



Northern Light



VOLUME 56, NO. 1

GREAT NECK NORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

FALL 2020

NORTH SIDE... STRONG SIDE

Journalist Mia Malhotra investigates strategies to help NMS students be successful this year

This year has been different, but it is nothing we can’t handle. We have had to adapt and figure out what life and school looks like. Even though everything is different, that doesn’t mean you can’t participate in things or ask for help. One thing you should know throughout this year is that you are not alone and you can ask for help when you need it. That’s why you will see experienced and inspiring teachers in North Middle School give their advice for this school year below!

Dr. Cozine:

1. **What is your number one piece of advice for students this year?**
“Work hard and be nice to everyone. Treat others the way you like to be treated and give your personal best.”
2. **What do you want students to know for this year?**
“This too shall pass.”
3. **How do you think students can continue to thrive during a pandemic?**
“Students need to take time for themselves. They need to exercise self care. Recognize and make time for your social emotional health and share your feelings. Don't keep things inside.”
4. **How do you think students should balance social and mental health with their academics?**
“Know your limits. Take a break for sometime. When it gets too stressful, take a break.”
5. **How can students get involved?**
“Take ownership in the building. Join clubs and activities. Socialize with other students.”

Mrs. Sposito:

1. **What is your number one piece of advice for students this year?**
“Make a routine and stick to it.”
2. **What do you want students to know for this year?**
“We are all in this together.”
3. **How do you think students can continue to thrive using a pandemic?**
“Appreciate the time you get to spend with your family.”
4. **How do you think students should balance social and mental health with their academics?**
“Make sure you always take time for yourself and do something you enjoy.”
5. **How can students get involved?**
“Join clubs.”

In a recent poll, 50 students were asked whether they preferred remote learning or hybrid learning. 75% of the students prefer hybrid learning.

The Band Plays on at NMS

By Abby Bernstein

As an incoming sixth grader, I was really excited to join the sixth grade band, and then Covid-19 hit. I was very worried about how we were going to have a band and how close together we would be.

Due to COVID-19, like everything else, the band looks a lot different this year. Mr. Trinkwald and Mr. Virgilio are creating new ways for band to exist in a safe, socially distanced manner. We are fortunate that we are able to play our instruments at all. Wind and brass instruments create many challenges, as there are concerns that these instruments can spread germs.

Because of the pandemic, we can not have a traditional band on stage or in the band room. Instead, we perform in smaller numbers and are spread throughout the auditorium. Even though the band members are unable to play the instruments together in a traditional band, at least this way I am able to play trombone with others and have the opportunity to perform music with my classmates.



One Acts 2020

By Owen Flood

The One Acts are now in full swing. We have rehearsals, props, rehearsals, and more rehearsals. We even have goldfish. But we are missing one thing. The stage. Due to Covid-19, we have to make some changes to how we produce the One Acts.

Firstly, we recorded auditions. To audition this year, we read monologues like we did in the past. This year, however, we recorded reading the monologues from home instead of reading them in person.

Additionally, all rehearsals take place on Zoom. Similarly to school we still have to memorize all of our lines. This is because we should be looking at the camera, not a reference on our screen. Also, instead of a real set, our set is a green screen with the backgrounds of where we are supposed to be. If we are at a sports game for example, our background will be a sports stadium. Another difference are the plays Ms. Dove chose. She specifically chose shorter plays, with less movement and fewer lines. We also incorporated three monologues into the production this year.

We also are also recording the individual skits beforehand and then broadcasting them to people who buy tickets. These three changes are the biggest changes this year in the One Acts. I hope that you will watch our final production on video. Enjoy the show!

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Question Corner: Covid-Style
by
Willie Benjamin and
Jonah Berkowitz

Question Corner

With Jonah Berkowitz and Willie Benjamin

This Newspaper's Theme is... School: COVID Style!

During these unprecedented times, schools all over the world have been forced to reinvent their ways of learning. North Middle School, along with many other schools, came to a tentative decision that the majority of students would come to school or join virtually every other day. But how do some people feel about this new way of learning? Do they feel that they’re still getting their basic school curriculum while being six feet apart? Is there too much work to balance with the everyday stresses of life during this pandemic? Or, do they think this new way of learning is even better than before? Read this article to find out.....

We surveyed students on how they feel about the changes in our school. We were extremely interested to see how many people had different points of view on this new curriculum. Nassoma, an 8th grader hybrid student, stated that it requires for the students to change their mindsets and to have more focus in class. She states, “ I don't think it's more challenging to participate in class while remote. For me, it's actually easier because I feel more comfortable and confident at home while doing work.” However, Matt G. said the exact opposite. He explained that it's harder to work online, as a teacher might focus more on the in-person students, which constantly raises hardship for him.

Other comments from students are below:

Noah G, 8th grader- “For me this new way of learning is a very different experience. I feel this has its positives and its negatives. On one hand, I can sleep in a little later than normal. Also it is nice to work at my own desk and have freshly made meals on demand. On the other hand, sitting in front of a computer all day is very energy draining and hard on the eyes. I miss hanging out with friends in school. I do feel that it is more challenging to participate in class while on zoom because there are many distractions, as I have four younger siblings who are the noisiest people I’ve ever met. (...) The teachers and administration are doing a great job.”

Mali, 8th grader- “I am fully remote and I love the remote experience. At home, I don’t have any distractions like classmates talking or people asking teachers questions. I have quiet and I can privately chat with the teachers without everyone knowing what I ask. It’s much easier to focus when at home although there can be some distractions at home, too. I feel that the teachers are doing a fantastic job to include the remote students in discussions as well as the students physically in school. Being remote has not affected my grades and I just really like it better. Being home saves me time in the morning and after school where I would be on the bus to school and I can start homework earlier and have more family time in the evening. I can also do things before school with my extra time. Overall, I think this remote learning is a unique opportunity that is not usually an option and I think it’s great. Especially for the school to pull this off is amazing because they figured out a great balance in a short amount of time. I am enjoying the experience and I have no complaints. I hope to finish the year strong and continue my great remote experience! It really depends on the student because some people need to be in the classroom environment to learn and some people do better on their own. One suggestion I have is for teachers to share the notes after classes so that if you missed something you can fill it in.”

Taylor, 7th grader- “I think this new way of hybrid learning is a little bit confusing with going back and forth to school, but I think the school is handling the situation the best that they can. I think it is actually easier to participate remotely because you can see what the teacher is doing/showing a lot easier and clearer. For the second quarter, something to do for the school is to have everyone’s desks wiped down in between classes so that you don’t get the germs from the people before you.”

Although students' school lives have changed tremendously, teachers have made colossal changes to their teaching styles. While we only have a few answers from teachers, most think that hybrid learning has been a success so far. The only difficulties are Zoom and creating virtual assignments. For example, Mr. Epstein (an eighth grade social studies teacher) informs us that the students in North Middle School have been amazing and fun to teach. He explains that the students' eagerness to work has encouraged him to keep on teaching his best. However Mr. Ziring, who has been teaching at North Middle for 15 years, said that he wasn’t the most technological person, so it created some setbacks. However overall, he said that teaching has not been too much more difficult than any other year.

Lastly, we asked similar questions to our principal Dr. Cozine. Here’s what he said: “The 2020-21 school year will go down in history for its uniqueness, and I hope we never return to this format again. But, that being said, I am overwhelmingly positive about the way that the students, staff, and whole NMS learning community have responded to the challenges we’ve faced. Nothing can ever take the place of face-to-face learning, but our students and teachers have adapted well to Remote Learning so that the experience is maximized for those students who are not in-person. We have transformed one of the largest enterprises in the world (public education) and it is working. Of course, we can always do better – but that’s where the growth mindset comes in. We have to believe that every experience, be it positive or negative, provides us with information for the next step we take. And that is what I celebrate most – how the teachers and students have worked together to adjust to this new reality – helping each other work out the kinks and enjoying the experience along the way. Finally, nothing makes me happier than having students IN NMS. The noise, the laughter, the “drama,” and the sound of in-person learning all make me smile. I had hoped we would be on the back-end of this pandemic by now, but we are dealing with recent spikes that can not be ignored. Regardless, NMS is ready to go – ready to learn – ready to “Do School” in any manner that we must. North Side...Strong Side...”

So far, this school year has been immensely different from any other year and will continue to be so. However, we were all lucky enough to have one of the best faculty staff and district administration that have made this school year possible for all of us. We all really appreciate the work that has been done by teachers and other staff to keep us in school for as long as they can, taking the best safety measures, and for always going one step further! Thank you to all, and remember to stay safe!

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Interviewing Ms. Guillet and Ms. Rodriguez

By Shana Assaraf

Do you ever wonder how much you know about a teacher? I interviewed Ms. Rodriguez and Ms. Guillet and their answers may surprise you.

Q: Where did you grow up?

Ms. Guillet: I lived in Staten Island until I was five years old, and then I moved to Copiague, New York and I have lived there ever since!

Ms. Rodriguez: I grew up on Long Island in Hicksville.

Q: How long have you been teaching at North Middle School?

Ms. Guillet: Last year was my first year teaching at North Middle School.

Ms. Rodriguez: This is my second year teaching at North Middle School.

Q: Have you always been teaching math/reading?

Ms. Guillet: Last year I taught 6th grade ELC and I did ELC Lunch lab for 6th, 7th, and 8th. I am excited to have 6th, 7th, and 8th grade ELC this year, but I do miss seeing the students at lunch.

