

the INDEPENDENT

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Class of 2020 celebrates graduation with car parade

By Madeline Lai
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Amid the coronavirus pandemic, the senior class celebrated their graduation with a car parade, which drove through both Manchester and Essex.

Graduating seniors gathered on June 4 at the high school, where the parade began with a police escort, to ride around Manchester and subsequently Essex.

Due to the social distancing guidelines that prohibit large gatherings and events, the seniors' traditional graduation ceremony was called off along with school cancellations.

With the exception of a few students who shared cars with friends, most students rode solely with family members and maintained social distance.

Senior class president Thymen DeWidt said he believed the car parade was an enormous success, and he enjoyed seeing all of his teachers once more as well.

"It was nice to see such a large amount of people that came out to support and celebrate our class. I hope that the car parade will be an event that other grades get to experience in the future as well,"



MARY BUCKLEY-HARMON PHOTOS

During the senior car parade on June 5, seniors Jenna Cirella and Owen Cox ride top of their respective cars while teachers and community members cheer them on. The parade started at the high school and looped through both Manchester and Essex.

he said.

Family and friends of the seniors, as well as faculty, lined the parade route and cheered for the graduating class as they passed by.

Senior Maria Cristoforo said she was glad to see people watching and supporting the parade.

"It had a nice celebratory at-

mosphere, and I think it was a great way to celebrate right now when we couldn't have a traditional graduation," she said.

Many cars driven in the parade were decorated with signs and festive with school spirit and words of encouragement for the seniors.

Principal Patricia Puglisi said

she thought that the car parade was a fun opportunity for the class of 2020.

"I appreciate all of the work and coordination that the class advisers and class officers put into making it a success. It was fantastic to see everyone in their caps and gowns, cars decorated, and a lot of hornet spirit," she

said.

Puglisi said there will be another graduation event over the summer as well.

"We are looking forward to having a formal ceremony on July 31st on Hyland Field. With the exception of social distancing, we plan to have it look like a traditional year," she said.

Virtual Senior Spotlight showcases senior talent

By Emma Ketchum
INDEPENDENT STAFF

Teachers and students came together to create a class of 2020 celebration video called the "Senior Spotlight."

Principal Patricia Puglisi said a video with performances, faculty messages, and memories was created by teachers and students to give the senior class a thoughtful goodbye.

The video streamed live on Youtube at 7 p.m. on June 5 and a chat section was enabled so viewers could send comments as the video played.

The video was recorded and will be available for anyone to watch, Superintendent Pam Beaudoin said.

Musical performances given by seniors Paige Mandia, Kiley McGroder, Maria Cristoforo, and Sydney Levasseur.

Levasseur opens the vid-

eo with a song she wrote herself called "This Too Shall Pass." Her song is inspired by the hard times everyone is going through with the pandemic, but how it is just temporary, Levasseur said.

"I wanted to write a song to remind others that there have been good milestones, there will be many more, and everything will pass eventually," she said.

She said she was hesitant to submit her video to the compilation but loved how it turned out and thought it was a great "last hoorah" to her high school years.

McGroder sang the song "The Long and Winding Road" by the Beatles while playing the piano. She is going to the Setnor School of Music at Syracuse University, music teacher Donna O'Neill said.

Mandia sang "Never Grow Up" by Taylor Swift. She will be attending Brandeis University,



EMMA KETCHUM PHOTO

Senior Maria Cristoforo performs Frédéric Chopin's "Grande Valse Brillante" on the piano for the Senior Spotlight live stream.

where she will continue to sing in various college ensembles or an acapella group, O'Neill said.

Cristoforo played a song called "Grande Valse Brillante" by Frédéric Chopin on the piano.

Technology student Kelly Reed worked with O'Neill to edit the video.

O'Neill said the students made their videos themselves at home.

She called the performances "absolutely gorgeous!"

Social studies teachers Lauren DuBois and James Wallimann, along with seniors Spencer Meek, Maria Cristoforo, Will Smith, and Thymen DeWidt all had important roles in putting the video together, Puglisi said.

DuBois said it was a great chance to say goodbye to the se-

niors and to leave them with some words of wisdom.

As another way to celebrate, the teachers also created a video of them reciting the book, "Oh the Places You'll Go," by Dr Seuss.

"As teachers, we wanted the chance to celebrate the class and let them know that we have missed sharing this milestone with them," DuBois said.

