



The Tusker Tribune



SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

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Fall 2020

A 6th Grader's Impression of Middle School (During COVID)



**By Thalia Etelamaki
Tusker Tribune Staff**

For me and for many other new sixth graders, school this year is very different and difficult for teachers and kids because of the pandemic!

Some down sides to being in middle school right now is lunch is only 20 minutes and I do not always get to finish my lunch, especially if I am buying. We also don't get lockers, and I was disappointed in that because I was looking forward to decorating



it! And I know a lot of people were, too! Also, our backpacks are super heavy lugging around so many books!!!

But some good things are that we can meet new people in our classes, and we can do language classes!! I love learning French and my teacher is super nice! Also getting to move around a little bit from class to class sometimes is nice!!!

I am sad about not being able to do as many things, like hands-on experiments in science, etc. But middle school is overall fun!!

Virtual or Face to Face?



**By Abigail J. Babboni
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Virtual learning or Face to Face learning? Which one's better?

Some children and parents figure that face to face learning is better because

you get to interact with other people and see your friends in person. But most scientist disagree. They say that eLearning is better. Why? Because a group of scientists at IBM discovered that children learn 5 times MORE material online than in traditional learning.

But what they did NOT mention was what age group of children. 5-8? 10-15? College kids? If they meant college kids, then yes, they are right. Kids in the age range of 18-22 are more responsible about their work than most kids.

However, some kids aged 10-13 are not so serious about their work. If parents aren't strict about their children getting on Zoom, or whatever online program they do, kids will just not go to

school! And this is bad. Grades of children all around the world of been dropping.

But if you turn your attention to traditional learning, riding a school bus teaches children to be punctual and to be on time. Also, face to face, children can get the help they need without having

to "unmute" and then wait for the teacher to come to the screen. Being in person also helps develop "people skills."

Online learning also has its cons, as most people should already know, staring at a screen for too long can ruin

the eyes of anybody. Also, most kids used to play outside, or play sports during free time, but now with eLearning going on kids are getting more addicted to the screens than before.

I have ended up writing a lot about eLearning in this article but that doesn't mean that your children should do online learning. Human interaction is still important, even during a pandemic!

The Learning Curve



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Spirit Week! Something 'Normal'?!?!?



**By Juliet Gherardi
Tusker Tribune Staff**

This year has been hard for everyone because of the pandemic.

But this year, Spirit Week will mean a lot to everyone. We will have lots of fun during Spirit Week because it is a normal activity.

It's good to have Spirit Week because kids won't have to worry about COVID. They will just have a lot of fun and have a great week with their friends!

It is important kids have fun during this time because they need to see their friends and enjoy spending time with them. Spirit Week has always been my favorite week in school, but because of COVID, we can't do as much as we used to.

SMS Spirit Week!

If any questions please email Ms. Crispo, or Mrs. Hauser

Monday, 10/26-	Pajama day! Wear your favorite pajamas or quarantine outfit!
Tuesday, 10/27-	Mask day! DIY your mask to show off your creativity!
Wednesday- 10/28	Color wars, 6th- White, 7th- Black, 8th- Red
Thursday, 10/29	Interests day, show your favorite music artist, sports team, sport, or other interests.
Friday, 10/30	Halloween day! Wear Halloween colors or your costume!



**By Matthew Giudice
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Why is Spirit Week important? In my opinion, I think Spirit Week is important because it just brings out the good in us.

I think that having Spirit Week is especially important to have a normal activity because this school year has been crazy with the coronavirus.

It is nice to have something not related to the coronavirus. This school is crazy with how you must wear a mask to school and social distance and all that.

It's going to be nice Halloween because it will be a fun time with your friends. Spirit Week might just bring back some memories about what life was like in February and January when we lived a normal life.

Spirit week is always a fun



**By Jenna Quas
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Finally, something is normal and in the week leading up to Halloween, Somers Middle School is having a Spirit Week!

On Monday, the students will wear pj's, nothing different from being Zoom but it would be fun to go to school in your pj's.

On Tuesday, it's wear a face mask that suits your personality, That means wear a self decorated or funny mask that you like!

Wednesday is color wars! 7th grade wears black, 6th grade wears white and 8th grade wears red!!

Thursday is wear or show your favorite music artist, hobby/interest, or sports team, and last, on Friday, you wear your APPROPRIATE Halloween costumes or Halloween colors but NO Halloween masks!!!

I think this week is important because it's good to try and get back to normal as a school.

It's also important to get back into what we did last year before COVID 19.

I hope every tries their best to dress up and support SMS!



**By Kate Seeger
Tusker Tribune Staff**

I feel that Spirit Week has an important place in the school year.

