and fourth stages of the hybrid phase would be for students in grades preK - 2, 3-5, and 6-12. As we have found out from Dave, "The Saint Paul School Board just decided to not reopen 3-12th grade until at least January 19th." But as we have seen recently, Dave added, "The top factor is the COVID rates, which are actually increasing at this time." This likely means that with the ever increasing COVID rates, the chance of us moving to hybrid school is decreasing.

The third and final phase of the learning plan is returning to in-person learning. Even if COVID rates decrease and we move to hybrid learning we would have to follow certain rules and restrictions in the building. Dave says that the

School, 6



The Supreme Court building in Washington D.C.

Pexels.com



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Cross country wraps up successful 2020 season

10 OWL students ran for the Hawks this year

Tess Campion
Staff Writer

Although OWL and Humboldt buildings remained quiet as the schools continued virtually during the day, after school fall athletes brought some noise and energy back to the schools as they started practices. Some of those athletes were Humboldt's cross country runners whose pounding feet on the pavement you could hear as they went out to practice. These runners were some of the few athletes to have a full season, even with covid-19. The cross country team was able to make the most of the season, despite many limiting factors, such as new formats for practice and races, and no invitational races.

As the season came to an end, the Humboldt cross country team was able to finish in a successful section race that concluded the season two weeks ago. OWL eleventh grader Stian Asper won his heat, 9th grader Willa Campion placed second in her heat, and many other runners got personal best times. 'It was good to be able to run in some form and I just had a fun time



9th grader Mintesinot Sturm sprints to the finish line against a runner from Washington (above), runners mask up as they talk to their coach before a meet in Minneapolis this fall (below).

with my team," reflected 9th grader Willa Campion.

Because of Covid-19 the team had to implement new

standards to keep the team safe. The team wore masks all the way through stretches, and

Cross country, 3



Purple Press Staff Photo

6th grader Dylan Bickelhaupt uses his dad's iPad and his school iPad to play Among Us with his crew.

How are students socializing during COVID?

Joe Deutch
Staff Writer

Social distancing has been the talk and hopefully for everyone, the activity of the summer. With signs everywhere and encouragement from high ranking politicians as well as health advisors, it is hard not to notice the effects covid has had on people walking down the street or just having a bonfire. These observations can be related to our own community at OWL, with multiple students and teachers taking the necessary precautions to socialize while remaining safe.

Staying six feet away from everyone has become the norm, but staying that distance has looked different for everyone, especially when being outside. "Something my friends and I started doing was all parking our cars in an empty parking lot and having a distanced picnic in our trunks," said Ella Pratt, a 12th. "With covid, I was able to get outside more, because that's

the only way I could see my friends," Ella said. Not only has it looked different but it seems like the amount of people outside has also changed too. Over the summer I took notice of a mountain biking park down my road, and the increase of people that were there compared to years prior. It is safe to say that outside activities have been key this summer and fall to socializing within our community.

Covid has also encouraged people to see how others are doing in these times of uncertainty. I was walking by my Dad, Tim Deutch's office when I heard his catchphrase pop up; "Greetings" he said. I began to wonder what he is doing talking to a laptop. Later that night, I followed through on my interest and asked him about what that was all about. He went on a long rant about connecting with old college friends as well as old work friends and clients. I thought

Social distancing, 4

Suprise! Volleyball back on the court after all

MSHSL also decided to move football back to a late fall season

Lili Hobday
Staff Writer

In August, the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) chose to suspend the football and volleyball season until the spring due to the pandemic. It was decided on Monday, September 21st, however, to overturn that ruling and allow both volleyball and football to have fall seasons. The teams started practice on

September 28th and should continue into late fall and early winter unless there is a team outbreak.

This decision was overruled because of lots of pushback including a potential lawsuit against MSHSL for violating their bylines and constitution.

"To my knowledge, MSHSL isn't a state functioning thing, they're a non-profit organization. It's not state sanctioned and because of that I think a

lot of pressure is put on them because they are just another company like Starbucks," said varsity volleyball coach and OWL math teacher Damon Liberatore.

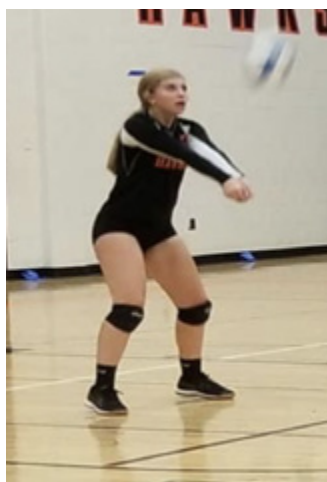
In an attempt to stay COVID-friendly, the coaches and teams wear masks when not playing and players are asked to find their own rides to games if possible. Otherwise, they are told to spread out on the bus. Even with these precautions put in place, the decision to play was surprising to many involved.

"I was 100% surprised that they reversed that decision and moved us forward. I thought that was a terrible idea. I think that because of this, somebody in our state will probably die. If even one person dies because we play these games, to me it's not worth it," said Damon.

"I'm very glad that we do have volleyball, because although it can be dangerous, it helps me stay in shape and seeing my peers makes things feel normal for a little bit. Less like a long summer and more like we're actually in school," said junior Chyanne Braun.

Going forward players are being told to be very careful, and if someone tests positive for COVID, the season is over. "I think there's a much greater chance of the season being cancelled than people realize," said Damon.

So far the varsity team has



Purple Press Staff Photos

Senior Aiko Mattie passes the ball in a match this year (above), 11th grader Lili Hobday sets the ball (below).

scored wins against Washington and competed in some close games with Harding and Johnson. JV sits tied at third and c-squad tied at second. The teams have six conference games left to play and depending on their outcome, varsity will be seeded for sections starting on December 2nd.