News

Senior graduation parade
-page 1

Senior virtual celebration - page 1
Awards list -page 3

Features

Julia Kaper as
valedictorian
-page 2

Graduation map - page 5

Opinion

Senior farewell
-page 4

Arts

Graduation
parade
photographs
-page 6

Valedictorian perseveres through injury, will attend UChicago

Kaper combats concussion, demonstrates resilience, optimism through senior year

By Olivia Turner
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Julia Kaper, the valedictorian of the senior class, thought she was beginning a perfectly normal senior year. On Sept. 6, the second soccer game of the season against Hamilton-Wenham didn't seem to be anything special—until the incident.

"I went up for a header," she said, "but so did another girl on the team. She was shorter than me, so when we were coming down from the jump, my chin slammed into the top of her head."

Kaper said although the impact hurt a little bit, she felt fine and continued to play for the rest of the game.

When she woke up the next morning with a pounding headache, she knew it must have been from hitting her head, she said. Kaper had a concussion.

In the coming months, she suffered from predominantly visual symptoms. She said she had a severe and constant headache, extreme light sensitivity, and many other vision-related issues.

Kaper said she was not able to read anything without developing a painful headache, a symptom made worse by reading the words on a computer screen. She was unable to attend school for the first two months after her injury.

When she eventually re-entered school in November, two months after the incident, she had to adapt to a new way of learning, she said.

"The school was kind enough to give me medical exemptions for Quarter 1," Kaper said.

She said with the help of her parents, teachers and guidance counselor, David Conwell, she gradually re-integrated into three classes.

"I had to drop out of the other three classes I was taking... to concentrate my efforts on the classes I needed to graduate," Kaper said.

For her AP English Literature and AP Spanish Literature classes, Kaper listened

to the audiobook for the reading assignments, and for her AP Statistics class, her parents read the homework problems to her aloud, she said.

"Despite these changes, school was really hard for me," Kaper said.

She said to help with her struggle to complete schoolwork, her teachers made time to read assessments to her aloud.

Kaper said her English teacher, Mary Buckley-Harmon, read her passages of poetry, and Kaper answered the multiple choice questions aloud.

Her statistics teacher, Richard Brown, read her statistics problems while she did the problems in her head or on a small scrap of paper, she said.

"Mr. Conwell was really amazing in helping me figure out various plans with my teachers for making assignments up or doing things in general," Kaper said.

Conwell said as it became clear that the situation was not getting better, Kaper continued to persevere.

"Julia is tough and determined. She never wanted to back down, never wanted us to try and 'simplify' any of this process," he said.

Kaper said because she did not suffer any cognitive impairments from the concussion, she

was able to keep her grades up.

In October, after much deliberation, Kaper began the early decision college application that would result in her acceptance to the University of Chicago. Her parents and friends helped her to type the essays as she dictated what she wanted to write, she said.

"I was thankfully accepted at the end of December. I really don't know what I would have done if I wasn't accepted, since I had eight other applications to fill out and was still in the same spot as I was in October," Kaper said.

Conwell said Kaper's acceptance to the University of Chicago was well-deserved.

"It couldn't have worked out better for someone who worked so hard through her K-12 education," he said.

'Between this and the pandemic, my senior year was definitely nothing like I expected it to be, but I think it will be useful later in life to have learned these lessons kind of early.'

- JULIA KAPER



COURTESY OF JULIA KAPER

Senior Julia Kaper, valedictorian of the senior class, poses on the field in her cap and gown. Kaper dealt with severe concussion symptoms for much of her senior year, but she still became the class' valedictorian and was accepted to UChicago.

For the first few months of her concussion, though, her situation still did not improve.

"This was super frustrating and discouraging," Kaper said.

She said after she realized the concussion would be a long-term issue, she was able to become more positive about her situation.

"Accepting this, although hard, was essential in letting me not be always upset or angry about it," Kaper said. "Essentially, I started focusing on the tangible wins, no matter how small, rather than the mountain of losses I was experiencing."

She said she also used humor to stay positive.

"It honestly just lightened up my days when I would show up to school and would joke around with my friends about how I

looked like a movie star in my sunglasses," Kaper said.

Fellow senior Hannah Freeman, one of Kaper's close friends, said she is impressed with Kaper's resilience.

"I can't even imagine the challenges of doing work without being able to read anything," Freeman said. "I think the fact that she has persevered and kept her academic work to such a high level throughout the year is a testament to her strong will and what an amazing person she is."

Kaper said she has learned many life lessons this year about perspective and resilience.

"Between this and the pandemic, my senior year was definitely nothing like I expected it to be, but I think it will be useful later in life to have learned these lessons kind of early," she said.