I think it is important to have Spirit Week this year. I think this because this school year has not been very normal, and I think it is good to have something normal in this crazy school year.

Also, I think it is a very fun activity for all kids to participate in. When you wear your pajamas, it's like a normal life again because you are so focused on what you are wearing, not about the hole pandemic.

What is your favorite day of Spirit week? I like interests day because I like to wear my sports jersey.

You should come join us for Spirit Week!



**By Vince Pomponi
Tusker Tribune Staff**

I think it is good to have a tusker merchandise day because it is a day where you can show off all your Somers shirts and shorts and sweat shirts, or whatever you have.

But I really think it is good to have this day because you get to support your town name and your town mascot or the school mascot, Peanut. That is why I think we should have a Tusker Strong day during Spirit Week to show off all our spirit.

Overall, you should take part in spirit week because if you do, you can win it!

On Monday, it is pajama day, then Tuesday, it is decorate your own mask day so you can create your own mask. Then, Wednesday is color wars so 6th graders wear white, 7th graders wear black, and 8th graders wear red. Thursday is "wear your favorite sports, interest or hobby" clothing day—when you show up with your favorite team's clothing.

Finally, Friday is costume day and that is when you wear either your Halloween colors or your costumes.



The Tusker Tribune

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This Year's NBA Offseason will be Different: What Should You Expect to Happen?



By Benji Cutler
Tusker Tribune Staff

Hi everyone! It's been a long time since I've talked about the

NBA! As you have probably heard by now, the NBA successfully had over 800 people in a "bubble", at the Disneyworld campus in Orlando, Florida.

They also were able to crown an NBA champion after nearly 100 days in the bubble, with 0, yeah, I said that right, 0 positive COVID-19 tests.

The 2020 NBA Champions are officially the Los Angeles Lakers! I am so happy that LeBron James got another ring. Anyways, that's not why I'm here today. Today, I will be informing you how the 2020 NBA Offseason, which includes Free Agency and the Draft, will go. I will tell you the rumors of who will sign to a different team, and who will be traded to a different team. I will also tell you who the top 5 teams in the draft are projected to select. Now that we have that out of the way, let's get into it.

First, I want to talk about the Free Agency. This season, due to the COVID-19 hiatus the NBA took, the team owners' have a lack of money when it comes to ticket sales. Because of this, there won't be players getting paid huge contracts for a team they weren't already playing for. Just keep that in mind. Now here are the top free agents and where they are expected to go:

Anthony Davis is the top free agent, since he won a championship with LA and made the All-NBA First Team, but he is expected to opt out of his current Lakers contract and resign with the Lakers on a brand new Super Max deal.

Brandon Ingram had an incredible year winning the Most Improved Player and making his first All-Star appearance. He is a restricted free agent, so he will likely resign with the New Orleans Pelicans, and if

they don't offer Ingram a contract early, they will match any offer he gets, which means they will likely be getting Ingram back no matter what.



Fred VanVleet is an unrestricted free agent and is the top player in the league that will probably leave their current team, which for VanVleet is the Toronto Raptors. There have been rumors he will sign with the New York Knicks, Detroit Pistons, or Miami Heat.

Gordon Hayward, a key role player for the Boston Celtics, has a player option with Boston. If he resigns, he will make a whopping \$32 million next season. Therefore, it is likely Hayward will resign with Boston for one more season.

DeMar DeRozan, an All-Star caliber forward for the San Antonio Spurs, has a massive player option, like Hayward, and will likely resign with San Antonio, will the place the league is in financially.

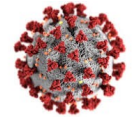
Next, we have trade rumors. There will likely not be a huge amount of trades this off season, but there are a couple players that will most likely not be on the same team they are currently on by the beginning of next season. Here are 3 players that have been in trade rumors and that I think will get traded.



First, we have **Bradley Beal** of the Washington Wizards. He was an All-Star caliber

player this season, averaging 30 PPG, but his team is unsuccessful, not making the

Playoffs since 2018, and having their former All-Star, John Wall, coming back from a horrible injury that could change the rest of his career. Beal has had rumors of him being traded to the Denver Nuggets and the Brooklyn Nets. If either team gets Beal, they will likely be championship contenders. Denver has probably the best center in the league, Nikola Jokic and rising star Jamal Murray. Brooklyn has a former league MVP and a top 5 player



in this league, Kevin Durant, and All-Star Kyrie Irving. Beal fits with both teams and can easily make them both unstoppable.

