



The Tusker Tribune



SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

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Winter 2021

Editor's Note: The next several issues of  *will have a decidedly "new year" and "reflection" focus, so enjoy reading as we end the first month of 2021!*



A Talk with 2020



**By Noah Hechler
Tusker Tribune Staff**

2020, why would you ever want this to happen? You have caused so many deaths to many innocent people and it is not right.

This sickness called COVID has changed the world forever. We have to wear masks around everywhere and you have caused people to not hang out with their family and that is not right, because family is everything and you should be able



to see family whenever because you never know what anyone is going through.

2020, we will get through this together and stay strong and not give up, and we will do whatever we have to do to save the lives of nice people who don't deserve this.

I know we can do this; just don't give up and you can do anything you put your mind to.

Nice talking with you, 2020.

Writing a Letter to 2020

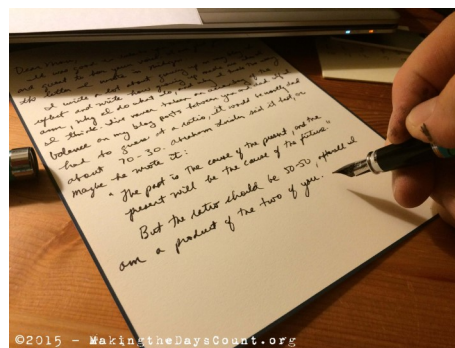


**By Gabe Lippolis
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Dear 2020:

Why did you have to suck? This is the worst year I probably will have in my life. I'm so happy you are over. There are many things that have happened this year that I will never forget, such as COVID 19, even though it's still here in 2021.

Next, there are all the deaths that took place this year, such as Kobe Bryant, Chadwick Bosman Camron Boyce, etc.



2021 could either be bad again or good. Many things that would make 2021 better than 2020 include:

COVID 19 ends, many legends don't die this year, I'm allowed to go to school and allowed to see people without a mask.

I have changed a lot since the beginning of 2021 because I learned what it feels like not leaving my house, not having friends over, and not being able to go to large social gatherings. I feel it made me a little more mature and responsible. And I'm a little more cautious about things.

I think people got a little too relaxed about COVID now that there is a vaccine, because the vaccine is not out for everyone yet and not many people have it yet.

My resolutions for 2021 are to get better grades in school and not curse as much and so far, I'm doing well, I would say.

Some good things that happened in 2020 are that during COVID, I still was able to play basketball with a personal trainer when seasons were closed, and I had lots of fun playing video games with my friends.

2020, you were a horrible year. I hope 2021 gets way better, I will not miss you at all.

Resolutions for 2021



**By Olivia Wiegand
Tusker Tribune Staff**

My resolutions for 2021 are to get better grades in school. It was my new

year's resolution for last year, but it didn't really work because of in-person school ending and the start of COVID.



I do feel that this year, I will be able to complete this resolution because I have all the resources I need.

How to Have a Better 2021



By Martin Curma
Tusker Tribune Staff

2021 can be better than 2020 because so far, it's been amazing. Nothing is going badly (so far) and only good things have happened in the first week or so. The coronavirus vaccine is in New York and people are getting it.

2020 was the worst year for humans. People died, no one could see their family members, and it was boring. The only GOOD thing that happened was that a vaccine came for the virus and people started to get it. 2021 must be better than 2020 because it cannot be that terrible.

I think it's because in the beginning of 2020, a celebrity died, a virus started, the Australian wildfires happened, a lot of people died and many other different things. Those ALL occurred in the first 20 days of January of 2020.

Therefore, this is my statement and opinion that 2021 must be way better than 2020.

2021

Looking to 2021 With Hope



By Caitlyn Mayfield
Tusker Tribune Staff

I hope that 2021 is better than 2020 because COVID has gotten worse and shut down activities. I hope that the vaccine can help one day so we can go back to no masks and more activities.

I also hope new inventions come out in 2021 because I think we need good fun in a different year since 2020 was a bummer. It was hard to be positive in 2020 and some people had bad days and it's hard to recover if you can't go to someone's house to talk about it or to a therapist because everything shut down.

And stuff right now is not safe, like airplanes, and some people can't see their family for the holidays and when they live far away, you only see them on special occasions. I hope we can do more family traditions in 2021.



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Any SMS student is eligible to write stories.

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Looking at the Positive in 2020?



By Ryan Hunter
Tusker Tribune Staff

Something good that I think we got from 2020 is that we learned to appreciate family and the time we spend with them because I know I spent way more time with my family this year than any other, and before 2020, I was not spending a lot of time with my family because most of the time I was with my friends.

But now that we can't see them, your family is the same as your friends.

In addition, more people were doing online gyms like my mom. Every Friday at 8:00, she gets up and gets on a Zoom and does a lot of exercises.

Also, more people are a variety of online activities. Like in my Spanish class, we are writing letters to the people in nursing homes because they don't get a lot of visitors.

And by looking on the bright side and blocking out the bad, you really see the good in 2020.