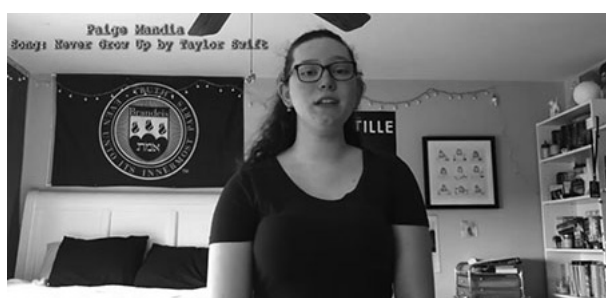
Senior Spotlight Photos



Senior Sydney Levasseur sings her original song, "This Too Shall Pass."



Science department head Kristin Umile leaves a message for seniors.



Senior Paige Mandia sings Taylor Swift's "Never Grow Up."



Senior Kiley McGroder sings "The Long and Winding Road" by The Beatles.

Students gain recognition for academic achievements

Junior Book Awards

Brown University Book Award – Domino Morris
 Clarkson University Achievement Award – Aliza Wilson
 Clarkson University Leadership Award – Lars Birkeland
 Dartmouth College Book Award – Emerson Kahle
 The George Washington University Book Award – Lily Athanas
 Harvard Prize Book Award – Isabella DiPasquale
 High Point University Book Award – Nicole LaPointe
 University of Pennsylvania Book Award – Alexander Rosen
 St. Michael's College Book Awards – Emma Francoeur, Elias Heanue
 Salem State University Book Award and Scholarship – Michael Quill
 Smith College Book Award – Olivia Turner
 St. Lawrence University Book Award – Grayson Lockwood
 Suffolk University Book Award – Avari Litka
 Tulane University Book Award – Franklin Wood
 University of Vermont Citizenship Award – Josef Vytopil
 Wellesley University Book Award – Eden Mayer
 Yale University Book Award – Sylvie Oldeman

Principal's Award: Emerson Kahle

Manchester Essex Junior Scholars: Heather Adams, Rachel Albertazzi, Lily Athanas, Lars Birkeland, Pieter Brueker, Audrey Brogna, Bradlee Brooks, Haylen Caddle, Abigail Conway, Philippa Cox-Stavros, Faye Dingle, Isabella DiPasquale, Ashley Flood, Alexander Furse, Dasa Hase, Elias Heanue, Emerson Kahle, Griffen Kempeskie, Samuel Kenney, Madeline Lai, Amelia Laino, Madison Lawler, Grayson Lockwood, Elizabeth Loring, Eden Mayer, Connor McGrath, Jessie Miller, Domino Morris, Ethan O'Hara, Sylvie Oldeman, Stephanie Pratt, Samuel Rice, Alexander Rosen, Alexandra Rouillard, Emily Schuh, John Shaw, Olivia Turner, Aliza Wilson, Franklin Wood

Department Academic Awards

Art

EXCELLENCE IN THE VISUAL ARTS FOR 2 & 3 DIMENSIONAL DESIGN:
 Isabella Dipasquale
 KATHERINE LANE WEEMS SPIRIT AWARD FOR 2 & 3 DIMENSIONAL DESIGN:
 Isabella Lilly
 EXCELLENCE IN THE VISUAL ARTS FOR PHOTOGRAPHY HONORS AWARD:
 Maxwell Warnock
 ANDREAS GURSKY SPIRIT OF PHOTOGRAPHY AWARD: Eden Mayer
 NATIONAL CHORAL AWARDS: Paige Mandia, Kiley Mcgroder
 CHORAL DIRECTOR'S AWARDS FOR CHORUS/SOUNDWAVES: Madeline Donnellan Valade, Breno Santos
 OVERALL MUSICIANSHIP AWARD: Dilyn Engelhart
 OUTSTANDING MUSICIANSHIP Hannah Burnett
 WOODY HERMAN JAZZ AWARD: Sean Vendt
 JOHN PHILLIP SOUSA BAND AWARD: Mya Harmon
 LOUIS ARMSTRONG JAZZ AWARD: Lucas Zellman

Social Studies

WORLD HISTORY II ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD: Ella Warnock
 WORLD HISTORY II OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARD: Daniel Wood
 US HISTORY I ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD: Julian Friends
 US HISTORY I OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARD: Tucker Bothwell
 US HISTORY II ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD: Dasa Hase
 US HISTORY II OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARD: Lily Bennett
 AP US HISTORY ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD: Ethan O'Hara
 AP PSYCHOLOGY ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD: Olivia Ford
 PSYCHOLOGY ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD: Bridget Twombly
 AP COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD:
 Henry Conway
 SOCIOLOGY ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD: John Mckinnon
 GLOBAL ISSUES ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD: Anton Kozyrev
 9/11 AND THE WAR ON TERROR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD:
 Franklin Wood
 9/11 AND THE WAR ON TERROR OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARD: Emilia Cicala
 EVIDENCE BASED ARGUMENTATION ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD:
 Owen O'Leary
 NATIONAL SPEECH AND DEBATE ASSOCIATION DEGREE OF MERIT:
 Lars Arntsen, Bridget Miller
 NATIONAL SPEECH AND DEBATE ASSOCIATION DEGREE OF EXCELLENCE:
 Paige Swanson