Ms. Rodriguez: I originally went to college for accounting and worked as an accountant for 2 ½ years. I then went back to college for my Masters degree in education. As a teacher, I have always taught math but for a variety of grade levels - high school Algebra & Geometry, elementary school-kindergarten thru second grade AIS Math before finding my way to North Middle.

Q: Was your first year hard or was it the same every year?

Ms. Guillet: I think last year was difficult for everyone because of the Corona Virus and online learning. But my students and co-workers were awesome and very supportive. We got through everything together.

Ms. Rodriguez: Yes, I found the first year of teaching challenging. I enjoyed teaching however I spent a lot of time writing and creating lesson plans. I also had to find the way which best worked for me to handle student discipline.

Q: What would the students be surprised to find out about you?

Ms. Guillet: Students might be surprised to learn I have a brother who is sixteen years old and pretty close in age to them!

Ms. Rodriguez: I am left-handed and I was born with different colored eyelashes.

Q: What do you usually do when you're not teaching?

Ms. Guillet: I like to spend time with my family and my two dogs. I also love reading and watching all kinds of shows and movies on Netflix.

Ms. Rodriguez: I enjoy reading, going for bicycle rides, going to the beach, traveling and spending time with my family and friends.

Q: Why did you want to become a teacher?

Ms. Guillet: I wanted to become a teacher because I remember how amazing my high school English teachers were. They had a very big impact on me, and I wanted to be able to develop similar positive relationships as students as well. I also think middle schoolers are awesome and adults have a lot to learn from them too!

Ms. Rodriguez: I enjoy working with others. I have always enjoyed learning math & helping others achieve success in math. As a student, I was a student tutor & helped my friends study for tests.

Q: Who is your teacher best friend?

Ms. Guillet: My teacher best friends are Ms. Rodriguez in the math department and Ms. Montero in the LOTE department.

Ms. Rodriguez: Ms. Guillet & Ms.Montero are my best teacher friends.. We all started together at North Middle.

Mental Health and Quarantine: Tips to Stay Stress Free

By Joy Wei

Staying active is especially difficult during the COVID-19 pandemic; sports teams have been temporarily canceled at Great Neck North Middle School. Not to mention, the stress from being trapped at home or cooped up in the classroom is bound to get to all of us. Fear and anxiety about COVID-19 have risen to a feverish pitch- adults and children both have felt the strain of quarantine.

Staying active is good for our health in so many ways, from keeping our weight in a healthy range and cardiovascular health to immunity and for mental health. The World Health Organization recommends 150-300 minutes of physical activity a week to maintain general health and prevent weight gain. Some organizations recommend at least 420 minutes of activity to lose weight and prevent weight regain.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, kids who partake in online learning may not be able to follow their normal routines for exercise. Normal exercise schedules are disrupted, as students who are fully remote or hybrid cannot regularly attend gym class. School athletics are canceled to practice social distancing. Fortunately, with a little bit of flexibility and conscious schedule building, it is possible to remain active or even increase your physical activity during social isolation. For example, I'm a member of the Great Neck Running Club. We have a group chat, and set goals for running every day. One day, we'll run three miles. The next day, we might run four miles. Each day, we set goals and try to improve our average speed and pace. Did you know there are many apps designed to track your progress and average pace? I recommend you to give it a try!

So, put down your video games. Put that oversized bag of potato chips back into the cabinet where it belongs, because we are not emerging as greasy food-bingeing zombies after this pandemic ends! Exercising not only helps you build muscle and endurance, but it also enables you to set goals for yourself and improve your mental health. Go for a jog around your neighborhood, ride your bike across your street, dribble your soccer ball around your backyard, or practice shooting hoops at the park. Don't give up! I'm rooting for you!

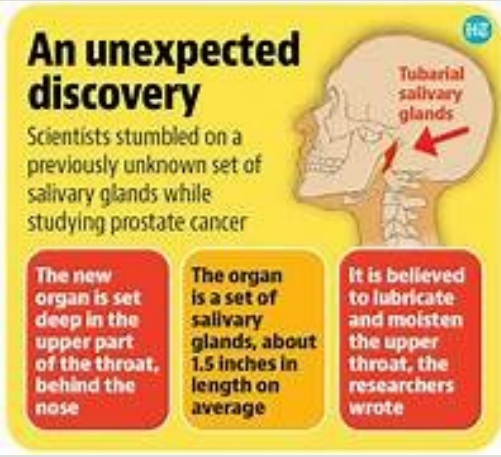
New Organ Found

By Gabriella Sadaghati

On Monday, October 19th 2020, the New York Times reported that a new organ has been discovered in the throat. It is unimaginable to think that such a discovery could only be reported now! Dr. Yvonne Mowrey, a radiation oncologist even says so herself, saying she "was quite shocked that we are in 2020 and have a new structure identified in the human body." The new organ has been located where the nasal cavity meets the throat (also known as the nasopharynx region). The nasopharynx region was not to contain anything but microscopic salivary glands; but, the newly discovered set are about 1.5 inches. If this discovery is confirmed, then it could potentially mark the first finding of its kind in approximately three centuries. Dr. Valerie Fitzhugh, a pathologist at Rutgers University (who wasn't involved in the research) stated: "If it's real, it could change the way we look at disease in this region." It will certainly have new effects and/or complications on the body moving forward.

The newly reported gland was also said to be unexpected. Researchers at the Netherlands Cancer Institute were performing a series of CT scans and PST scans to originally study more on prostate cancer. The high-quality scans were performed on a patient, and soon after the gland was spotted since these types of scans are very good for viewing salivary gland tissue. After they noticed the odd gland, research was conducted and they then came to the conclusion that it is a newly discovered organ/gland as bizarre as it may sound.

This new gland is significant when it comes to cancer treatment. Moving forward, oncologists plan to avoid any radiation treatment near the head and neck since the glands are located there, and any type of damage to the glands can have a large impact on various qualities of life. Difficulty eating, swallowing, and speaking are among some consequences of damage to the area. Previous research has shown that there have been side effects in the new glands' region after performing radiation treatments. This means that there may have been mistakes made in the past due to lack of research at the time, but moving forward oncologists have new data and resources to ensure a healthy recovery for current and future cancer patients.



Social Media Concern: TikTok

By Letizia Kaya

About the App

TikTok is a fun and creative app which allows children to express themselves by making videos and posting them. TikTok was created by **Zhang Yiming**. "Musical.ly was a popular short-form (15 seconds) video streaming and sharing app, with over 100 million users, up until August 2018. The app allowed users a plethora of music and dialogue options, with which they could lip sync and make funny or entertaining videos. The app was widely popular with some content creators rising to the hall of fame based on their engaging content on Musical.ly. The users shared Musical.ly videos on social media platforms like Instagram, further driving the app's popularity. However, in August 2018, the app was taken over by a Chinese company ByteDance and its users were moved to Tik-Tok. All of the content and accounts that were present on Musical.ly were automatically transferred to the new TikTok app"- influencer marketing hub. After President Trump became suspicious about the app TikTok he put it under investigation and found out that it might be used to spy on us!

Is TikTok being banned?

The answer is maybe, maybe not. TikTok could possibly be banned. It's being investigated. It might be banned because President Trump feels that TikTok is an app that the Chinese government made to spy on other countries. President Trump doesn't want the USA to be spied on. "TikTok averted a ban in the United States last week when a federal judge ruled that Washington couldn't block it from app stores just yet." This means that TikTok could be saved!

Should I let my child have TikTok?

In my opinion yes. I say this because I have TikTok myself and on this app it contains educational content, and fun content. If your worries are because you don't want your child watching inappropriate content, I have a solution. When you first download the app, it asks you for your age. If you're 13, for example, then it will show you content that's age appropriate for 13 year olds.

Sources:

- [cnn.com](https://www.cnn.com)
- <https://influencermarketinghub.com/what-is-tiktok/>

An Interview With The Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) Advisors

By: Jeffrey Quintanilla Zepeda

I bet you have a lot of terrible memories of our long quarantine. We all aren't okay from that, but we'll get through it together. Let's rewind back to about 5 months or so. If you don't remember, here's what I mean. Alongside different protests like the Black Lives Matter movement, there were protests with the LGBTQ+ community. If you're wondering why I'm saying this, it is because some people feel that talking about this topic is very sensitive to them. The thing is, people shouldn't be afraid to show their true selves and that is why we should support everyone-- no matter what. This is what NMS is all about; we are a No Place for Hate school. You may have your opinions on people who identify as LGBTQ+, but they deserve respect. Our friends don't have to be afraid to speak, but it's their choice. They don't have to discuss this issue, but it's so important for the future that they feel safe at North Middle School!

I interviewed Ms. Andreacchi and Ms. Ernst, the co-advisors of the GSA. Here is what they had to say:

Q: What is your opinion on National Coming Out Day?

A: National Coming Out Day is usually a fun and rainbow filled day at North Middle. It's a day to come out against LGBTQ+ discrimination. At North Middle, we also make it a day to "come out" as an ally, against bullying, or even just as a supporter of all fun events at North Middle. Due to our hybrid schedule and the inability to get together for such an event, we were not able to celebrate this day in school this year. We are hoping that next year will be different and that we will have another rainbow balloon arch to show off our pride.

Q: How do you think we can get more support and less hatred towards the LGBTQ+ people in our school?

A: Having difficult conversations and showing true honesty if you feel safe. If you witness any hatred or bullying, you should do something about it. Education is the key. The more people know about anything, the less they fear it.