Always
look on the bright
side of life

Good Times Ahead in 2021



By Frank Illuzzi
Tusker Tribune Staff

2021 can be better by not having to wear a mask in 2021. Another thing that could be better is activities that can reopen. People miss football, lacrosse and basketball. Other activities people miss are going to concerts and movies.

Also, if everyone gets the vaccine, fewer and fewer people would get sick. Therefore, people can visit each other without worrying about getting sick. Families can see their grandparents and aunts and uncles, and kids can see their friends.

Some people do not do well staying home for a long period of time. They become sad and it affects their mental health.

I am really looking forward to 2021 and getting back to normal life. I look forward to spending time with my friends and family. I know there are good times ahead.



2020's Recurring Theme



**By Hudson Ruby
Tusker Tribune Staff**

If 2020 was a person I would have many things to talk about with 2020. Here is what we would talk about.

January: "So 2020, let us start off with January. We were very close to a war with Iraq."

February: "In , we found out that one of my favorite and one of the best basketball players has died and he is Kobe Bryant. The fact that his daughter died as well makes it even more sad."

March: "In March we found out that there was a virus in the United States and schools had to close for two weeks and we thought that it would be like a nice vacation. But it was not."



April: "So all the kids are happy that there's no school for the rest of the year. The parents are not happy because they can't go anywhere. And this was the

start of the 2020 quarantine!"

May: "In May, we found out about the death of George Floyd and all of these protests stated to happen."

June: "In ,June, the protests were still going on and the virus was still in effect!"

July: "In July, nothing bad happened except CARONA VIRUS!!! Oh, and we had a good 4th of July."

August: "In August, the Somers 11U football team was canceled due to the CARONA-VIRUS!!!"

September : "School started, and we have to wear a mask and sit in the same seat all the time due to the CARONAVIRUS!!!"

October: "In October nothing really happened except school and Halloween."

November: "Same thing with October, nothing really happened in this month except football and Thanksgiving."

December: "The last month of 2020. Christmas, Christmas vacation, and, as I said before, nothing bad happened in December . . . except CARONA VIRUS!!!"

Important to Be Cautious Even With the Vaccine



**By Kate Seeger
Tusker Tribune Staff**

In my opinion, I think that people have started to get to relaxed because they think if they get COVID, they can just take the vaccine, you're fine, everything is over, and COVID is not a thing anymore.

But no, you still must be cautious about COVID because what if you are carrying it and you do not have symptoms?

Then you go to your very old grandma's house and she's sick, and she can't afford to get any more sick. Then you bring it to your grandma and now she has it and she is really sick and can possibly die.

Also, I think that just because now we have the vaccine, it doesn't mean that everyone can get it right away. Until that happens, the vaccine won't help. So you can never be too cautious about anything.

Finally wouldn't you rather be safe then sorry?



Hopefully, 2021 Lets Us Get Back Together



**By Nicholas Goncalves
Tusker Tribune Staff**

2021 could be better if the corona-virus could stop. There could be no more masks, and during holidays, families can go to other families that live far away.

Also, I can go to see my grandpa who does not live near me, and we won't have to worry about him getting the corona-virus.



Another thing is that sports can come back that are indoor, along with indoor vacations, like a water-park, that closed because of the virus.

Lastly, for school, I would not have to be looking at a screen for the

whole day and then get a headache at night. And I wouldn't be waking up early for an online class, or, if in school, I wouldn't have to wear the mask all day.

This is why I think that 2021 can be much better than this year



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2020 Was Kind of Tough



**By Sam Seagrist
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Thank you for 2020 for all that you put me through. There were a lot of up and downs, but mostly downs.

I've gotten stronger as a person because of you. I've made one of my friends into my best friend. His parents are pretty much my parents. We hung out a lot because I could not hangout anywhere else because of you.

I think people have not calmed down enough because of the vaccine. I still see people wearing masks in their own car.

One 2021 resolution is to lose weight. Another one is getting my room finished.

That's it, I do want to go on Andrew's boat, too. That was something fun in 2020. Well, I have a message for 2021. COVID better not be in this year. If it is there's going to be a problem.



2020 Will Be a Year to Remember



**By Zoe MacSweeney
Tusker Tribune Staff**

If I sit down with Coronavirus, I will ask why he/she would put us through this and why could not the people who made it happen stop this and make them.

I would also remind it how it affected the entire world and what it is now, and we do not

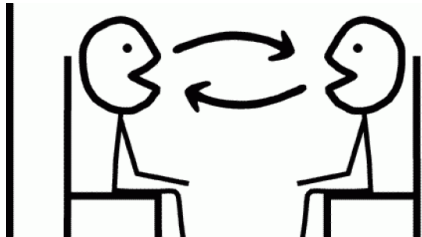
know how long this is going to go on because we cannot travel to the future.

I'd also point out that when we're

older and some little kid comes up and asks me what was the worst time in my life, I would think back to Coronavirus and say, "Back in 2020, the worst viruses came and killed thousands of people and we had to wear masks and that was the worst time when I lived."

And I would say to Coronavirus, "Why did you do this and think about other people and how it would impact other people and not to be selfish?"

That is what I would say if Corona were a person and if I had a chance to ask him/her a question.