Purple Press Staff Photos

The 2020 varsity volleyball team (above), the Hawks celebrate a point in a match this year (below).

Meet Preston!

OWL's newest ELA teacher

Willa Campion
Staff Writer

The OWL community has a new member, Preston West, a passionate middle school English teacher who joined the OWL staff this fall. After teaching at Parkway Montessori for several years, Preston (who uses he/him pronouns) is excited to be working at OWL teaching 6th and 7th graders.

Preston grew up in a small town in Kansas and up until high school had only 21 kids in his class. He enjoyed the small school teacher student relationship growing up and after moving to the city wanted to find that same kind of community. Two years ago, he attended OWL's school play, She Kills Monsters, and unlike the plays at his school growing up, She Kills Monsters included LGBTQ+ characters and discussed student's experiences as teens. "It's clear that OWL is a safe space for people to be themselves, and that's something I want to be a part of," Preston said.

Not all teachers enjoy



Preston West

New English teacher Preston West poses at home with a penguin sculpture.

teaching middle school, however Preston called it his happy place. "The fact that my job at the start of the year boils down to giving book recommendations and helping students fall in love with reading is a dream come true for me," he said. In part, this is why he wanted to become a teacher. In his junior year of high school his class visited the elementary school he had attended and read to kindergartners. "That was a moment where I realized that I wanted to spend my life in a

Preston, 3

Senior Spotlight

Madigan Lodahl



How many years have you been at OWL?
This is my 6th year.

What are your plans for next year?
So far I have applied to St. Olaf and UW Madison.

What’s been your favorite class in high school?
I loved World History in 9th grade.

What extracurriculars are you involved in?
Swimming, frisbee, and outward bound!

Favorite field work trip and why?
Du Nord was so much fun, we did a lot of activities like canoing and the sauna.

If you had a walk up song, what would it be?
Now or Never from High School Musical 3.

What do you miss most about in-person learning?
Everything, but mostly seeing friends and teachers everyday.

That One Little Kid

Justin Benner

How tall are you?
I am 4’11.

What’s your favorite class so far and why?
My favorite class is reading because I like to read and my reading teacher is nice.

Who’s your favorite senior?
I don’t know that many seniors.

Where do you think you’re going to go for college?
For college I’m going to a college with a good basketball team because I want to be in the NBA.

What’s the best and worst thing about distance learning?
The best thing about distance learning is not having to wake up so early. The worst thing about distance learning is everything.

What’s your favorite book, movie, TV show or video game?
My favorite video game is rocket league. It is a soccer game but instead of people use their cars.



Demand for bicycles at an all time high in 2020

“The pandemic has brought record sales in the bike industry.”

Lachlan Cotner
Staff Writer

One bike, two bike, red bike, blue bike; all sold.

2020 has brought a whole list of crazy occurrences. This year has hosted the death of Kobe Bryant, an election of historic proportions, and of-course the raging global pandemic. Oh and a teacher strike; remember that? And well the bicycle industry has not been immune to the craziness. However, while many businesses struggle to stay afloat, the pandemic has brought record sales in the bike industry.

With everyone confined to their houses, and nothing to do, people turned to biking this spring and summer as an alternative activity to pass the time and get some exercise.



The Bicycle Chain bike shop.

Lachlan Cotner

“We’ve sold a years worth of bikes in the last month,” said Dave Bole - the owner of the Bicycle Chain, and my boss-back in March when the season was just starting to heat up.

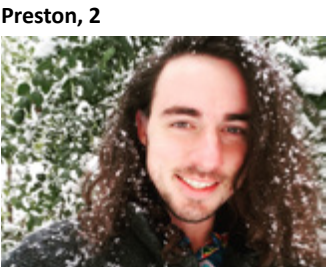
Bike companies work on a six month supply chain, meaning it takes them around six months from the company placing an order to when the bike is ready to go. That meant that they were unable to rapidly respond to the surge in demand at the beginning of the year. The brand we deal -Specialized- has notified us that it could be well into next season, possibly even into the fall of next year before they are able to consistently supply us with bikes. This has created a problem for us, although as Bole says, “its a good problem to have.” We are expecting next

year to bring a surge of customers who couldn’t get what they want this year.

OWL English teacher, Leo Bickelhaupt, experienced this shortage first hand this summer, saying he scoured the cities going to multiple bike shops, and ended up getting one for his daughter that doesn’t even fit correctly.

While many businesses have struggled during COVID, ours has thrived, so the problem of making too much money isn’t one we can really complain about. However it has made for a crazy year in which we actually have to deny customers based on lack of inventory -which is unheard of-. And this issue isn’t just one of our shop or even the Specialized brand; it’s industry wide. Eriks bike shop which is the largest bike shop chain in the country had an eight week waiting period for repairs at one point.

Come spring, the industry isn’t expected to let up at all. In fact, it will probably be way harder to get bikes next year considering we are starting off with basically no inventory. We expect many people who couldn’t get a bike this year to come back next year looking for one, which will only add to the mayhem.



Preston, 2

school, doing what I loved. [...] I’m honored to be able to have a career that lets me give back while doing what I love,” Preston said. “Also, middle schoolers laugh at my jokes more, so that’s always a plus,” he added.

The global pandemic has caused many schools, including OWL, to move online. Distance learning has been difficult for everyone involved, but especially for new teachers and students. “Distance learning has been bizarre. I feel like I would normally know all my students on a personal level by now, but having one-on-one conversations is so much more difficult than in person,” Preston said, however he is making the most of it. “Of course, I’m sure that my students are happy to escape the majority of my corny jokes, but I try and include at least one bad pun per day still.”

Outside of teaching, Preston enjoys cooking, volleyball, bocce ball, and of course reading. As well, he describes himself as being ‘currently rather obsessed with board games.’ “There is something about the challenge and competition that excites me,” he said. This includes playing Dungeon and Dragons, a favorite he has played since he was young.