English

ENGLISH EXCELLENCE 9 AWARD: Annabel Smith
 ENGLISH OUTSTANDING STUDENT 9 AWARD: Katherine O'Neill
 ENGLISH EXCELLENCE 10 AWARD: Lukas Shan
 ENGLISH OUTSTANDING STUDENT 10 AWARD: Jillian Alden
 ENGLISH EXCELLENCE 11 AWARD: Alexander Rosen
 ENGLISH OUTSTANDING STUDENT 11 AWARDS:
 Michael Quill, Dianne Rodier
 ENGLISH EXCELLENCE 12 AWARD: Maria Cristoforo
 ENGLISH OUTSTANDING STUDENT 12 AWARDS: Lars Arntsen, Hannah Burnett,
 Jacob Edwards
 EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALING AWARD: Anton Kozyrev
 HERBERT HAHN MEMORIAL BOOK AWARD: Emerson Kahle
 WINDHOVER FOR EXCELLENCE IN WRITING AWARD: Ashley Flood
 THE ROBERT MCCAMMON PRIZES: Paige Mandia, Olivia Turner
 THEATER AWARD: Gelsey McCue

Foreign Language

FRENCH I COLLEGE PREP OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARD: Zachary Brown
 FRENCH I HONORS EXCELLENCE AWARD: Julia Dobson
 FRENCH II COLLEGE PREP OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARD: Cooper Oldeman
 FRENCH II HONORS EXCELLENCE AWARD: Madeline Schlegel
 FRENCH III COLLEGE PREP OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARD: Andrew Torri
 FRENCH III COLLEGE PREP EXCELLENCE AWARD: Reese Tully
 FRENCH III HONORS EXCELLENCE AWARD: Lukas Shan
 FRENCH IV COLLEGE PREP OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARD: Emily Schuh
 FRENCH IV HONORS EXCELLENCE AWARD: Dasa Hase
 FRENCH IV AP EXCELLENCE AWARD: Domino Morris
 FRENCH V COLLEGE PREP OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARD: William Pollock
 FRENCH V HONORS EXCELLENCE AWARD: Maria Cristoforo
 SPANISH I COLLEGE PREP OUSTANDING STUDENT AWARD: Emalee Jackman

SPANISH II COLLEGE PREP OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARD: Joshua Varghese
 SPANISH II HONORS EXCELLENCE AWARD: Hadley Levendusky
 SPANISH III COLLEGE PREP OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARDS:
 Avari Litka, Todd Rogers
 SPANISH III HONORS EXCELLENCE AWARD: Samantha Rosen
 SPANISH IV COLLEGE PREP OUSTANDING STUDENT AWARD: Mary Steach
 SPANISH IV HONORS EXCELLENCE AWARD: Ethan O'Hara
 SPANISH IV AP EXCELLENCE AWARD: Emerson Kahle
 SPANISH V HONORS EXCELLENCE AWARD: Anikka Smith
 SPANISH V AP LITERATURE EXCELLENCE AWARD: Mia Cromwell

THE DAVID DOOLEY LANGUAGE AWARD: Travis Duncan

THE VIRGINIA MACDONALD FOREIGN LANGUAGE AWARD: Cagney Pallazola
 THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE SEAL OF BILITERACY WITH DISTINCTION IN
 SPANISH: Julia Kaper

THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE SEAL OF BILITERACY IN FRENCH: Maria Cristoforo,
 Naomi Franklin, Olivia Mariotti, Spencer Meek
 THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE SEAL OF BILITERACY IN SPANISH:
 Mia Cromwell, Hope Driscoll, Olivia Ford, Catherine Garlitz, Sophia Gillespie, Emily Jacobsen,
 Anton Kozyrev, Sydney Levasseur, Joshua Mcpherson, Sophia Pomeroy, Genevieve Young