Q: Do you have anything that you want to add?

A: It is important for everybody to celebrate who they are and the GSA is the perfect place to do that. The GSA Google Classroom code is: **mycmlwv**. We meet on Thursdays from 4:15pm-4:45pm. Please join us. The more the merrier. We call our classroom Prism because prisms make rainbows.

RTX 2090: The New Graphics Card

By Owen Flood

With a new era of technology comes many upgrades to every aspect of a phone or computer. Specifically for computers, there is a brand new graphics card, the RTX 2090. This card will revolutionize the gaming industry and it already has. Within the 5th hour of the cards being released on the 24th of September, all of them were sold out. Now, while the graphics card has its advantages, it also has its disadvantages.

I'll start with the advantages. First, it is able to run almost every game at over 60fps. This means that you'll get a really good, crisp game. In addition, it is very quiet. This goes back to what I said about technology advancing. The card isn't exactly small either, compared to its noise output. Some of the bad things is that it needs a lot of power to function at the best rate possible. For just this graphics card, you'll want at least 750W of power. That's just for the card. The rest of the PC will also need about that much power, or even a little bit less. In addition, it is very expensive. The card starts at about \$1,400. For most people, that is how much money total they have to spend on a computer. This number is projected to go down, however, over the next few months and years.

Overall, if you're running a 3080 or a 3070, there is really no need to switch. You will only be getting about 10-30 frames more for \$1,400. If you're looking to build a new PC and you have the money, the 2090 might be the way to go. Hopefully, this will help you decide to buy, upgrade, or just get a better understanding of the new 2090 graphics card.

Here are the specs of the card: UDA Cores: 10496, Base / Boost Clock Speed: 1400MHz / 1785MHz, VRAM: 24GB GDDR6X, Memory Speed: 19.5 Gbps, Power: 350W, Recommended System Power: 750W, Power connectors: 3x 8-pin, Dimensions: 323x140x56mm

Breast Cancer Awareness

By Daniella Nissim

Breast cancer is cancer that is found in the cells of breasts. Breast cancer is mostly common in women, but in rare cases, men can also be diagnosed. Breast cancer is common with over two hundred thousand cases per year in the United States. Breast Cancer Awareness Month takes place during the month of October and began in 1985 as a partnership between the American Society and Imperial Chemical Industries. In 1982 the famous pink ribbon was created to bring awareness to breast cancer. The purpose of Breast Cancer Awareness Month is to bring awareness to breast cancer and raise money for research on breast cancer causes, prevention, treatment, and more. Breast Cancer Awareness Month is often celebrated by wearing pink during the month of October and encouraging others to do so. If you would like to bring awareness to breast cancer, considering wearing a pink ribbon or wearing pink in the month of October.

ELECTION 2020

By Ofer Adar

BEFORE NOVEMBER 3RD:

In a matter of days the final result for the 2020 elections will be finalized. The campaign season has been going on since 2017 when incumbent President Donald Trump announced his bid for reelection after sending shockwaves across the world in 2016 and defeating his challenger Hillary Clinton. The primary season for the defeated democrats was brutal with over 30 candidates throwing their hats into the ring to run for POTUS but only one would prevail who would eventually face off against Donald Trump. The campaign season for the general election has certainly been entertaining and filled with rallies, debates, interviews and a myriad of scandals. And now that the election is near and over 70 million Americans have voted early it is time for an analysis of everything that has happened and what to expect on election night when Donald Trump and Joe Biden will face off and compete to get to the magic number of 270. This article will consist of two parts, the first one an overview of the events that occurred before Election Day and the second part going over the results and subsequent reactions following November 3rd.

How The Electoral Process Works:

Before going over the 2020 election it is vital to understand how the electoral process works. To elect a president, traditionally political parties nominate a candidate to represent them. Although that is tradition there is no mention of political parties in the constitution so running for president with a political party isn't required but is greatly beneficial. To decide who the party's nominee will be, political parties hold primaries. These go on for roughly 5 months and are different from the general election because in the primaries only registered party members can vote in them. There are some exceptions to this rule such as states that hold open or semi-closed primaries. An open primary is open to any registered voter and a semi-closed primary is open to only the party holding the primary and registered voters who aren't affiliated with any party, these voters are called independents. Another difference between the general election and the primaries is that in primaries states vote on different dates. For example Arizona's democratic primary was on March 17 and Georgia's on June 9th. The general election has all states closing polls on the same date. Although November 3rd is Election Day this year people have been voting since early September, but all voting stops on Election Day.

To decide the primary winner, candidates have to accumulate the majority of delegates. If nobody receives a majority then the superdelegates break the stalemate. Delegates are collected by winning enough votes in a given state. For example, the democratic primaries require the candidates to get at least 15% of the votes in a state to receive at least one of their delegates. In other parties such as the republicans some states allocate all of the delegates to the winner of the popular vote in a given state. By the end of the primaries there is a party convention. At this convention the delegates officially nominate a candidate for president. If no candidate receives at least 50% of the delegates it is decided by the superdelegates. These superdelegates are elite party members and may choose whoever they want as the nominee, the required amount of superdelegates to win varies by party.

The election season is generally believed to begin after Labor Day. There are traditionally three debates and media outlets may also host town halls and interviews with the candidates. Election Day is always on the first Tuesday of November according to the Constitution. Once polls close, states begin counting ballots and subsequently release the results. Counting could take several days and if the margins are very close, as was the case with Florida in 2000, there is a recount. The next POTUS is decided by the Electoral College. The Electoral College is a delegation which casts votes which decide who the winner of the election will be. Electors are usually selected by a state's political party and the party which receives the most votes in a given state usually appoints electors of the winning party. This means that the faith of the election is entirely in the hand of the 538 electors. To decide the amount of electors each state has, the amount of representatives they have is added by the amount of senators they have. This means that no state can have less than 3 electors. That is because every state is required to have two senators and at least one representative. This fact makes the Electoral College extremely unproportional. States like California which have huge populations are confined to only having 55 electoral votes when the real number should be much larger. Because of the minimum amount of electoral votes being three, a Wyoming voter's vote is worth three times more than a Californian's. The electors cast the ballots on the first Monday after the second Wednesday in December. Each electors vote is worth one point and for a candidate to win the election they must at least have 270 electoral votes. If nobody gets to 270 it is up to the House of Representatives to select the POTUS and the Senate to select the VP.

2020 Primaries and Election Season:

The Democratic primaries consisted of over 24 candidates at the beginning. This number slowly dwindled as many of the minor candidates failed to make it to debates. Some of these candidates include Jacksonville Mayor Wayne Messam, Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper, Montana Governor Steve Bullock, New York Senator Kristen Gillibrand, Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick, California Representative Eric Swalwell, etc. As the first primaries were nearing there were four main candidates, Joe Biden, Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren, and Pete Buttigieg. Bernie Sanders was expected to narrowly win in the Iowa Caucus and although he won the popular vote in the state, Pete Buttigieg won more state delegate equivalents and hence he received more delegates. Bernie Sanders edged out a victory in the New Hampshire and Nevada Primaries. At that point Sanders was expected to be the nominee but Joe Biden won South Carolina in a landslide. This gave him the momentum he needed to stay in the race. Following Biden's victory in South Carolina Amy Klobuchar, Pete Buttigieg, and Tom Steyer all dropped out and endorsed Joe Biden. In addition two former presidential candidates Senator Kamala Harris and Representative Beto O'Rourke both came out of the woodwork to endorse Biden. This set up the stage for a two-man race to become the Democratic nominee. Bernie Sanders represented the more left-wing part of the party that preferred massive change and was very economically populist. The Joe Biden wing of the party was more moderate and supported a return to normalcy following years of Trump's supposed divisiveness. On March 3, 14 states voted on what is known as Super Tuesday and Biden won all but 4 of those states. By that point nearly everybody accepted the fact that Joe Biden would be the Democratic nominee and the following month Bernie Sanders dropped out, endorsing Joe Biden.

The Republican primary consisted of 4 candidates, Joe Walsh, Bill Weld, Mark Sanford, and the incumbent POTUS Trump. Trump won easily, securing all but one delegate which went to Bill Weld in Iowa. This meant the 2020 presidential race would be between Donald Trump and Joe Biden. Because of Covid-19 huge campaign rallies with thousands of supporters crammed together cheering the candidates on was impossible. For that reason both candidates opted for online campaigning. Both candidates went on a major ad blitz throughout the swing states. In addition the Democratic National Convention was done virtually and streamed throughout the internet. On the other hand, Trump decided to all have some of his campaign events in-person. The first one since the nationwide lockdown commenced was in Tulsa, Oklahoma on June 20th which was considered a huge failure with 2/3rds of the seats being empty. Following the rally debacle, Trump fired his campaign manager Brad Parscale and replaced him with Bill Stepien. The Republican National Convention was also held in-person although there were some precautionary measures to make sure the event wasn't a superspreader like the Tulsa rally which was directly linked to the death of political commentator Herman Cain who contracted Covid-19 at the rally and tragically passed away due to it.

Before Covid-19 Trump was expected to comfortably win by most political experts but what some believe to be a lackluster response to the pandemic alongside nationwide protests in the names of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and others dipped Trump's odds of victory. Near the end of January, Biden was leading, on average, by 5% according to Real Clear Politics. By July 1st Biden's lead expanded to nearly 10%. Throughout the summer civil unrest was rampant and there was another uptick in Covid cases in states such as Florida, Arizona, and Texas. All these events lead to a comfortable and stable lead for Biden. Joe Biden announced during the summer that his vice presidential pick would be Senator Kamala Harris. She previously ran for POTUS but withdrew early in the campaign. She was the third female vice presidential candidate and the second person of color to be on a presidential ticket.