When will we see a COVID vaccine?



Ian Rosenberg-Scholl
Staff Writer

According to the BBC, the only way things will get back to normal is when there is a fully approved and mass produced vaccine for Covid 19. “Even now, the vast majority of people are still vulnerable to a coronavirus infection. It is only the restrictions on our lives that are preventing more people from dying,” wrote James Gallagher a health and science correspondent for the BBC.

There are multiple different stages to the development of a vaccine. The first stage is pre-clinical testing where scientists first test the new vaccines on cells. then if it does the start testing on animals such as monkeys or mice to see if an immune response is produced.

The next stage of testing is Phase 1 safety trials. Phase 1 is the start of human trials where scientists give the vaccine to a small number of people to make sure it is safe for and the dosage is the correct one as well as to confirm the immune system responds correctly.

In Phase 2 (expanded trials) scientists give hundreds of people the vaccine to different groups of people such as the elderly and children. This trial is designed to see if the vaccine affects different groups of people differently and also

further test the immune response and safety of the vaccine. For the clinical trials to work the researchers or manufacturers need to create a list that include things like how many people will participate, who qualifies to participate, or whether or not there will be a control group. Once they have the list and make sure everything is as safe as possible the researcher will basically ask for volunteers to participate in the trial.

Phase 3 or the efficacy trials sees scientists give thousands of people the vaccine then they wait to see if the vaccine does effectively protect the population from Covid. It also is large enough to show evidence of relatively rare side effects that could have been missed.

Early or limited approval has only been carried out by Russia and China. This “stage” is where countries have approved the vaccines without waiting for the results of Phase 3. It is important to note that Experts say that this rushed phase has serious risks to it, such as unknown conditions.

According to the BBC, there are 40 vaccines in clinical trials with 240 vaccines in early development with and nine in the final stages of testing. A further breakdown was done

Vaccine, 4

Cross country, 2

left them on until they started to run. During all races, teams were staggered though different heats, opposed from the mass start that would’ve traditionally happened. Up to three teams were in each heat and racers wore a mask at the start line. “We were not able to run against a large variety of teams, but it was still fun to get out there,” said Willa. Teams were only allowed to race against teams in their conference up until sections and there was no state race.

Despite this year’s limitations, cross country at Humboldt continued to expand this year. The boys team doubled in size and the girls team got one new runner. In addition the team got a new head coach, Mario Luna, Humboldt’s track coach, after their former coach stepped down last year and is now focusing on organizing the Humboldt invitational race. Coach Mario was able to push the runners and keep the fun atmosphere while keeping the athletes safe, and won

coach of the year for the St. Paul City Conference.

As the season came to an end on November 14, the Humboldt cross country team, 11th grader Stian Asper, 10th graders; Daniel Meekin, Joe Gorton, Alex Cowles, Owen Vaughan-Fier, Nick Streng, 9th graders, Nora Crosby, Willa Campion, Mintesinot Strum, 7th grader Patrick Toohey, and one Humboldt student, were able to reflect on the successful year and start looking forward to next year.



Purple Press Staff Photo

10th grader Daniel Meekin running in a race this season.

Theater during a pandemic brings unique challenges

Actors endure masks, cold weather, Zoom rehearsals

Avery Koll
Staff Writer

We were months into the pandemic when my parents sent me a link to a Facebook post about auditions for The Addams Family Musical put on by The Lakeshore Players. With the pandemic going on and on and the want to do something acting wise, and my love for The Addams Family in general, I was compelled to audition.

The first audition wave was done at home, I was asked to record myself singing a song (I chose Dear Theodosia) and send a headshot and a resume. After a few days I got three emails calling me back for Ancestor, Fester, and Mal. The second wave of auditions was in person and on two different days. The first day, we were outside and the ancestors were called (everyone who got a callback was called back for ancestors) and were split up into smaller groups and split off to learn a song and dance.

Once the auditions were over, now we played the waiting game... I got the role of ancestor.

The first phase of practice was all on zoom. All the practices were learning songs and creating our characters. Even though I remembered most of the songs, I had to learn new notes (I am now technically tenor/bass) and learn some new parts of songs. For one of the songs the director wanted an ancestor band instead of a backing track, and I got to play the flute for the song, so I had to remember how to play the flute and learn the song.

The second phase was in person, socially distanced, always masked, and outside (weather permitting) at Lakeshore Players Theatre. The first in person day we were finally practicing the songs as a group so we could blend together, and we also did a read through of the script. All the practices after that were learning choreography and blocking, and

the occasional band practice. Being in person it's really fun to see how the actors portray their characters. Unexpectedly to some people, the practices in person were everyday, so carpooling has started up, always masked in the car.

The start of tech was a bit hectic, and with the cold it made it a bit worse. The first day we were in costumes it was in the 20s. Every cast member got hats, gloves and scarves just in case but the gloves, especially for the ancestors, didn't do their job. After that night we got heaters put back-

stage to warm up actors on cold nights. The Thursday and Friday before the show weekend the stage was moved to The House of Hope in St. Paul, where we restaged a few things, and put on a show for the neighborhood around The House of Hope. The last three shows went off without a hitch, we cleaned up the space we were using and left with a semi-tearful goodbye. This experience will hopefully not be a common one—at least not the masking and social distancing parts—but it was a very fun and interesting experience.



Molly Weibel

The author (third from right) gestures during a rehearsal of the Addams Family.

How different age groups are coping with distance learning

Maria Imholte
Staff Writer

Distance learning has not been easy for anyone. Adapting to something this different in this amount of time is almost never easy. I do think though, that some ages have it easier than others. Things like addition and learning to read is not something that is easy to pick up overnight.

I asked Erik, a 5th grader at EXPO Elementary, and Nora Crosby, a new 9th grader at OWL, the same questions about distance learning.