Mathematics

THE RENNELAER MEDAL: Ethan O'Hara
 QUANTITATIVE REASONING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD: Elizabeth Staid
 QUANTITATIVE REASONING OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARD:
 Penelope Rodier
 AP STATISTICS ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD: Julia Kaper
 AP STATISTICS OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARD: Alexander Rosen
 ALGEBRA I ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD: Julia Dobson
 ALGEBRA I OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARD: Sadie Mello
 GEOMETRY ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD: Ella Warnock
 GEOMETRY OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARDS:
 Madelyn Officer, Ema O'Neil
 ALGEBRA II ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD: Samantha Rosen
 ALGEBRA II OUSTANDING STUDENT AWARD: Weston Graves
 PRE CALCULUS ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD: Domino Morris
 PRE CALCULUS OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARD: Madison Lawler
 AP CALCULUS ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD: Emerson Kahle
 MARKETING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARDS:
 Lynn Benali, Aidan Cunningham, Katherine Kuhl
 MARKETING OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARDS: Parker Brooks, Isabella Dipasquale,
 Ema O'Neil
 BUSINESS MANAGEMENT ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD: Dasa Hase
 BUSINESS MANAGEMENT OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARD: Leilani Brown
 ENTREPRENEURSHIP ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD: Catherine Garlitz
 ENTREPRENEURSHIP OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARD: Ashley Flood

Science

AP BIOLOGY ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD: Mia Cromwell
 AP ENVIRONMENTAL ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD: Domino Morris
 HONORS BIOLOGY ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARDS: Charlotte Lawrence,
 Owen O'Leary, Lydia Schwartz
 BIOLOGY OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARDS: Emalee Jackman, Sadie Mello
 AP CHEMISTRY ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARDS: Joshua Mcpherson, Aliza Wilson
 HONORS CHEMISTRY ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARDS: Julian Friends, Lukas Shan
 CHEMISTRY OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARDS: Sophie Quine, Molly Schlegel
 AP PHYSICS I ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD: Samuel Kenney
 AP PHYSICS C ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD: Kevin Hines
 HONORS PHYSICS ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD: Faye Dingle
 PHYSICS OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARDS: Joshua Dobson, Dylan Gregory
 ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD:
 Ryan Olivier-Meehan
 ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARD: Tatum Jobe
 BAUSCH & LOMB HONORARY SCIENCE AWARD: Ethan O'Hara
 AP COMPUTER SCIENCE ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD: Olivia Turner
 COMPUTER SCIENCE ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD: Ella Warnock
 ROBOTICS LEADERSHIP AWARDS: Andrew Torri, Ella Warnock
 GREEN TEAM SCHOLARS ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD: Rachel Albertazzi
 GEEN TEAM EXCELLENCE IN SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS:
 Charlotte Lawrence, Ava Ricci

Editors-in-chief recall experiences in journalism

By Mia Cromwell
Hannah Freeman
INDEPENDENT EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

When we signed up for journalism sophomore year, we never expected it to have such a lasting impact on all of our lives.

In the beginning, we were overwhelmed and only focused on making it through our first issue. We were fretting over losing 10 points for a spelling error and finishing our articles before 9 p.m.

However, we were determined to push through the difficulties—and fight the urge to quit—and we quickly found ourselves hitting our stride and creating our narrative voices.

The five other seniors who joined freshman year were Char-

lotte, who left us last year, Sofia, Anton, Julia, and Paige.

Charlotte found her niche in arts and sports, including writing about girls' tennis, cross country, track, and swimming.

Sofia discovered her love for various different topics and ultimately found her unique writing style.

She said, "Whether it's something political, something about self-care, or art-related reviews, I've been able to use the school newspaper in ways to write something that I am passionate about."

Anton pursued his interest in political writing through opinion articles, from his first article, "Should the words 'under God' be included in the pledge of allegiance?" to his final opinion piece in the paper, "Reflection, relevant discussion needed to deter anti-Semitic attacks in the future."

Julia perfectly encapsulated the growth of the staff our sophomore year when she found her place writing opinion articles.

She said, "At the beginning, I was always scared to conduct interviews with teachers or older students, and I was scared to take

on harder and bigger articles. As I stuck with it, these fears slowly started to dissipate, and I began to be much more confident in myself as a journalist and person in general."

Paige both wrote about several controversial social and political issues, including her brave articles about issues she saw facing the school community.

Although Mia started off with her unsuccessful unpublished global warming article, she

later found a passion in writing environmental opinion articles, such as coral reef devastation and articles regarding Green Team scholars.

Hannah found her place writing the sometimes-monotonous news pieces that kept stu-

dents and faculty aware of events and changes happening at the school, including the new water fountains and everything about NEASC.

Through our writing, we all grew close as a staff and were able to form friendships despite operating in different social spheres.

Junior year, we gained two new staff members, Jenna and Thymen, who also became part of our tight-knit group.

Thymen said, "I may not have wanted to go to class some nights, but in the end, the people made it worth it every time. I was always surrounded by fun, smart, and genuinely kind people that I will never forget."