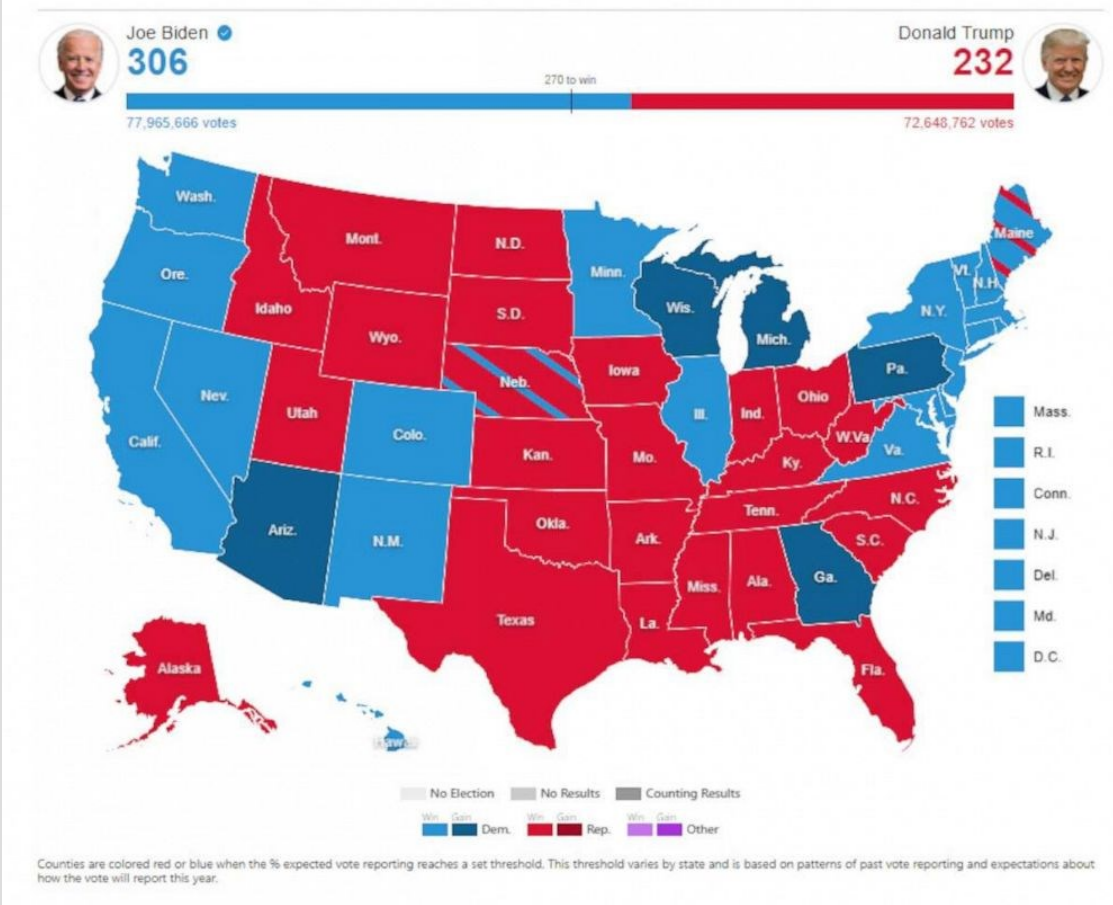
The first presidential debate was held on 29th and Biden was heavily regarded as the victor with Trump losing his cool. This was a big blow to the Trump campaign because they were relying on the debates as a potential turning point. They thought that Biden would make many gaffes and stumble on his words like he did in previous debates; unfortunately for Trump, Biden was able to hold his own. Shortly following the first debate President Trump contracted Covid-19 and made a speedy recovery within the next week. The Commission on Presidential Debates refused to hold a debate in-person because of Trump's Covid infection. They offered hosting the debate online but President Trump refused. Instead of having a debate Joe Biden and Donald Trump both had town halls at the same time. The vice presidential debate was considered a tie by most pundits and didn't have much of an impact on the fate of the race. The last presidential debate was held on October 22nd and the main highlights were talks about corruption. Trump hoped that a story about Joe Biden's son's business dealings in Ukraine would turn the tides in his favor and repeatedly hammered Biden about it. This debate was considered to be closer and the option to mute the candidates was effective in preventing the debates from becoming shouting matches. Going into November 3rd both candidates were confident in their chances and were ready with lawyers in case their opponents filed lawsuits regarding the elections. The widespread use of mail-in ballots was thought to be fraudulent in the eyes of Trump and his allies and was prepared to challenge the results if they didn't go his way.

ELECTION RESULTS AND REACTIONS:

Both candidates had high hopes going into election night but by the next morning nobody had any idea who was the winner because it took states longer to count all the mail-in ballots. As of the writing of this article, November 18th, the results that are in have Biden at 306 electoral votes and Trump at 232. Ironically, Biden's number of electoral votes is the same as Trump's in 2016 and Trump's number of electoral votes this time around is the same of Hillary Clinton's in 2016. Biden flipped 5 states that went to Trump in 2016: Georgia, Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Arizona. Trump flipped no new states but was able to narrowly win swing states such as Florida and North Carolina. Ohio and Iowa were traditionally thought of as swing states but Trump won both states by over 8%, a huge victory which will help Republicans in those states for years to come. Biden won the 51% of the popular vote while President Trump won 47.2% of the vote. Biden received roughly 80 million votes and Trump 74 million - that means that Biden won the most amount of votes in United States history with Trump coming in second. This new record in voter turnout has largely been attributed to mail-in ballots.

Following the announcements by the media and the Associated Press that Joe Biden was the president-elect, Trump said that he would not concede the election and would pursue legal action. He claimed that there was rampant voter fraud in the states of Michigan, Wisconsin, Arizona, Pennsylvania, Georgia, and Nevada. In many cases he alleged that people were voting twice or that dead people had also voted on election day. He also claimed the ballots where people voted for him were ignored or tossed out. His main lawsuit was in Pennsylvania where he stated that votes were allowed to come in after election but Pennsylvania officials have stated they'll only accept ballots coming in after Election Day if they were postmarked before polls closed.

The anger felt by almost half of the country has manifested into the Million MAGA March which is ongoing throughout the nation with the protesters demanding that Biden's victory be voided. Over the past there have been numerous violent interactions between right-wing groups such as the Proud Boys and antifa counter-protesters. Most of Trump's court cases were immediately thrown out and in December the Electoral College will officially vote for their preferred candidate and in all likelihood Joe Biden will be elected the next POTUS.



The Unknowns of COVID-19

By Gabriella Mayer

Almost a year ago, we were forced into a new world filled with a lot of unknowns. COVID-19, a virus that affects people worldwide, is contagious and deadly, and we should try to avoid getting it at all costs. Every time we turned around, we were bombarded by more and more facts, little of which we understood. Social media, where many people go for information, was filled to the brim with rumors, suspicions, and exaggerations on the situation that made everyone nervous. Eight months later, we are still surrounded by so much unknown. Although many things have become more transparent, we still don't know all of it. We still have to deal with deciphering what is real and fake.

Coronavirus has not only affected our informational standpoint but has significantly affected our political environment too. Politics has always been an argumentative subject, but now, most of what is brought up has to do with the coronavirus. Many people in the media have constantly been speaking about how COVID-19 will affect us in the future, the vaccine, and overall everything having to do with it. People have also been doing things like following one politician, activist, presidential candidate, celebrity, etc. because of their views on the coronavirus. Since 2020 is an election year many people have been choosing and supporting the candidate based on what they say about COVID-19. Overall, coronavirus has controlled our media for the past months and continues to have serious effects on everything we do.

COVID-19: A Family's Journey

By Mia Rios

Imagine traveling 3,996 miles, stopping in three distinct airports while protecting your family from a global pandemic and lockdown all around the world, wearing a mask 24 hours non-stop and scared if the person right next to you might be infected. How would you feel? Well, that is exactly what a lot of immigrant families had to worry about since COVID-19 started. All countries are restricting their barriers so fewer people can enter. There are over 1.15 million deaths and scientists are still finding an official vaccine, and while that's happening, families are still moving to the United States.

A typical South American family: father, mother, 2 girls and grandma started their journey on a cold night of winter. They never thought that it would be something that was going to change their lives in so many ways. Lucas (fictional name), as the father, was really concerned about health issues because he knew they were taking a risk, so precautions were taken to the extreme. They packed their belongings, called their friends and relatives to say good-bye and drove off to the airport. There, things got difficult. They put on their mask, stayed 6-feet from everybody, putting on hand-sanitizer from time to time, and staying close together. They passed the check-in without problems and were heading to the plane. Before they sat on the seats, they disinfected it with a tissue. During the flight they didn't have food because of safety issues, some family members couldn't sleep, but besides all those details, they were fine. Their journey was on their way despite all these circumstances and even though it was like a minefield, they knew it was going to end soon.

Even though the family finally got to their home, this situation was far from over. COVID-19 changed so many things in the way people interact, and families like this one still have a long list of issues to deal with, such as: distance learning, few group and physical interactions, long-distance relationships and so many others. Maybe some of these challenges will be much more difficult than others, but at the end you will always have to advance a little more than where you were before, and someday with hard work you will completely attain your dreams.