Next, we have **Chris Paul**. The current All-Star is now 35 years old, and his current team, the OKC Thunder, have a ton of draft picks and great young players with potential, such as Shai Gilgeous-Alexander. OKC doesn't need CP3 for their future, and likely won't win a championship next year. Because of this, Paul has been in many trade rumors to the Los Angeles Lakers, Milwaukee Bucks, and New York Knicks. LA and Milwaukee, with their current teams, are two of the top teams heading into next season, both teams having superstars, LA with LeBron and Anthony Davis, and Milwaukee having two-time MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo and All-Star Khris Middleton.

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NBA

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Chris Paul is a fantastic leader and play-making point guard that will easily make LA and Milwaukee the favorites to win a championship. For New York, they haven't made the Playoffs since 2013 and have been one of the worst teams in the league for that 7-year span. Though CP3 won't make New York even playoff contenders, they want a culture change and want to make more money from tickets. Having a star in New York could reel young stars in or get more fans in. I don't think New York really needs him, but I do think Milwaukee would adore CP3 and would easily pick him up.



Lastly, we have **Paul George** of the Los Angeles Clippers. George has been getting hate for having a horrible Playoffs this season, with a disappointing second round loss, and has also been put in trade rumors. He hasn't been in as much as Beal and Paul, but

people do think PG won't be in LA by the beginning of next season. People have also been saying Brooklyn would love to have him play alongside Durant and Irving and try to win a championship. That trio would be deadly, and I could see it happening. However, I think George will stay in LA and help try to not disappoint Clippers fans again and win the championship with Kawhi Leonard. Lastly, I will be talking about the NBA Draft, which will be on November 18. I will say if I think any trades will go down or who I think each of the top 5 teams will select.

Minnesota Timberwolves – **LaMelo Ball**

I think Minnesota will select LaMelo Ball; a 6-foot-8 point guard who has shown potential in the National Basketball League (NBL). He is a top prospect that teams such as the New York Knicks or Chicago Bulls would want. However, Minnesota has been a struggling team, but they are young and want to build around their top guys, which is Karl-Anthony Towns, D'Angelo Russell, and maybe LaMelo Ball.



Golden State Warriors - **James Wiseman**
I think Golden State will select James Wiseman; a 7 foot stretch big with tons of potential. I wouldn't be surprised if Golden State trades down, since they don't need a top 2 pick, with superstar Stephen Curry and All-Star Klay Thomp-

son coming back from injuries. However, the teams that want the number 2 pick, such as the New York Knicks, won't have the assets for the number 2 pick, or at least won't have enough things that isn't part of their core, such as rising star Mitchell Robinson. The only weak spot in Golden State's lineup is the center position, and Wiseman can fill that spot, stretch the floor, and become a better player with leaders like Draymond Green.

3. Charlotte Hornets – **Obi Toppin**

I think Charlotte will take a big man to replace Cody Zeller, who is not that good, and will take Obi Toppin. People have been saying Anthony Edwards should go top 3, and he definitely could go to Minnesota, but if Minnesota takes LaMelo, Charlotte and Golden State don't really need Edwards for the positions they have. However, Charlotte have never really had a good center, and would love to have a sort of young player (23 years old) that could help Charlotte have a better team in the future.

4. Chicago Bulls (Traded to NY) - **Anthony Edwards**

I do think the Chicago Bulls will trade down with the Knicks, and will get the 8th pick, which will likely be a small forward. However, for New York, they will want to trade up to give the fans some hope, and I think they could trade maybe the 8th pick and Julius Randle for the 4th pick. They will probably go for the best guy available or the most popular guy, who I think in this situation is Anthony Edwards. They could pick up Killian Hayes to play point guard, since that position is weak for them. However, I think they will pick up Anthony Edwards to help their franchise on offense and defense. Edwards is a good all-around player with very high potential.

5. Cleveland Cavaliers – **Deni Avdija**

I think that the Cleveland Cavaliers will take Deni Avdija, a young wing from the EuroLeague with a ton of potential. The Cavs struggle at the SF position more than anything else, with young guards Collin Sexton and Darius Garland, and talented big men in Kevin Love, Andre Drummond and Tristan Thompson. Having a young wing, especially from the EuroLeague, can really turn this franchise around for the better and put Cleveland back in the Playoffs. Playing in the EuroLeague against people older than you is so much harder than the NBA, players have said, so having that experience makes Deni ready for the league and he can really help the Cavs.

Those are my predictions for this year's offseason, when it comes to signings, trades, and the Draft. My next NBA article could be talking about the Draft results, so we'll see. Hopefully my Cavs don't mess it up again! See you next week!

NEWSPAPER CLUB



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TUSKER TRIBUNE

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