From the start, both Jenna and Thymen proved themselves to be up to the challenge of producing the newspaper and have both been integral to our success in the sports section of the paper.

Junior year, we excelled in our feature articles, writing about past journalism staff members Charlotte Freed and Zack Evan and their adventures abroad as well as Eliza Woodward and her athletic accomplishments.

Despite having to deal with



Senior pictures from graduating editors of *The Independent*: Sofia Gillespie, Julia Kaper, Hannah Freeman, Mia Cromwell, Thymen de Widt, Jenna Cirella, Anton Kozyrev, Paige Swanson, and Charlotte Pick. Pick moved to North Carolina for her senior year of high school.

family health issues throughout the year, Ms. B-H, "the G.O.A.T.," according to Sofia, helped us layout our final issue of the paper remotely, and we ended the year strong with the centerspread and tribute to Mr. Murphy.

Senior year presented new challenges when we lost two members of our staff; Charlotte moved to North Carolina, and Julia battled a head injury throughout the year.

However, Mia was able to fill in for Julia as Editor-In-Chief,

and become the expert error-spotter we all needed. All of the current staff members worked

'Putting together and publishing a newspaper remotely was no easy feat, but thanks to Ms. B-H, our editors-in-chief, and the rest of the journalism staff, we prevailed, and we will continue to prevail long after this pandemic is over. I wouldn't trade our experiences and memories for the world.'

- ANTON KOZYREV

extra hard to produce the highest quality of work that we could.

Over the years, the staff has produced a few controversial pieces, as newspapers do, such as the issues facing students in the Learning Commons, Juuling, and other school-related problems.

As journalists, we have learned to handle these issues in a mature and respectful way, and

we are always looking to explore different avenues to address the issues facing the school community and beyond.

Although our year didn't end in the way we envisioned, our staff proved to be a resilient group of individuals, putting out our March and June issues remotely.

Anton said, "We were able to push through one more issue of *The Independent* through a collective, group effort. Putting together and publishing a newspaper remotely was no easy feat, but thanks to Ms. B-H, our editors-in-chief, and the rest of the journalism staff, we prevailed, and we will continue to prevail long after this pandemic is over. I wouldn't trade our experiences and memories for the world."

Journalism has been central to our high school experience, and we are so grateful to Ms. B-H, the rest of *The Independent* staff, and the school for this formative learning opportunity.

the
INDEPENDENT

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Madeline Lai
Olivia Turner

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The Independent is published monthly throughout the school year. It is a product of the Manchester-Essex Regional High School Journalism class.

Editorial space is available to all MERHS students, faculty, and community members.

All submissions must be signed and put in the newspaper mailbox in the front office of MERHS. The Independent reserves the right not to print letters and to edit the content for clarity and length. While letters can be critical of an individual's actions, they cannot slander or libel.

The staff editorial may be considered the opinion of the staff of The Independent.