COVID-19: The Vaccine

By Daniel Goldberg

I'm sure you've heard many things about the COVID-19 vaccine and virus. It's really one of the main subjects now. Many people including the president and his advisers believed that by September, scientists would have developed a vaccine. Companies like AstraZeneca predicted that by September they would have already produced 2 billion doses of vaccine. This timeline was later moved to October, and then to late November.

Operation "Warp Speed," the governmental support program for the development of a vaccine, has major problems. Many businesses are trying to develop a vaccine, but face obstacles. For example, most companies that have tested their vaccine, have had a person they tried it on become ill. It's unclear why this was happening. These laboratories were stopped from moving on after these incidents. All these companies need to find the problem in their vaccine prototype, and fix it before they can continue testing.

China has claimed that they have developed a vaccine, and are using it to help people in their country. This may be true, but China is sharing no information about how it works or how to make it. Russia has also claimed to have a vaccine, but faces the same problems of credibility.

However, there are other countries that are involved in making a vaccine. Germany has already given the vaccine to 20 individuals, and for now, none of them have been exhibiting any health issues. The same thing is happening in Israel as well.

So far, even if we do develop a vaccine, leading companies say that you will have to take two doses before you are immune. The good news is that the virus does not mutate as much as the flu, or at least scientists think so. If this statement is true, then after taking the vaccine once, you will be immune to the virus for a long period of time.

Recently, Pfizer announced that a German firm they're partnering with has made a vaccine, and that their stage 3 testing results have been good so far. The firm claims that their vaccine has had a 90% success rate, which is incredible, since during the summer most companies were only aiming for a 50% success rate. If this is true, then soon enough the COVID-19 pandemic will be history.

Additionally, the new Moderna vaccine was just announced. It's 94.5% effective. Do you think this is realistic? How much longer do you think we will need social distancing?

Election and Contagion in the Equity Markets

By Brandon E. Reed

The year 2020 has been a very tumultuous year for the stock market. Investors - people who buy and sell partial ownership of companies - began selling stocks aggressively in late February 2020 due to fears of COVID-19. The market continued on a downward spiral, losing 2,997.10 points alone on March 16th, a day which turned out to be the second worst percentage drop for the market after October 19th, 1987. But things started looking up for the markets in April, with the S&P 500 up 12.7 percent, making it the third best April ever. There were definitely ups and downs from May through October, but the market settled down and things improved overall.

While the initial rise of the COVID-19 pandemic hurt the economy badly, the market crash was mostly caused by the uncertainty and fear of what would happen next. However, once plans were made about how to respond, the markets sprang back and recovered most of their value by late spring, even while the country was still in lockdown and unemployment was still increasing.

The market's reaction to uncertainty was also displayed around election day. In the week before the election, the Dow Jones was at 26,519.95, down from a high earlier in the month of 28,837.52. With the beginning of election week, that uncertainty started to resolve and the market rose as votes were placed and tallied until it reached 29,157.97 on November 9th, after a winner had been declared by major news stations on Saturday. Also contributing to the market's rise that day was some positive indications from Pfizer's vaccine trial. There's often a selloff on the day following a big rally, but that wasn't the case on November 10th when the market hit a new peak of 29,420.92.

November and December are traditionally strong months for the stock market, particularly December with its traditional Santa Claus rally, but there continues to be political uncertainty as well as major concerns over the Coronavirus. Markets like certainty and I think it's safe to say that nothing in 2020 has been very predictable. Stay tuned - I believe the next couple of months are going to be a roller coaster ride!

The iPhone 12 Lineup

By Raphael Nassimiha

A few weeks ago on October 13, 2020 Tim Cook announced the iPhone 12 lineup. The funny thing is that Apple had another event not even 1 month before they announced the Apple watch. The new iPhone 12 has ceramic shield, Magsafe charging, also the 12 Pro and the 12 Pro Max have a LiDR sensor. All of the Phones have 5G.

They also announced the iPhone 12 mini which is 5.4 in while the 12 is 6.1 in. All four iPhones have a super retina XDR display. The 12 and the 12 mini have two cameras, while the 12 Pro and 12 Pro Max have three.

The 12 Pro and the 12 Pro Max have a LiDR sensor. The sensor is for AR or Augmented Reality, which is common for some video games. The whole line up has a ceramic shield which protects the iPhone 4x the damage. Magsafe is magnets on the back of the phone which have cases, chargers and even wallets that are designed for it. Overall everything that they announced is amazing.



Dear Miss Know-It-All,

I'm really getting caught up in my schoolwork! It's difficult to get everything done on time, and still have time to do the things I want. Sometimes I forget about assignments, and have to do them the day before they're due. Work takes me late into the night, so I wake up feeling groggy and irritated. It puts me in a bad mood, so I'm unfocused during class and I'm never prepared for class discussions.

How do I end this vicious cycle? Nothing is working and I'm really concerned about my classes and relationships with my teachers. What makes it worse is that I can't seem to click with remote learning. I'm not good at technology and assignments seem to pop up out of nowhere! Is there any way I can turn it around?

Anxiously awaiting your reply,
Concerned Student

Dear Concerned Student,

Your worries are totally understandable! If you want free time every day to do what you want, then don't put off your schoolwork. One tip for students is that after school, you should first do the things that you want to put off the most! After you put your best effort into your schoolwork, and make sure everything is handed in, then you can do whatever you want. I promise that your work will pay off.

If you have trouble remembering assignments, write reminders down on sticky notes or keep a planner. If you're not too big on either of those things, make a point to check over all your classes before you go to sleep. And if you're having technology problems, never hesitate to reach out to Mr. Vigliotti, or a parent who may understand how to fix it. Always inform your teachers of any problems you may be having with schoolwork. Be transparent so you're never misunderstood! All of us are adapting to remote learning, and we could all use some help when we need it!

Good luck,
Miss Know-It-All

Lockdown or Locked up

By Liel Kafaierad

These are the places that are going back into lockdown: New York, Illinois, Colorado, Texas, California, and last but not least Puerto Rico. I will be writing about the locations with the most recent information from the New York Times.

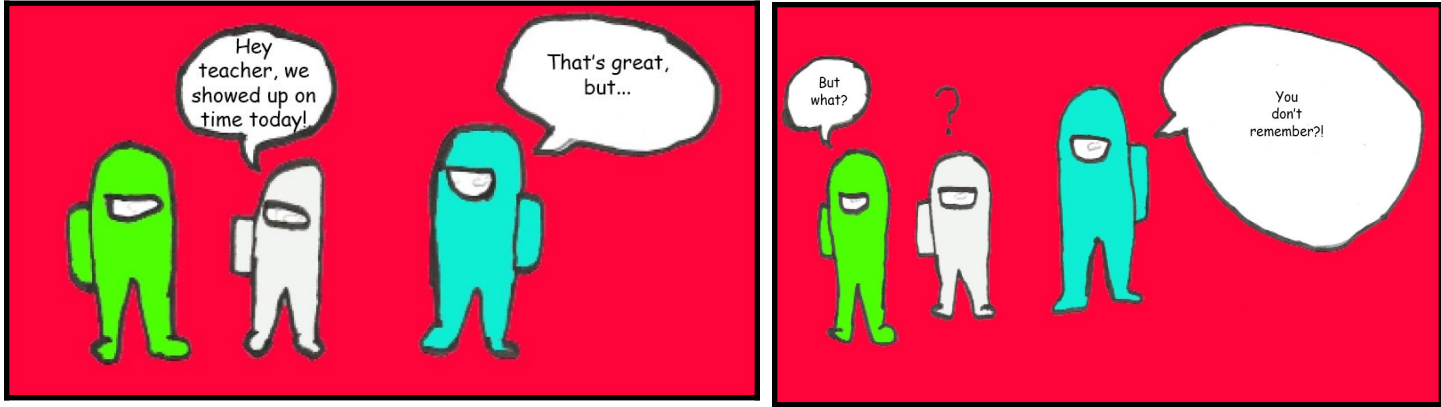
According to the *New York Times*, the hospitalizations inside of Texas are going up. The places with the most cases are Henderson County, Wichita County, Young County, Lubbock County, Hale County, and Rains County. Those are the places where COVID-19 have affected the most.

In California it is bad because not only is it a big state, the cases are going up drastically. Here are the numbers of deaths due to COVID-19 in California: 17153 deaths. The number of confirmed cases or COVID-19: is 889,075. This is the information for the state of California.

This is the information about COVID-19 and how it's affecting the state of New York. The hot spots of the virus are Chemung County, Broome County, Tioga County, and Cortland County. The average deaths due to COVID-19 per day is 13. Also the average confirmed cases a day is 1,424. This was all the important information of New York that you need to know.

COMICS

By Elliot Kane



Top Songs of Summer 2020

By Naomi Zarnighian

Over the summer of 2020, lots of things have happened. Some good, some terrible. Music has been such a big part of this year. With many songs rising to fame because of TikTok, and some because of radio play, here are the top 3 songs of Summer 2020.

Coming at our number one spot is “ROCKSTAR” by DaBaby ft. Roddy Ricch. This song was released on April 13, 2020 and spent 7 weeks at the number one spot on the Billboard Top 100. “ROCKSTAR” was crowned the song of the summer by Billboard.



Coming second is “Blinding Lights” by The Weeknd. This song came out on November 29, 2019. This song took over the radio and TikTok with its danceable beat. The Weeknd’s song was at the number 1 spot on the billboard top 100 for 6 weeks. “Blinding Lights” has over 1 billion streams on Spotify and was deemed the second best song of the summer.