Question 1- What are your favorite and least favorite things about distance learning?

EI - "My favorite thing is probably that I get my schoolwork finished faster. My least favorite thing is that I can't see my friends and the teaching isn't exactly clear. It's hard to learn new subjects."

NC - "My favorite thing about distance learning is being able to create your own schedule and accommodate your own needs. My least favorite thing about distance learning is not being able to socialize and get verbal, in-person instructions."

Both students are disappointed about how the social aspect of school has worked out with distance learning, and they both like being able to follow their own schedules and get work done at the pace they want.

Question 2- What's been the hardest part about school online?

EI- "The hardest part has probably been learning new subjects."

NC- "The hardest part about online school is miscommunication or not enough

communication and the difficulty that comes with trying to create the same setting and education as a normal school year."

In other words, it's been hard for both students to be learning the same amount of content in distance learning that they did in normal school.

Question 3- How much work are you given each day? How long are you doing school everyday? Is it too much, or do you wish there was more?

EI- "I start at 8, and then I usually end around noon or one. I wish there was just a bit more. Not a lot, just a little."

NC- "I think that I am given an average amount of work each day, not too much, not too little. The trouble with distance learning is I am easily distracted by things not involving school and will forget my work momentarily. I am not exactly sure how long I am doing school work each day, but my guess would be a few good hours."

In short, both of them are fine with the amount of work they get each day, but for the older student it's the getting to done is where she runs into trouble.

Question 4- How have you been making friends? How are you feeling about the social aspect of school as of right now?

EI- "I don't think I've really made any new friends, but connecting with my old friends has been fine, but that's outside of school. I am kind of discouraged by how remote everything is right now."

NC- "I joined the cross country team this year and that was a great way for me to get to know some people and

make some friends. I knew a few people coming to OWL, but not that many. I am definitely feeling a little lonely, since it can be difficult to make friends remotely."

It sounds like both students are definitely missing making new friends at school, but both are getting along okay with making some new friends.

Question 5- How are your teachers helping you connect even with distance?

EI- "My teachers are assigning lots of google meets and lots of group discussions. They're trying to help us interact with each other."

NC- "My teachers have been very kind and patient with me through all of my questions and concerns. They have set up fun google meet clubs and activities to go to and have taken time out of the class period to have smaller groups so people can get to know each other on a more comfortable and personal basis."

So teachers are really helping students connect with each other, and the fun google meets with activities that help the students get to know each other is something that doesn't go unnoticed.

Question 6- Do you like distance learning?

EI- "On a scale of 1-5 I would give it a 2.5. It would have been a 3, but just not being able to interact with my friends much just brings it down."

NC- "I think that distance learning is okay. I definitely don't enjoy being at home but there are also some perks to the situation. I would give it a three."

It sounds like these students feel similarly about distance learning. Again, the lack

of social interaction is what's getting in the way of a better rating. It also shows how important social aspect of school is to the students well being.

Question 7- What's something you're looking forward to when it comes time to enter the school building again?

EI- "Seeing my friends and when it's just feeling normal again."

NC- "I am looking forward to fully meeting people and being able to participate in a more active classroom. I am also excited to be able to do more activities, both during school and after school."

Both students are looking forward to the normalcy of in person school.

Question 8- Name 2 good things and 2 bad things about distance learning.

EI- "Just getting my work done quicker and the right now we are learning about the civil rights movement, which is important and interesting to learn about in my opinion. 2 bad things are just lack of connection with my friends and learning new things."

NC- "Two good things about distance are being able to relax at home and save time with commuting. Two bad things about distance learning are having to push yourself more to do the work and being stuck at home."

This shows that there are some parts that are not as bad about distance learning, but there's also a lot of things that aren't so good.

Do you agree or disagree with what the students responded to these questions? Although distance learning can be hard, it is a lot better to focus on the positive side of things than the negative.

Supreme court, 1

with a recommendation and report.

The third step then proceeds with the nominee being brought in front of the Senate for the final confirmation. The Senate only needs a majority vote to confirm or reject the nomination. In the past, the Senate has needed a 3/5ths majority (60 senators out of 100) to confirm the nomination. However in 2017 the decision was changed from the majority from 3/5ths to a roughly 1/2 majority. This only requires a majority of 51 senators, and is known as the nuclear option. It was changed by Senate Republicans so they could easily end the vote and confirm Republican nominee Neil Gorsuch.

The fourth and final step is the most simple. After the Senate confirms the nomination, the President will then formally appoint and sign the nominee into the Supreme Court.

One of the most surprising facts about the nomination process is concerning the qualifications for a Supreme Court Nominee. In the Constitution there are very few qualifications laid out, so theoretically the President could nominate anyone as a justice. There are no requirements for age, profession or education, and you don't even have to be born in the United States to be nominated. Most surprisingly, you don't have to be a law school graduate to be nominated, though most nominees have practiced law. In an extreme case in 1943, James F. Byrnes was appointed as a justice, who hadn't even graduated high school.

Out of the 163 Supreme Court Justice nominations, 37 nominations have been unsuccessful.



New York Magazine

Amy Coney Barrett was sworn in just 7 days before the 2020 election.

Social distancing, 2

it was pretty interesting hearing him talk about connecting with people he has not talked to for years.