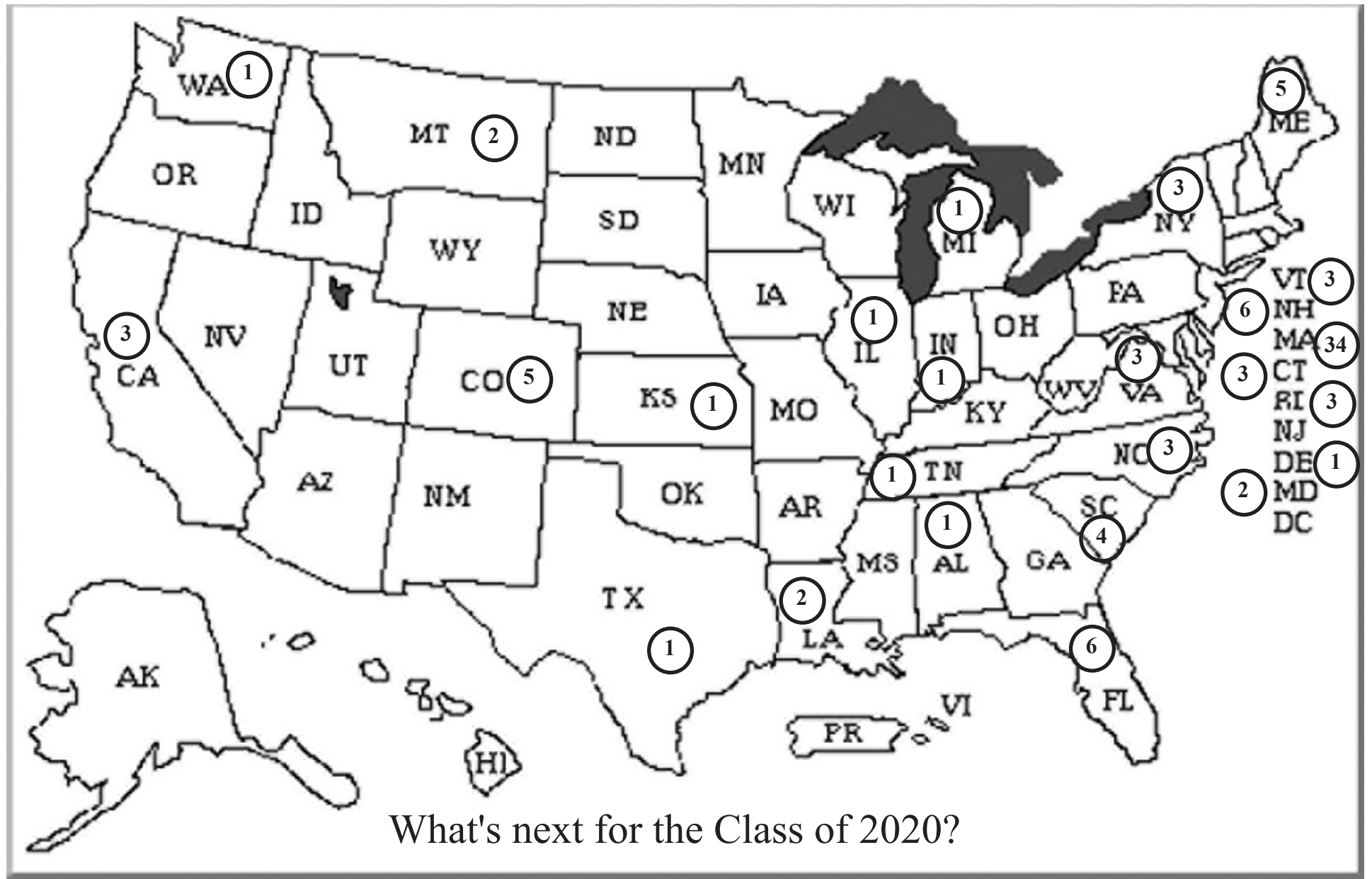
By-line opinions are written by individual staff members and should not be considered representative of the entire staff.

The Independent staff hopes that all Manchester and Essex citizens will take advantage of this forum. The paper is meant to serve the school community, and we are open to suggestions to help it better serve its purposes.

Faculty Adviser
Mary Buckley-Harmon

Follow us on Twitter:
[@MERHSjournalism](https://twitter.com/MERHSjournalism)





What's next for the Class of 2020?

Alabama: 1

Maxine Hickey - University of Alabama

California: 3

Christina Bullock - University of San Diego
 Hannah Freeman - Stanford University
 Lillie Harrison - Chapman University

Colorado: 5

Samantha Cawley - University of Colorado Boulder
 Hannah Hubbard - Colorado State University
 Alden Irose - University of Colorado Boulder
 Finnbar Kiernan - University of Colorado Boulder
 Tristan Nowak - University of Denver

Connecticut: 3

Olivia Ford - Sacred Heart University
 Sophia Pallazola - Sacred Heart University
 Elizabeth Staid - University of Saint Joseph

Delaware: 1

Sarah Potter - University of Delaware

Florida: 6

Molly Brady - University of Miami
 Jacob Edwards - University of Miami
 Benjamin Flood - University of Tampa
 Lelia Heath - University of Tampa
 Mason Paccone - Florida State University
 Kamie Reader - University of Tampa

Illinois: 1

Julia Kaper - University of Chicago

Indiana: 1

Luke Lundstrom - Butler University

Kansas: 1

Andreas Panagos - University of Kansas

Louisiana: 2

Catherine Garlitz - Tulane University
 Ian Taliaferro - Tulane University

Maine: 5

Thomas Birkeland - Bates College
 Mia Cromwell - Collby College
 Anastasia Meshcherova - University of Maine
 Thaddeus Sobotowski - University of Southern Maine
 Nils Taylor - Colby College

Maryland: 2

Abigail Corrarao - Loyola University
 Naomi Franklin - University of Maryland

Massachusetts: 34

Isabell Amigo - Endicott College
 Griffin Ancevic - UMass Amherst
 Elizabeth Athanas - Springfield College
 Madison Bourbon - UMass Amherst
 Maria Cristoforo - UMass Amherst
 Henry Doane - UMass Dartmouth
 Joshua Dobson - UMass Dartmouth
 Madeline Donnellan Valade - UMass Amherst