The third song on the list is “Roses” by Saint Jhn - Imanbek remix. “Roses” was originally released on July 22, 2016, but the remix that we all know and love came out in 2019. This song got 3.594 million streams on Spotify and went platinum in 2020. This song got big on TikTok and later got many radio plays. This song was placed at the number 3 spot for song of the summer.



Video Game Review: Among Us

By Andrew Cohen and Niv Kashi

Everyone loves video games, and recently many people have been playing new games that have been very successful. From Fortnite, to Call of Duty, to Minecraft. One of the biggest hits this year has been the videogame called Among Us. Among Us is an animated video game that can either be played on a mobile device or a PC.

In each game, you will be assigned a role which is either a Crewmate or an Impostor. The Crewmates’ main goal is to walk around the map and complete any tasks that need to be done, find out who the impostor or impostors are, and vote them out during an emergency meeting. Doing these tasks will result in your green level bar to rise. Once every Crewmate finishes their tasks, they will win the game and the Impostor loses. The Impostors’ main goal is to eliminate all the Crewmates in order to win and frame Crewmates for the eliminations after a body has been reported. The Impostor or Imposters can also sabotage a room which will either cause the room’s doors to close, preventing anyone from passing through them and/or turning off the lights so none of the Crewmates can see anything, and it will result in an easier elimination for the Impostor. Along with this, Imposters can also use the vents to sneak around the map to get to places quicker, and to run away after an elimination if they see another player approaching the location. Also, 1-3 players can be randomly selected to become the Impostor, depending on how many Imposters were selected in the game settings. You can also change the map that you play on, or how many players can participate in the game. If you are a Crewmate, the admin who created the game can select up to 12 tasks to complete that are randomly applied to the players.

One way how you can identify the Impostor is through visual tasks. For example, the Impostor may want to gain the trust of the Crewmates by pretending to do a task, but the visual tasks can expose them because they will only show you did them if the game shows the effect. A few examples are a medical scan which shows your character being scanned in a machine in the medical area, or activating the shields which will turn on a light outside the map. Additionally, you can complete the weapons task to destroy the asteroids approaching the ship. These can only be done by the real Crewmates, which can show who the Impostor is if they haven't done any of them. All Imposters will have an elimination cool-down that you can set to how minutes you want so that they cannot eliminate every player at once during a game. Finally, when a body has been reported or a meeting has been called, the participants can discuss which players they have seen vent, eliminate another player, or who is suspicious.



Minecraft: An Adventurous Game full of Mystery

By Eylon Yudalevich and Nathan Zhong

Minecraft is an amazing game, with adventure, discovery and most of all fun. It’s a spectacular survival game, with lots of twists and turns. Lots of games come and go, games such as Mario and Fall Guys, but Minecraft is a game that has stuck around for a while now, and a game we hope will stay around forever. In this review, we’ll talk about what makes Minecraft so amazing, and why it has captivated so many gamers.

What is Minecraft?

For those of you who know about Minecraft, you can skip this part. But for those who haven’t played or even heard of Minecraft, this section will teach you all that you need to know about Minecraft (At least enough to start playing). Minecraft is a game made by Swedish game-developers Mojang, and was released on May 17, 2009. In 2014, Mojang was acquired by Microsoft, for a whopping amount of 2.5 billion dollars.

So, what makes Minecraft worth so much? Well, Minecraft is a game that gives you complete freedom of what you want to do, and you can do almost whatever you want, from going fishing, building a house out of pure diamonds, go to a warped hell dimension, fight a huge dragon, and so much more! Of course, you can’t just go fight a dragon the minute you enter the world (otherwise known as ‘spawning’), you have to work your way up. While Minecraft is a sandbox game, you will find that it is incredibly difficult to actually “beat the game,” which to Minecraft gamers means defeating the ender dragon, who resides in the end dimension, and after that you will get to the credits, which basically means you win. Sounds simple enough, right? No! You’ll need so much supplies, food, armor, weapons, just to get to the end portal (which is how you get to the end) and you’ll need more to beat the ender dragon! So now that you know all about Minecraft, your next step is to learn how to play.

Game Modes

Many people don't really know what Minecraft is, or how to play it. In this subsection we will teach you about the main key points on how to play the spectacular game which is Minecraft. There is a mode inside the game which is called survival mode. In this mode you start with absolutely nothing and you must harvest, gather and mine to obtain tools and blocks. This mode can be played with friends or just in single player. In the other major mode in Minecraft is creative mode. In this mode you have every tool or block that is in the game. This mode allows you to show your true creative talent by making huge buildings or structures you desire. Or you can mess around and fill your whole world with pufferfish! These two modes are the real deal on how you play Minecraft.

Creators and YouTube

There are thousands of thousands of Minecraft YouTubers, now you may wonder why there are so many Minecraft YouTubers? This is because of the immense amount of popularity of the game. YouTubers such as Dream who speedruns the game. There are so many different creators that all have different perspectives on the game and different ways to play it. YouTube is such a big part of Minecraft. Did you know that Minecraft even has their own YouTube channel?

As a conclusion to this **EPIC** game review we have talked about how good of a game Minecraft is, some ways on how to play, and some information about some content creators. So, what are you waiting for? Get Minecraft and enjoy the adventure of a lifetime! Or if you prefer go build the house of your dreams in the creative mode!

Gaming Club

By Nathan Zhong

Video games have always been popular. It’s a fact. And because of the Gaming Club, gaming has never been more popular (at least in North Middle School)! As I went around interviewing gamers and club advisors alike, they all gave me more or less the same answer- that Gaming Club is awesome! According to Mr. Siciliano (a Gaming Club advisor), only around 20 to 25 people were attending the Gaming Club last year. This year, there are 90 people in the Gaming Club! Can you believe it? So, what makes the Gaming Club so popular?

“Well, I would say a major reason why the Gaming Club is so popular is because you can play with other people and make friends, and let’s be honest-gaming with friends is a lot more fun than playing by yourself,” says Gaming Club member Yair Elias, who was seen having lots of fun on the Among Us game breakout room on Zoom.

Among Us is a game that can be played on both mobile and desktop, and revolves around human interaction. On a spaceship, players rush around to complete tasks while an impostor lurks in the shadows, ready to eliminate any unsuspecting crewmate.

Speaking of Among Us, Mr. DeNise, who is a Gaming Club advisor, says that Among Us is one of the most popular games at the Gaming Club this year. Why? Among Us has several reasons why it is extremely popular, and one of the major ones would be that it is free to play, since a lot of people aren’t always willing to pay for a game. Another reason would be that it is easy to learn and quick to play. After asking some of my friends why Among Us is so fun, they responded that it’s because you can play with other people, including your friends.

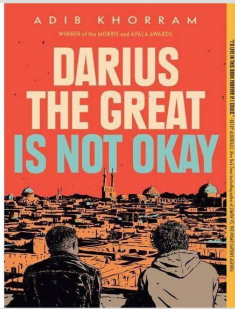
So, how does the Gaming Club work? Well, there is a Google Classroom where the Gaming Club advisors post information about when the Zoom will start, and upcoming events/tournaments, zoom links, and so, so much more! You can post your username or friend codes if you want to have more friends in the games you are playing. Every Tuesday at 4:30, there is a Zoom meeting that lasts 40 minutes and ends at 5:10, and you can play various games through breakout rooms.

The Gaming Club is a great place for gamers and non-gamers alike, as you can simply talk to other gamers about your favorite games and ask them questions about games you would like to play. Sometimes, you just don’t know how to beat that really hard boss level, or you don’t know how to play a certain game. You can invite fellow gamers to your guild or battle squad, and play together! To join the Gaming Club, simply join the Google Classroom. The code is here: ul6tjce.

Book Recommendation: *Darius the Great is Not Okay* by Adib Khorram

By Noya Zarnighian

Meet Darius Kellner; Darius gets bullied at school for his weight and ethnicity, he never seems to please his father, and constantly feels like a disappointment. His social awkwardness doesn’t seem to help. He loves his little sister, Laleh, although he has no idea how she’s more popular than him with her more Persian sounding name. His mother’s parents are Iranian and, though he talks with them over a computer, he has yet to actually meet them. After his grandfather is diagnosed with an incurable brain tumor, Darius and his family all go to Iran to be with him while they still can.



Darius feels out of place in Iran because, unlike Laleh, he doesn’t speak Farsi. This changes when Darius meets Sohrab, the boy his age that lives next door, who also understands feeling like you don’t belong. The pair quickly become the best friends they never had. Darius (or, to his friend and family in Iran, Darioush) is coping with clinical depression, but can’t seem to get his grandparents to understand.

Although most of the book takes place in Iran, the experiences the characters face are universal. *Darius the Great is Not Okay* can be found in the Great Neck Public Library’s Young Adult section and on Sora. Currently, only roadside pickup is available for the Great Neck Public Library, so reserve the book online and pick it up after you get a call saying that it’s ready.

Movie Review: Hubie Halloween

By Ella Ginsberg

The film follows a worker that loves Halloween who must save the town of Salem, Massachusetts from a kidnapper. Released on October 7, 2020 by Netflix, the film is dedicated to the late actor Cameron Boyce, who was originally set to star but died prior to production.

Some of the actors were Adam Sandler, Noah Schnapp, Paris Berelc, Peyton List, Julie Bowen, Karan Brar, Kevin James, Rob Schneider, Shaquille O’Neal, and lots more.