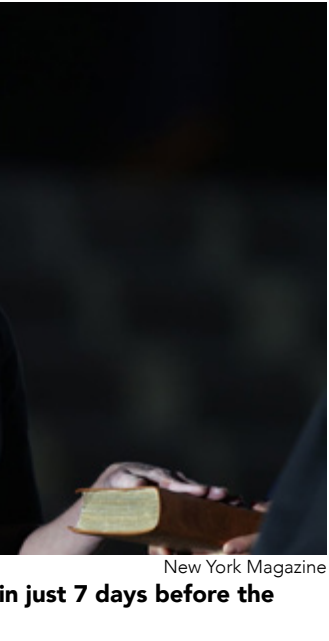
Apparently Zoom meetings are becoming a thing. "During the summer on Thursdays, my former soccer teammates and I met to talk about soccer stuff, and on every other Sunday I met with another group to talk about cycling stuff," said English teacher Leo Bickelhaupt. Another way of connecting has been through gaming, specifically through a game called Among Us. I personally play it with my friends which helps me forget about all the troubles that 2020 has held. The virtual aspect of this pandemic has been so key to having a good mental health during the ongoing stress of this year.

cessful. There are three ways a nomination can be rejected. First is if the nominee is recalled by the President of the United States. If the Committee hearings don't go well, and the Senate has a majority of the opposing political party, it might be a sign that the Senate will vote to reject the nominee. So the President will pull the nominee out of the nomination before it goes to the Senate so they don't have to be humiliated with a rejection. This has happened 11 times.

The second way is the most prominent. This is when the Judiciary Committee sends the nomination to the Senate and the Senate rejects the nomination and does not confirm the nominee. This has also happened 11 times.

The third and most common way of an unsuccessful nomination is when the process lapses at the end of a session of Congress. This is when the nomination goes past the end of a session of Congress without the Senate voting to confirm the nominee so the nomination is dropped. Basically, the nomination process takes too long and expires. This is what happened in 2017 when Senate Republicans refused to vote on Supreme Court nominee Merrick Garland because it was "too close to the election." Because they refused to vote, the hearings lapsed at the end of a Congress session.

The Supreme Court nomination process is confusing but hopefully this article has left you informed. What do you think about the Supreme Court nomination process? Do you think it's flawed? Do you think it's fair? Hopefully you can use the information from this article in the future.



Vaccine, 3

by the New York Times, with 31 vaccines in Phase one, 15 in Phase two and 11 in phase three. Sadly no one knows how effective any of the vaccines are but multiple vaccines have been shown to produce antibodies that neutralise the virus.

So when can we expect to get a coronavirus vaccine? Normally a vaccine would take years to even decades to develop. According to the BBC most experts say most experts say a vaccine is likely to be widely available by mid-2021 or about 12-18 months after Covid-19 outbreak. The amount of people that would need to get the vaccine to stop the virus from spreading easily is thought to be 60-70%.



Reviews ‘n’ stuff



The superhero genre gets a makeover

“An action packed adrenaline rush.”

Jack Cheatham
Staff Writer

Last April, I walked out of a packed theater on the opening day of Avengers Endgame. It felt surreal to say goodbye to all these characters that I’ve followed since 2011 in an explosive 3 hour epic. While I really enjoyed that movie, I decided that I was done with the MCU. While putting out high quality, entertaining blockbusters like Black Panther and Guardians of the Galaxy, all the movies started blending in with each other and I needed a break.

Of course, since 2008’s Iron Man, plenty of boundary pushing superhero movies have come out. You’ve got your Logans, Deadpools and Dark Knights, but more and more movies started using the same generic formula without changing much. Then, that July, the TV show The Boys showed the world a new way to use the superhero genre.

The show is set in an alternate New York where a company named Vaught runs all

superhero property, including the heroes themselves. The most iconic group of superheroes, mostly called supes, known as the Seven, who are basically the Justice League, gets a new member named Starlight, a young woman from Iowa.

While this is going on Huey, an electronics salesman, sees his girlfriend run through by a hero named A-Train. Distraught and horrified, he meets Billy Butcher, a vengeful anti-hero who hates all supes and shows Huey the seedy underbelly of the supe world. Starlight also experiences a series of events that changes her view on the Seven and through a chance encounter meets Huey. Huey and Butcher wind up killing a supe and meet up with Frenche and MM, two of Butcher’s former “coworkers.” The rest of the season is about bringing justice to supes and uncovering the secrets of Compound-V, a mysterious serum that’s connected to them.

This show really was the

breath of fresh air I needed from this genre. The very obvious difference between this and the majority of superhero media is it’s tone and violence. When people get killed in this show they really get obliterated. From getting blown up from the inside out to getting cut through by a baby with laser vision, it’s brutal but always carries a darkly comedic tone. Characters will say little quips after they destroy someone, or the over-the-topness that comes with every kill, is

The Boys, 6



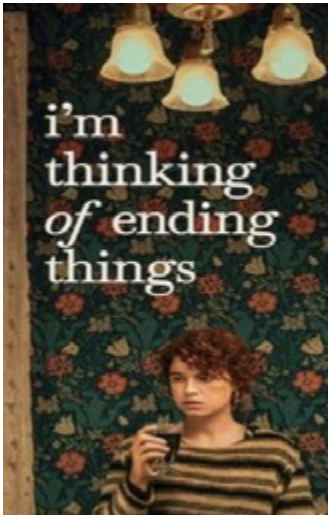
I’m Thinking of Ending Things review

“Requires multiple viewings or at least an ending explained video. Maybe even both.”

Otis King
Staff Writer

Charlie Kaufman’s new film “I’m Thinking Of Ending Things” is a conceptually bold venture with strong acting and good execution. Speaking as someone who didn’t read the book, I found it difficult to make out a clear plotline in the sea of classic Kaufman quirkiness. But although it’s formidable at times, the plot will astound you and the execution will have you seriously questioning your entire consciousness, and probably leave you staring at the credits with a slightly blank look on your face drooling ever so slightly.

On the surface the movie is about a woman going to meet



her new boyfriend’s parents. As she and Jake (the aforementioned boyfriend) begin their venture she says in her head that she is, indeed, thinking of ending things. Jake turns and asks what she said. She looks confused because she didn’t actually say anything. This is the first of many very odd clues that are packed in the opening half-hour of the movie. Clues that are essential to remember later, if you want anything to make sense. The first 30 minutes are packed full of strange micro-occurrences (a term I think I just made up) that add to the strange random energy the film gives off. If you have ever had a fever dream, this movie is an oddly familiar bit of idiosyncrasy.