Owen Donnellan Valade - UMass Amherst

Travis Duncan - UMass Amherst

Isabella Eliassen - North Shore Community College

Alanna Fiitzgerald - UMass Amherst

Samuel Frasier - UMass Dartmouth

Sofia Gillespie - Boston College

Luke Gjerde - Endicott College

Mya Harmon - UMass Amherst

Kevin Hynes - UMass Lowell

Victoria Laforge - Salem State University

Isabella Leonard - UMass Lowell

Sydney Lefasseur - UMass Amherst

Jes Macdonald - UMass Lowell

Paige Mandia - Brandeis University

Bridget Miller - UMass Amherst

Marcos Pasquale - Gordon College

Penelope Rodier - UMass Amherst

Breno Santos - North Shore Community College

Annika Smith - Bentley University

William Smith - UMass Amherst

William Soucy - UMass Lowell

Abigail Spinney - North Shore Community College

Paige Swanson - Tufts University

Bridget Twombly - UMass Amherst

Maria Xhalia - North Shore Community College

Genevieve Young - UMass Amherst

Michigan: 1

Anthony Curcuru - Michigan State University

Montana: 2

Tucker Hoff - Montana State University

Ellis Weber-Provost - Montana State University

New Hampshire: 6

Maya Baker - Keene State College

Jenna Cirella - University of New Hampshire

Grace Clark - University of New Hampshire

Kara Glynos - Southern New Hampshire University

Spencer Meek - Dartmouth College

William Pollock - University of New Hampshire

New York: 3

Lars Arntsen - Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Kiley McGroder - Syracuse University

Joshua McPherson - University of Rochester

North Carolina: 3

Hannah Burnett - Elon University

Kellen Furse - Wake Forest University

Brianna Ward - Elon University

Rhode Island: 3

Jack Hubbard - Bryant University

Olivia Mariotti - Brown University

Cagney Pallazola - Providence College

South Carolina: 4

Claire Gendron - Clemson University

Sophia Pomeroy - Clemson University

Sophia Porter - College of Charleston

Rowan Schanley - College of Charleston

Tennessee: 1

Anton Kozyrev - Vanderbilt University

Texas: 1

Henry Conway - Southern Methodist University

Vermont: 3

Owen Cox - University of Vermont

Emily Jacobsen - University of Vermont

Elene Karlberg - University of Vermont

Virginia: 3

Corinna Brunning - James Madison University

Madeline Carvalho - James Madison University

Caroline Harrington - James Madison University

Washington: 1

Hope Driscoll - University of Washington

Other: 11

Zoe Corwin - Gap year

Thymen DeWidt - Universiity College Maastricht, The Netherlands

Jessica Dunn - Gap year, Curry College class of 2025

Kyle Khani - Undecided

Ceana McLaughlin - Gap year

Meilan Mulvey - Gap year

Isabel Musco - Verto Education in Madrid, Spain

Isaac Notte - Employment

Alexandria Nunes - Gap year

Catherine Staid - Undecided

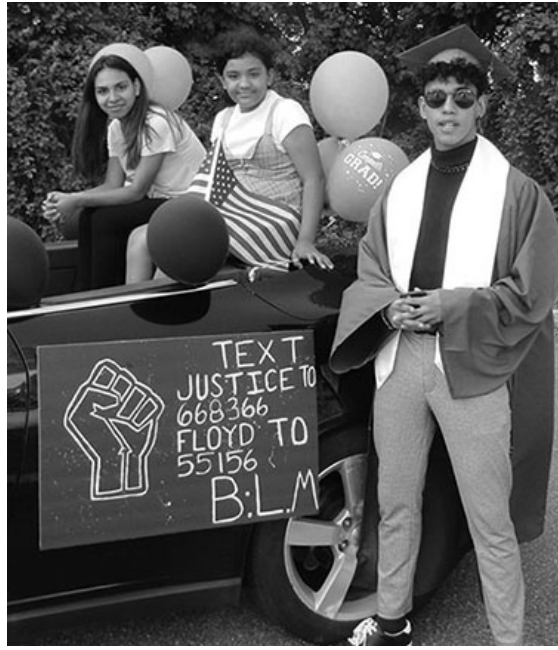
Lorenzo Venegas-Villa - Employment

Lucas Zellman - Gap year, UMass Lowell class of 2025

**Congratulations,
 Class of
 2020!**



Jake Edwards.



Breno Santos displays awareness for Black Lives Matter.



Owen Cox rides through parade while holding up homemade sign congratulating seniors.



Rowan Schanley.



Bridget Twombly.



Lucas Zellman.



Paige Mandia displays her cap, which read, "And my story continues."



Elene Karlberg.



Olivia Ford.



Spencer Meek.