Hubie DuBois (Adam Sandler) is a thermos-carrying man-child of a community volunteer. He helps keep his town of Salem, Massachusetts safe on Halloween. Meanwhile, most of the townspeople do not appreciate his efforts as they just want to have fun. Although Hubie sometimes goes too far, I think the town should appreciate him more. No one really takes what Hubie says seriously and likes to make fun and scare him wherever they can. But, on this one Halloween night, Hubie has to deal with a real murder and a real mystery.

FALL RECIPE: Halloween Brownies

By Elizabeth Sheydina

Do you love fall? Crisp leaves? Hay Rides? Apple/Pumpkin Picking? Thanksgiving? Halloween? Do you love fall flavors? Pumpkin spice? Cinnamon? Apples? Then keep on reading for a yummy dessert to make this fall!

Ingredients

PREP: 25minutes BAKE: 30minutes

1/2 cup butter ,softened
1/4 cup chocolate-hazelnut spread or creamy peanut butter
3/4 cup sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon (optional)
4 eggs
1 22-ounce bottle special dark chocolate-flavored syrup or 1 3/4 cups chocolate-flavored syrup
1 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
Quick Chocolate Glaze (recipe follows)
1 cup candy corn



Steps

1. Line a 13x9x2-inch baking pan with foil, extending over the edges of the pan. Grease foil.
2. In a large mixing bowl, beat butter and chocolate-hazelnut spread with an electric mixer for 30 seconds. Add sugar, vanilla and, if you like, cinnamon. Beat until combined, scraping sides of bowl occasionally. Beat in eggs, one at a time, until combined. Stir in chocolate-flavored syrup. Stir in flour. Spread batter in prepared pan.
3. Bake in a 350° oven for 30 to 35 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool slightly on a wire rack. Pour on the hot Quick Chocolate Glaze; quickly spread evenly over top of brownie. Sprinkle with candy corn. Cool on a wire rack. Using edges of foil, lift brownies out of the pan. Cut into bars. Store the brownies, covered, in the refrigerator.

Quick Chocolate Glaze:

In a medium saucepan, combine 2/3 cup sugar, 3 tablespoons milk and 3 tablespoons butter. Cook and stir until boiling; boil for 30 seconds. Stir in 1/2 cup semi-sweet chocolate pieces until melted.

Book Review: *Shadowsmith* by Ross MacKenzie

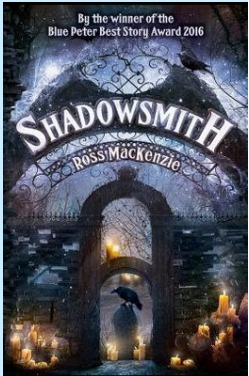
Reviewed by Daniel Goldberg

Finding new books to read can be a challenge, especially when it comes to finding one that interests you. Do you ever feel like you read all of the good books in the world? Or are you just wondering what book you should read next? Well, you’re reading the right article!

Strange things are happening to Kirby. He is being watched by a spider and a strange girl knocks on his window in the middle of the night. Not just this but an unusual storm swept from the sea, mortality injuring his mother. But he can’t figure out what it all means. This story reveals a dark, and magical world, where there are horrors beyond imagination. So beyond imagination that you will be surprised Ross Mackenzie even made it up!

Ross Mackenzie is an award winning author who is more famous in Britain than in the U.S. Ross Mackenzie also wrote another book called The Nowhere Emporium, which won two awards and has a sequel called The Elsewhere Emporium.

Do you dare, do you wish, are you brave? If you answered yes, then this book is perfect for you.



Fun, Fast Recipes

By Elliot Ganjian

Avocado Toast

- One Ripe Avocado
- Two pieces of toast/bread
- Onion Powder
- Garlic Powder
- One medium-sized bowl

This recipe is very easy and simple because it doesn't require any pan skills. First, mash your avocado in a bowl. Then, add a teaspoon of onion powder and a teaspoon of garlic powder. Mix it all together.



Spread the avocado mixture across toast or bread of your choosing. Top it off with some everything bagel seeds to add to the taste. You may add any other spices to the mixture you feel is necessary!

Microwave Eggs

- One medium-sized mug
- One Whisk or Fork
- Two Eggs
- A Microwave
- Onion Powder and Garlic Powder

Crack two eggs in a mug and beat your a teaspoon of onion powder and another the microwave for 30 seconds and take it out every ten seconds. Whisk until you have your desired consistency.



eggs until they are completely blended. Add a teaspoon of garlic powder. Put your mug in the microwave for 30 seconds and take it out every ten seconds. Whisk until you have your desired consistency.

Weird Food Review

By Riley Cheng

Welcome to the first issue of Weird Food Review. In this column I will try weird food and tell the history, the taste, and other stuff. Today, we have chicken feet and green onion flavored Chex cereal.

Chicken Feet

Chicken feet is a delicacy in countries all around the world. These are the countries that put it as part of their culture. China, Ukraine, Romania, Moldova, Indonesia, Jamaica, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Philippines, South Africa, Thailand, and Trinidad. For this issue, I focused on only China’s history.



History: Chicken feet is used in several religions as part of the cuisine. They can be served as a snack, cold dish, soup, or the main dish. They are called phoenix claws sometimes and chicken feet other times. In Cantonese cities they are served deep fried or steamed and then simmered with a sauce flavored with black beans, bean paste, and sugar or in abalone sauce. In mainland China it is a wildly popular snack with marinated food with duck necks and more chicken feet. It is with soy sauce, Sichuanese peppercorn, clove, garlic, cinnamon, and chili flakes. Today it is a casual snack for people. It is sold in stores and supermarkets as a type of snack with rice vinegar and chili. Another recipe contains rice vinegar, rice wine with sugar, salt, and minced ginger and it’s made cold. In southern China they also cook soup with chicken feet and peanuts. The demand causes the price in China to be raised, which is bad for countries who need it. As of 2011, 1 kilogram of raw chicken is 12-16 instead of 11-12 yuans. In 2000 Hong Kong got over \$230 million just from chicken feet. In 2001, China approved the import of American chicken feet legally and that made China a massive hotspot for chicken feet lovers. It is also said to help fight disease.

Taste: I tried the Hong Kong version and the dried version. The Hong Kong version was sweet and bitter. The texture was soft and saucy. The sauce blocked out most of the chicken feet, but it tasted moist and delicious. The only problem was it was sticky and stuck to my mouth. The dried version got rid of all the sauce. It was fried and crispy. It was soft and tasted like hot pot beef. It was small and it tasted like a snack. It was just too moist.

Hong Kong Chicken Feet: 4 out of 5: I recommend.

Dried Chicken Feet: 3 out of 5: It’s okay.

CHEX Onion Cereal

There is surprisingly a lot of history behind this product. It is a story of really weird stuff.

History: In 2006 Kellogg's cereal launched a voting poll on the next Chex cereal. I know General Mills owns it but not in South Korea. It was a poll on chocolate or onions. It went smooth sailing but then the “trolls” came. A lot of “trolls” picked green onion as the favorite. This was a problem because they thought chocolate would win because everyone likes chocolate. They don’t have a warehouse full of onion cereal, so they picked chocolate as the winner. As a result, the poll was turned into a meme, expressing people’s anger. Kellogg’s made a K-pop song apologizing and released the green onion cereal.

Taste: It was awful. I hate green onions so why did I eat it? In raw form it tasted like crunchy onion bread and it was terrible. The problem with Chex is the milk comes in immediately when it hits the milk. The milk does not complement the taste and onion milk is a terrible mixture.

Onion cereal: 1 out of 5. Don’t try!

In the next issue of Northern Light, I will be reviewing camel milk and jellyfish.



Justin Turner Breaks COVID-19 Rules, Why No Punishment?

By: Liana Kase

Most people already know that the Los Angeles Dodgers won the 2020 World Series. After getting cheated out of it two years straight, along with dominating the National League, they were due. I thought they deserved the win. But the Dodgers winning wasn't the only big headline that night. Their star third baseman, Justin Turner, got COVID-19. But it wasn't because he got the virus that he made the headlines, it was because he broke all of the MLB's rules about the virus.

First off, he went outside the player bubble. During the postseason, and the regular season, the MLB had something called the "Player Bubble." The player bubble was a way to make sure that the players didn't do anything that could get them exposed to the virus. If they were the away team, they would stay in a hotel with high security to make sure they didn't go anywhere they weren't supposed to. When your team was the away team, you were supposed to eat your meals either at the ballpark or at the hotel. You were supposed to stay at the hotel until it was time to go to the ballpark, in which you would go straight to the ballpark. Once you were done with the game, straight back to the hotel. If you were to break those rules, you would face punishment. But guess what? Turner went outside the bubble, got exposed to the coronavirus, and didn't get in trouble. But that's not all.

When and if you get exposed, you're supposed to quarantine until you test negative. But Turner didn't quarantine, even after he knew he was exposed. Instead he took a COVID-19 test, and went straight to Globe Life Field to play game 6 of the World Series. But what makes it even worse is that he tested positive during the game. He shouldn't have even been there in the first place, and now he has exposed all of his teammates.

The Dodgers took Turner out of the game once they found out he had Coronavirus. Turner then left the ballpark and went back to the hotel to quarantine. By now, the commissioner of Major League Baseball, Rob Manfred, should have done something. Whether it was give him a fine or suspend him for part of the 2021 season, Manfred should have punished Turner by now, but he didn't. This only makes the problem worse. But believe it or not, something else happened.