As the young lovers pull up to Jake’s childhood home, they are greeted distantly by his mother. She waves awkwardly from the window for much too long. Another dreamy and strange occurrence. One of many as the movie now starts to pick up a bit. Jake shows her around the farm outside, sharing an odd story about the pigs. Always be paying attention during this movie.

I have probably said too much. Or too little. This movie is really weird. I found it very

enjoyable and interesting. I only explained roughly the first 45 minutes of a 2-hour movie, and already I’ve dumped a mountain of nuance.

My critiques of the movie come down to its stretched ending and very subdued plot. It is not very friendly to anyone who has not read the book. I went in blind, which was fun, but very difficult. I would recommend reading the synopsis of the book, which is still a mindscrew, but it’s slightly more straightforward. It’ll give you the information you need to connect certain happenings of the movie. As for the ending, it was classic Charlie Kaufman. Kind of dragged out and seemingly unimportant. Well not seemingly. I found it to be pretty unimportant. Basically where the movie starts to fall flat is in its third act.

In summation, the movie is good but very weird, and might not be appealing to anyone whose favorite movie is, say, Father of the Bride. Or 3 Men and a Baby. Basically what I’m trying to say is that it’s a strange one. Requires multiple viewings or at least an ending explained video. Maybe even both. My official score: 7/10.

Rocket league rocks

A car game with an objective of scoring goals

Sora Walker
Staff Writer

Rocket league is a sport and car game, your goal is to make a goal to get points. It’s soccer but you’re in the car, there are no positions because you have to think by yourself. If your teammates is doing something then it’s ur job to block the ball that’s about to go in. This game is all about teamwork because if you don’t communicate very well then the other opponent will win. And most likely you won’t get better at the game because you’re trying to do everything yourself.

Many people are playing rocket league and you should too, you’re in a car controlling it as you go around collecting boosts to score in the enemies goal. You start in different places and you see who can do the best kick off then the game starts you try your best to keep the ball on the opponent’s side so you can focus on getting the goal for your team as you hit the ball in their goal and scoreeeeeee!

You can also customize your car, goal effect, trial for your boost, and add things on top of your car to look much cooler. You can sometimes get blueprints but you need credits to unlock them, for 1,100 Credits it’s \$9.99 for 3,000 Credits it’s \$24.99 and for 6,500 Credits it’s \$49.99.

Rocket league has been out since July 7, 2014 it used to cost around 10-20\$ but they recently announced that it’s free to play, so many people have started to get the game. Rock-

et league was developed and published by Psyonix and the designer is Corey Davis, but now it’s owned by Epic Games. You can play rocket league on any console and any pc. On February 19th 2019 they also made an update so that it’s cross platform so Xbox players can play with PS4 players and PC players. When they announced that the game was free there were over 1 million people online playing the game. Rocket league is really easy to get used to, you can get better at the game really easily but it will take time.

This game is a lot about timing because you need time when you hit the ball and when you should start aerial. If you don’t know what an Ariel is, it’s when you boost your car in the air hitting the ball in the air so it’s harder for your opponent to save the ball. You can also double jump or you can jump and then jump to the side or you can jump forward and backwards. You can also pick up boost to get to the ball faster, each boost gives you about 12 boost and there is 6 large boost that gives you 100 boost which is max.

You can also drive on the wall and do really cool tricks to impress your enemies. There are a lot of different game modes you can play, and they also set up some courses for you to practice by yourself to improve at the game. You can also play ranked so you can play with people at your level so the game doesn’t get unfair and boring. There are



some missions you can do to get items for your car for free and level up quickly.

This game is great because I feel like most games that are popular are battle royale so it’s really fun to play something that is a completely different game, they really got creative with the game. You can go boost in the air to get some really cool goals and save goals for your teams. You can collect boost and flip forward to move around the map really quickly. And it’s really fun to play with your friends as you communicate what you’re planning to do. 95% of people who played this game really enjoy playing so you should definitely see if you like it too. This game is really worth it because it’s fun and it’s FREE. Luke Turvold also really enjoys playing, he said “ I can easily play rocket league and skip this meet but I won’t, but right after this meet I’m gonna play some more rocket league.”

Distance learning, 1

schedule in regards to classes was also different, as DL 1.0 had 4 asynchronous classes per day, with Mondays and Wednesdays being A days and Tuesdays and Thursdays being B days, and DL 2.0 has 2 synchronous classes per day, with work time in between for two other classes’ work, synchronous classes just going in chronological order, with 1A and 2A classes on Monday, 3A and 4A classes on Tuesday, etc. One other difference is that the daily check in took place in Schoology instead of Campus.

So how was this iteration of the schedule decided on? “School leadership teams worked to develop a schedule that had some basic requirements that was negotiated between the St. Paul Schools administration and SPFE, which is the teacher’s union,” said Dave. “This framework provided the base guidelines for what our schedule could be.” “The fall distance learning schedule was guided by family feedback in the spring,” said science teacher Megan Hall, one of the teachers on the committee that was in charge of scheduling this year. “OWL families requested more syn-

chronous time.”

“I would definitely say I like distance learning 2.0 a lot better than what we did back in May, because I’m able to see some of my classmates and teachers,” said 9th grader Elena Davis. Senior Carter Peterson-Antin said that, “I feel like I’m not learning anything, and the only thing I’m doing is struggling to find time to complete work I don’t care about. Distance learning 1 was better because we just needed to finish the year, but distance learning 2 does have relatively less work.”

“I haven’t heard anyone say they prefer DL over in person learning,” said Dave, “but I have been very impressed with how everyone is rising to the challenge that we face right now in terms of adjusting to COVID 19 precautions.”