2021: Beat COVID and Have More Fun



**By Simon Szabo
Tusker Tribune Staff**

One way 2021 would be better than 2020 is that since there is a new vaccine, then everybody should take it and when it works, then people will take it more and COVID-19 would be just another sickness, like the flu.

Another way 2021 would be better than 2020 is that there would not be any other virus that would be like COVID-19 and all of us would go into lockdown again.

Also, I hope that I can do what I want to do that I could not do when we were all in lockdown. I also hope that in 2021, everything would go back to normal and we would not need to wear a mask everywhere.

One other way 2021 would be better is that people would not be freaked out if someone is not wearing a mask.

And lastly, 2021 can be better than 2020 if I can hang out with my friends, and other family and spend time with them.



My Experiences Changed Me



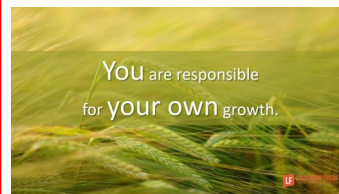
**By Julianna Maffei
Tusker Tribune Staff**

I would say I changed as a person because of what I went through in 2020.

In 2020, many things have happened, so I had to resolve the way I did things. Mainly, school was different because now we have to learn all through computers. It's been so different compared to the past years of school, but I am mostly used to it by now.

But how I changed as a person was becoming more responsible. I say so because I have way more responsibilities now. I have to make sure my tablet is charged every day to get to class, I have to remember to get a mask everywhere I can, and I have to be more cautious of the people around me.

This year, I had to adapt to becoming more independent in school because you can no longer work with groups on assignments so everything I do is on my own. In conclusion, how I have changed as a person because of what I went through in 2020 was becoming more responsible and independent.



Things Will Slowly but Surely Get Better



By Jonathan Rivera
Tusker Tribune Staff

2020 has not been the best year for any of us because of the pandemic and other things, like people losing their jobs, getting sick or getting COVID.

But for 2021, we have to have hope that this year is going to be an amazing year. The COVID vaccine is still getting tested and people have to have hope. But this is slowly going to get better because people are already going back to work and going back to their usual jobs and lives. The only difference is that they wear masks

and they have to social distance, which for some people is hard because they like being with their friends.

The other thing of 2021 is that we can start another year with our family and friends, even if it's on a Zoom or on a call. We are still going to be with people we love. The holidays this year have been very different but people managed to get through it.



Vaccines Help But Aren't Perfect



By Dean Palazzolo
Tusker Tribune Staff

People seem to have gotten more relaxed now that there is a vaccine. But the virus is still out there, and just because people get the vaccine doesn't mean that it goes away.

If you get the vaccine, it is less likely for you to get it but other people can still get the virus.

Also, I am pretty sure the people with the vaccine can still carry COVID-19 but just not get it but can give it to other people.

In addition, I know a lot of people who aren't getting it because there were a lot of medicine that was given to people, then four years later, they said it wasn't good for you.

Also, just like the flu shot, just because you get the vaccine doesn't mean that you won't get the virus just because you got the shot.



A List for a Better 2021



By Justin Thomas
Tusker Tribune Staff

If I had to list how 2021 could be better than 2020 I would have many things to write down.

First thing I would like to happen in 2021 to make it a lot better than 2020 is that there would be no mask wearing and social distancing. What I mean by this is that I want the coronavirus to be over and that there is going to be a vaccine. I say this because basically the whole 2020 has been horrible in many ways but the worst thing that happened in 2020 is that the coronavirus came to the earth to make people sick and for us to quarantine.

Another thing I would like to change in 2021 is that there would be no more riots everywhere and huge protests in the cities. Also, I would like no more people burning down buildings and houses, hurting people and police. I just want peace on earth.

The last thing I would like to change in 2021 is that there would be no more forest fires and bad things happening to our earth. Also littering and pollution.

In conclusion, I wish 2021 will be a much better year than 2020 was and everything goes be back to normal.



Cure COVID so People Can Go Out Again



By George Sullivan
Tusker Tribune Staff

2021 can be a better year than 2020 for many reasons. One reason why I think 2021 can be a better year is because we would not have to wear masks.

Another reason I think 2021 could be a better year is there will not be as many COVID cases.

I also think it can be a better year because school will be able to run how it used to.

2021 is better than 2020 because you will be able to go to restaurants with full capacity. That reason is very important because my family owns a restaurant.

Another thing is NFL stadiums will have fans in them. Also, sports will be able to run without any postponed games. One more reason is there will be no more virtual school or work.

Finally, the last reason is that all the sports I can play will not be postponed like they were in 2021.

Therefore, I think that 2021 will be a better year than 2020.



Still, let's hope 2021 is better.

A collage of yellow sticky notes with handwritten resolutions. The notes include: "making", "My New Year Resolution...", "Stick To Resolutions!", "Gym", "Money", "HAPPY NEW YEAR", "New Year Resolution...", and "Off Debt". Some notes are circled or have numbers written on them.

A green, spiky virus particle with a sad face, featuring blue eyes and a downturned mouth. It has numerous sharp, green spikes protruding from its spherical body.

However, one reason that 2020 was good is that you got to spend time with family.