A few hours after Turner was removed from the game, the Dodgers won it all. Turner, who was at the hotel watching the game, decided that it was okay for him to return to the ballpark and celebrate with his team. There was then footage of him hugging his teammates, holding the trophy and doing all these things that could get his team sick. This drove fans crazy. He knew he shouldn't be out there, he should have quarantined, but he didn't.

Look, I get it, all baseball fans get it. You won the World Series, congrats. But the way Turner handled it, the way Manfred handled it, is unacceptable. Now all Dodgers players have to quarantine, and this wouldn't have happened if Justin Turner didn't step outside the player bubble.



Dodgers Win the World Series

By Ben Ginsberg

The World Series is one of the biggest events in sports. The World Series is the championship of baseball. There are 30 teams that are competing for the event.

Thirty teams are split in two, the American League, and the National League. The best team in the National League is going to play the best team in the American League in the World Series.

This year, because of the coronavirus, the playoff format is different. There are 16 teams that are in the playoffs, eight teams in the National League, and eight teams in the American League. After a bunch of games, the Los Angeles Dodgers in the National League and the Tampa Bay Rays in the American League were to set play each other.

In the World Series, the teams that will make it will be playing in a best out of seven series, in other words, first to four. The Dodgers also have a team full of power with Cody Bellinger, a MVP, and Mookie Betts, an amazing fielder and hitter. They also got one of the best pitchers, Clayton Kershaw.

Tampa Bay has an amazing rookie named Randy Arozarena—he has 10 home runs in the playoffs! It was a hard fought series but in the end, the Dodgers won in six games.

The World Series MVP is huge because it shows who dominated the Series. This year the World Series MVP was Corey Seager. He got on base about 55% of the times he came up to bat. Overall, the World Series is huge and the Dodgers won it. There will be a lot of celebration in Los Angeles.



Steve Cohen Buys the Mets

By: Liana Kase

It's official, Steve Cohen has bought the Mets. For those who went to North Middle last year, you probably saw my article on Steve Cohen. When I wrote that article, Cohen was about to buy the Mets, and then the deal fell through. I ended up doing a lot of research on him, including the fact that he grew up in Great Neck and went to NMS, so the article just ended up being facts about Steve Cohen, but now he actually bought the Mets, so I'm going to write about why it took the Wilpons so long to sell the Mets.

Cohen officially bought the Mets on September 14, 2020. It took a long time for it to happen though, Cohen was supposed to buy the Mets before the 2020 season, but the deal fell through. The Wilpons, who were the owners of the Mets before Cohen, started looking into other people. One of them was former Yankee, Alex Rodriguez, who wanted to buy them. The Wilpons were close to making a deal with A-Rod too, but that deal didn't happen either.

One of the problems was that the Wilpons had a share of SNY, the Mets broadcasting company. Both Cohen and A-Rod wanted that share of SNY if they bought the Mets, but the Wilpons wanted to keep it. This is one of the few reasons why it took so long to sell the Mets.

Another reason was that the Wilpons didn't want the new owner to influence the Mets to do anything bad. Both A-Rod and Cohen had done something that the Wilpons didn't want in a new owner. A-Rod had once taken PEDs, or performance enhancing drugs, and Cohen was part of a scandal. The Wilpons wanted to leave the Mets in good hands, they didn't want to sell them and then hear that every player was taking PEDs, or that the Mets had cheated their way to the postseason. So they were very hesitant to sell the Mets to either of the two candidates.

At first it seemed like the Wilpons were going to sell the Mets to A-Rod, but the Mets were going for a very high price, a price that Alex Rodriguez couldn't afford to pay. But you know who could pay that high price? Steve Cohen could. So the Wilpons settled the deal with Cohen so that he would have the majority share, but the Wilpons would still have SNY.

So a process that started with the original deal not happening, and then having a hard time debating if Alex Rodriguez would be a good owner, ends with the same person it started with, Steve Cohen. Now all we have to worry about is if Cohen will get the Mets the players they need.



Arsenal vs Rapid Wien

By Liam Pilip

The first goal of the game was at 9:58 with Arsenal's player Lacazette scoring an amazing goal outside the box surprising fans from both sides getting Arsenal in the lead 1-0. Then, at 12:21, Arsenal was about to score their second goal with a beautiful cross from Pepe but Mustafi couldn't seem to finish it making the ball go to the side post. The next goal of the game from Arsenal is at 16:59 when Pablo Mari makes an astonishing backward header deflect off the post and go in, getting Arsenal ahead by 2. Another close chance for Arsenal was at 19:42 where Nelson had a breakaway but was pressured by Gremil and took too many touches on the ball leading directly to the goalie. Another close opportunity for Arsenal is at 26:25 when Lacazette takes a beautiful strike to the bottom right corner but the ball deflects off the post leading out. The next goal of the game is by Arsenal at 43:40 when Nelson takes a nice shot but the goalie blocks it setting Nketiah up with an amazing finish with the head getting Arsenal ahead but 3 points before the first half is over.

The first goal for Rapid Wien is at 46:40 when Arase deflects the ball off an arsenal defender giving Kitagawa a chance to score and it goes in. The final goal in the game is at 65:40 when Maitland gives a beautiful assist to Eleny making the final score 4-1 and moving Arsenal to first place in the standings.

New AMD RYZEN 5000 series CPU

By Michael Zaken

The new AMD RYZEN 5000 SERIES chipset consists of 6 Brand New Processors, or if you know the real term, CPU. These new CPU's are based on the new AMD RYZEN ZEN3 architecture. The new features are that they have more cores, and are all 50% faster than their predecessors, the 3000 series. We will go over every new CPU.

AMD RYZEN 5 5600 SERIES.

The Brand New AMD RYZEN 5 5600 SERIES, is a refreshed version of the outgoing AMD RYZEN 5 3600. It has 6 cores, good enough for gaming. It is about 15% faster than the AMD RYZEN 5 3600X, and 20% faster than the regular 3600. It will serve you well for gaming, working and 3D rendering. It will cost around \$349.99. It is comparable to the Intel Core i7 9700K.

AMD RYZEN 7 5700 SERIES.

The AMD RYZEN 7 5800 SERIES, is also a refreshed and improved version of the already powerful AMD RYZEN 7 3700, AND 3700X. It is also based on the new ZEN 3 architecture and has 8 cores. It can be compared to the Intel Core i7 10700k, the gaming oriented version of the already existing intel Core i7. It will serve you well for *Competitive Gaming, and 3D modeling at 1440p.*

AMD RYZEN 9 5900/5950X SERIES.

The AMD RYZEN 9 5900 Series will be a top tier gaming CPU, an improved version of the already powerful AMD RYZEN 9 3900X. It will have 12 cores, and 24 threads. The frequency will be 3.7GHz, with over-clocking up to 4.8GHz. It is also based on AMD's ZEN 3 architecture. It can be compared to the Intel Core i9 10900k, or the Intel Core i9 10900XF. It will serve you well for high FPS 1440p gaming, and 60Fps 4k gaming, if you like graphics.

There is a better counterpart, the AMD RYZEN 9 5950X is a better counterpart. It will have 16 cores and 32 threads. 2x the cores more than the RYZEN 7 5800X it is comparable with the Intel core i9-7960X. It has a frequency of 3.4GHz, and can over-clock to 4.9 GHz. it is also based on AMD's ZEN 3 Architecture. It will serve you well for upwards of 140 FPS on 4k, and will easily go over 240fps on 1440p. It will also do good in 3D modeling.

Free Agent Opportunities for the Mets

By Ben Ginsberg

The Mets are a struggling team that hovered with an average playing record for the past four years. What the Mets really need to improve their team is a good free agent option. A free agent is a player who had a contract with a team that expired, so he doesn't belong to a team, and is looking for teams to sign contracts.

Their starting catcher, Wilson Ramos, just became a free agent and will no longer be part of the Mets. So the Mets won't have at least a decent catcher, but J.T Realmuto is a free agent who is also a catcher. He is most likely to be on the Mets next season according to sny.com. J.T Realmuto's stats last season with the Philadelphia Phillies were amazing. In forty-seven games, he got forty-six hits and thirty-two RBI's. The Mets really need him because he will be amazing at the plate, but a big problem is that JT Realmuto wants to go to the Mets for a lot of money-\$200,000,000!

The Mets current rotation is Jacob DeGrom, a two time Cy Young winner, (best pitcher in baseball award), Rick Porcello, Seth Lugo, and David Petersen. The Mets really need a fifth pitcher, and that is where Trevor Bauer comes in. Trevor Baur is an amazing baseball player with an ERA (earned run average) under two runs a game, which is really good. If the Mets get Trevor Bauer, they will have a good and strong rotation, something they needed for a while.

But a big issue is that the Mets reached a deal with Trevor Bauer and they are willing to pay him a one year deal for 36 million. So the million dollar question, should the Mets take JT Realmuto, or Trevor Bauer.

The Mets starting pitching is really good, and the only problem is the Mets relievers. The Mets lose games only because they have the bad relievers, so if you put Trevor Bauer in starting, they can move someone to relievers and they can have a good pitcher that relieves. Although J.T Realmuto is most likely to go to the Mets, so is Trevor Bauer. Steve Cohen, (the Mets owner that went to Great Neck North Middle School) is willing to pay Trevor Bauer any sum of money. Overall, the Mets pitching is killing them, so I suggest that the Mets take Trevor Bauer.