There are pros and cons to distance learning, on both sides. “From a teacher perspective, I’m proud of the fact that we have been able to meet OWL families’ request for more synchronous time. I know that students are having a better, more connected experience than they did in the spring,” reported Megan. “I feel like DL 1.0 was more busy

work. I think DL 2.0 is definitely more learning, because you can communicate with the teachers better and your classmates,” said 9th grader Anna Nowatzski.

“One challenge,” said Megan, “is the additional workload for teachers. I would estimate that OWL teachers are putting in 20% to 80% more work than we normally do,” Carter said that, “It feels like I’m always dragging myself to get on google meets. I want more teacher interaction, but at the same time, I dislike the google meets because you don’t really get to do your classwork while you’re in the meet.” Elena said “something I don’t like is it’s harder to ask teachers questions, and also seeing my friends at school, like, I miss that a lot.”

“We are very hopeful that we will be able to return to in person learning at some point this year,” Dave said. “We just are not sure when that will be though, so it is important for all students to be monitoring communications from the St. Paul School District and Open World Learning Community.”

Two for one terror

October provides a nasty one-two punch, with RBG’s untimely death and Trump’s illness

Jonas Kammeyer-Mueller
Staff Writer

It’s October surprise season, and this year’s surprises have been quite the spectacle. I’ve got to hand it to the big guy/guys upstairs, this year’s double surprise might be their best yet. While I wasn’t all that fond of the constant health updates about RGB, her death has unleashed a far more terrifying threat. A threat so powerful, so potent, and so aggravating that I’d rather have the constant health updates of an 87-year-old woman that I don’t really care all that much about back. The “muh precedent” crew. But before we can get into their devilish ways, and why their argument is just plain stupid, we need to blast into the past for some context.

Our blast to the past begins in 2016 when Associate Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia died. Then-president Barack Obama nominated Merrick Garland to the supreme court to fill his place. Obama knew that Merrick was a judicial moderate when he appointed him, but the republicans, who held the house and the senate, refused to hold the hearing until after the elections. This was stupid not just because Merrick was a fairly moderate justice, but also because it created a precedent where it was (apparently) justified to not even hold a hearing, instead of just holding a hearing and saying “no” to whatever justice was served at the senate until the election wrapped up.

We cut back to about two months ago. Somehow there’s a more divisive election than in 2016, and the people certainly are feeling it. This feeling of tenseness has pushed people into wanting a more permanent source of power in case their lesser evil isn’t

chosen. And then, Ruth Bader Ginsburg dies. Out of fear of the future, the muh precedent crew is formed. Immediately, they began arguing that the still republican senate needed to hold true to the precedent (which that same senate made in 2016) that supreme court hearings can’t occur until the election finishes. However, there are many reasons why this is a bad line of thinking, reasons which I will now explain.

The first, and least important of the reasons why this is a bad line of thinking, is that upholding precedents not dictated by law isn’t a part of the senate’s job, and they can break any self-imposed precedent they please. The second and by far most important reason is that the precedent was born out of partisan hackery. Now when I say partisan hackery, I want to be very clear what I mean by that. Because there were still plausible odds that Trump would’ve won 2016, the republican controlled senate blocked the appointment of Merrick Garland until after the election, until Trump won 2016. The third reason is a bit of an explanation or emphasis for the second, which is that the founding fathers did not want the judicial branch to become partisan in any way shape, or form. This is because while the supreme court makes political decisions, they should be as nonpartisan as possible so that their rulings are seen as just and as fairly as possible, and not being animated by the same level of political motivation as the congress or president. The fourth reason is more related to the underlying motivation that seems to animate the people who are demanding that the senate uphold this “precedent”, which is that the crux of their argument

is based on being punitive.

Indeed, the desire to prop up this precedent seems to stem from a (justified) anger at the senate for not even giving Merrick a hearing, and has a conception that the senate made its bed and now needs to sleep in it, even if sleeping in that bed leads to further distrust of politics, politicians, and our democracy as a whole because of a precedent made by partisan hackery, and its reaffirmation and continued existence through further partisan hackery.

Now we get into the second part of the double October surprise we’ve been given by the big guy/guys upstairs, which was the president getting the ‘rona. While the president has bungled up his response to the virus among other things, losing respect and votes in the process, most people were sympathetic to the president’s situation. His situation with the virus was in some ways better than the average person because of his access to top-level medical care, but worse in other ways like his age and weight. However, as I said before, most people were sympathetic to the president’s situation, but some weren’t, even celebrating the news and wishing the worst for him, and this is a huge problem with our culture overall, and I’ll explain why that is.

While there are obvious morality issues with wishing for the death or illness of anyone, there’s something deeper to this. I’d argue that what’s really to blame for this is our increasingly hyper-partisan world and a loss of empathy for our political opponents. Indeed, surveys have increasingly found that people are less likely to marry those who are different ideologically and that the Democrats and Republi-

cans have been moving away from each other politically. It wouldn’t surprise me that we begin to see a rise in the number of people who would outright deny help to those who weren’t of the same political party as them. What I worry will happen, and what will likely happen in my lifetime, is people identifying themselves as either being Democrats or Republicans before Americans, or Democrats and Republicans saying that the supporters in the other camps aren’t even real Americans. As I hope I’ve made it clear, if we continue going down this path of further and further partisan polarization, we won’t have a country to be partisan in.

And so, 2020 continues with its thread of doom and destruction, and I’m still waiting for the fourth horseman to finish up the scenic route. At this point, we’re starting to deserve it, and our continued existence is the most miraculous thing this year. Maybe if I keep writing this article horseman number four will show up and finish us off, but I’d like to at least receive a response from my college applications, so I’ll end this article here.



Official White House Photograph
President Trump’s COVID-19 case was just one of the nasty surprises in the month of October.



Business Insider

Election, 1

inate parts of the landmark Affordable Care Act in the courts, while Biden promises to expand on the ACA, adding a government run public option to the American health-care system, this will be a big battle, especially depending on the composition and ideological leanings of the new Senate. Additionally, we can expect Biden’s climate plan to be big early on, as perhaps his biggest concession to the Democratic Party Left so far. Given the nature and rhetoric of leftist climate activism, Biden will likely attempt to get started with this ASAP.

But let’s get to some more current topics. What will Joe Biden do about the Coronavirus pandemic? Well, it’s expected, based on his campaign rhetoric, that he will move to impose stricter national restrictions related to COVID, and that he will heavily encourage local leaders to take more precautions the federal government cannot enforce. This also ties into the health-care plans, as medical treatment for those unable to afford it is critical to minimize Coronavirus deaths moving forwards. There’s also the national BLM protests going on at the moment. While Biden has been outspoken about his disagreements for the more extreme factions of the movement, he has certainly aired on the side of favoring police reform and working to combat structural systemic racism across the United States.

Biden’s election could also be a big boon to young voters, as he supports tuition free public college for students with a family income below \$120k, another progressive shift he has made following the primaries to appease progressives. Finally, there’s something Biden has been running on ever since he announced his candidacy. Restoring the international image of America established during the Obama administration. Biden believes strongly in needing to heal perceived damage to relations with our allies sustained over the Trump presidency, and wants the United States to rejoin things like the Paris Climate Accords and put the US back into diplomacy.

What I would have said if Donald Trump won re-election.

So, Trump beat the odds again. Mirroring his surprise victory in 2016, he proved polls, pundits, and data all wrong and won a second term in office. This seems unlikely at the time of writing, but it remains completely possible. Regardless, what does this mean in terms of the political future? Well, the big issue following Trump’s re-election would likely be his renewed efforts against the Coronavirus

pandemic. The government is already pouring huge sums of money into vaccine development, and Trump aims to have these widely available as soon as possible, aiming to get the nation out of this rough patch and back into the economy of the last three years.

Additionally, Trump will likely redouble his efforts to bring down Obamacare and replace it with a new Republican plan, likely with a much heavier focus private insurance as opposed to Biden’s public option plan. Moving onto another major Trump issue, China. Trump will likely continue aggressive and combative rhetoric towards the Chinese government, blaming it for the spread of the Coronavirus and economically counterbalancing it to the best of his ability with tariffs.

How about arguably Donald Trump’s most infamous issue, immigration? As of the moment, immigration is highly restricted in the United States, with incredibly few foreigners being allowed in. For the remainder of the COVID period, this is very unlikely to change. The variable, however, comes when the pandemic begins to finally come to a close. How much will Trump lax up on this ban, if at all? Will he use this crisis as further reason to continue building a wall on the southern border with Mexico?

What about the national BLM protests? Trump has so far taken an approach commonly referred to as “Law and Order.” This approach involves the use of the United States Military and United States Law Enforcement in order to quell the perceived chaos enveloping many cities at this point. Whether or not this would succeed in phasing out the protests or simply intensify discontent in a Trump second term remains to be seen. Something else that may become important is taxes. So far in the general election, the President has spent much time boasting about the effect of the 2017 Tax Cuts pushed by his administration, claiming that it created great economic growth for America over the last couple of years.

Regardless of who ended up winning the general election, unfortunately, there will be massive civil unrest and discontent in America for the coming months. We live in an extremely politically volatile climate, and people are going to be enraged no matter what. There will be claims of voter fraud/voter suppression flying around, and it will be extremely tense leading up to January. We can only hope that President Elect Joe Biden will be able to unite the country somewhat over the coming years, because our current trajectory is not sustainable.



Streets.MN

The earliest that students will be able to return to the building is January 19.

The Boys, 5

enough to make you laugh. It’s certainly a dark show with mature themes, but it’s also funny enough to never get completely shrouded in darkness.

While the action is great, the characters are still my favorite part. I wouldn’t consider anyone in this show a “good guy”, as everyone does terrible things at one point or another. What separates the heroes and villains is how far down the psychopathic road they go. Characters like Huey and Starlight are definitely doing what they do for good, but brutally murder people to

do it. This sets up an interesting conversation on morality, as plenty of superheroes kill hundreds of people but never address it. Another great thing the show does throughout both seasons was the characters’ arcs it pulled. These made characters like Butcher and Frenchmen feel a lot more real and developed, and while disagreeing with their actions, you empathize with them. Lastly, the villains of this show were great. You hate each one in the best way possible, especially Homelander. Having an evil Superman, well aware of his godlike powers, and using them to get exactly what he

wants, really makes you want him dead.

While this show is undoubtedly great, there are some problems I had with it. First off, the pacing could be improved. Like most action shows, it’s best when it’s carrying a fast pace which is most of the time. However, occasionally it slows down to develop characters and it feels disjointed. Another problem I had is that certain subplots really aren’t that interesting. For example, in the second season, The Deep joins a church similar to Scientology. It really was my least favorite part of the season and it paused all the

time” preparing for in-person learning. The School Board has “just decided to not reopen 3-12th grade until at least January 19th.” This would “give students and families plenty of time to make the adjustment” and would also be a safe way to reopen while still following government directives.

excitement of the main plot for a boring, meaningless one. These really are small gripes though, and it didn’t ruin the show overall.

Overall, The Boys an action packed adrenaline rush with great characters, an enjoyable plot, and a sharp sense of humor. It’s perfect for fans of superhero media in general and even if it has some smaller problems, I really loved it. However, I can’t recommend this to everyone because of it’s brutal violence and mature content. I think to people who can handle that, probably high school and above, I would suggest a watch. I give it an 8.5/10.