



THE
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TEACHERS NAVIGATE FIRST FEW WEEKS

By Kymerlee Gonzales

Teachers and students all across the country are likely having to do online school due to the pandemic. All teachers care for their students and want to help them further their education during this time. August through september will be the most difficult month during the school year because of all the new procedures everyone will have to follow in order to stay safe.

A question parents and students may ask is will it be safe to return to school? "I feel it will be safe...mainly because the custodial/maintenance staff have been sanitizing the school around the clock to ensure our health isn't at risk." said Mr. Stewart.

Though these times seem tough on us all teachers are doing their best to make sure we get an education. "If one of my students is struggling with the virtual class, I would schedule a time where I could talk to them on the phone or zoom call and walk them through," said Mrs. Fransen.

Remote learning is new to the majority of everyone right now and teachers want to find a way to improve it in their own way. "I do want to improve on teaching band remotely in general and in order to get better, I have to do more research, practice at it, and ask for feedback." said Ms. Villarreal.



Mrs. Korzekwa's 7th grade English class

ATHLETES ENCOUNTER SHUT DOWNS, CANCELLATION

By Shaina Molina

With the recent COVID-19 pandemic, athletic programs, coaches, and athletes are being affected. "The program has changed dramatically since the pandemic has started," says Coach Buehring.

Sports have been shut down and many different rules are being enforced to ensure the safety of the athletes. To prevent the virus from infecting anyone, the coaching staff plans to have all athletes have their temperature checked, and also scan in using a QR code with COVID-19 questionnaire. Coaches are also enforcing mask wearing when not physically active, require athletes to bring their own water, and have frequent sanitizing breaks.

The pandemic has affected athletics for about six months and has even got it shut down a couple of times. The pandemic unfortunately shut down one of our biggest games of the season.

"It was important that we shut down the game in case the virus was still active. We wanted to ensure that everyone was safe," says Coach Alvarez.

STUDENTS SOUND OFF ON VIRTUAL/FACE TO FACE LEARNING

By Tristan Sanchez

As everyone knows, Covid-19 is on the rise. With more and more cases, more parents and students make the decision to enroll in virtual learning. While virtual learning is much safer, some brave souls decided to take the risk and participate in face to face instruction.

The first example I have is Jose Miranda. Jose is an athlete in his sophomore year. He expects what he always has from Kenedy ISD, a safe learning environment.

Jose decided to enroll in face to face learning around the middle of July as he believed he would learn better in person than he would online. He made this decision as he had more distractions at home and felt as if he would learn less. He also had been influenced to go to school because of his love of sports.

Next up is Michaela McLean. Michaela is a sophomore, an athlete, and the field conductor for the Mighty Lion Band. Immediately, Michaela knew that face to face instruction was more effective for her, and she worked more efficiently in person. She already knew from the previous school year that online wouldn't work out for her and that it wasn't the best learning environment for her. She strongly believes that being in the classroom is best for her all around.

Why did she choose face to face instruction? The main reason she stated was Sports, but she also likes it better in the classroom.

Last but not least is the one and only Jabez DeLosSantos. Jabez is a senior who participates in many extracurricular activities ranging from theatre to debate.

He finds face to face learning easier than virtual because of the accessibility to teachers. This is because of an experience where a program was down and he had to wait a few hours for a reply. Jabez overall finds in person learning easier and wants the ability to learn about and fix a problem in his work as soon as it happens.

While most students chose virtual learning, some chose face to face instruction. This has many reasons, be it better efficiency, extracurricular activities, or just familiarity. While most students chose virtual learning, one thing is certain. Everyone just wants things to go back to normal.



Mr. Jones's welding class

BAUER JOINS STAFF AS AG TEACHER

By Megan Vega

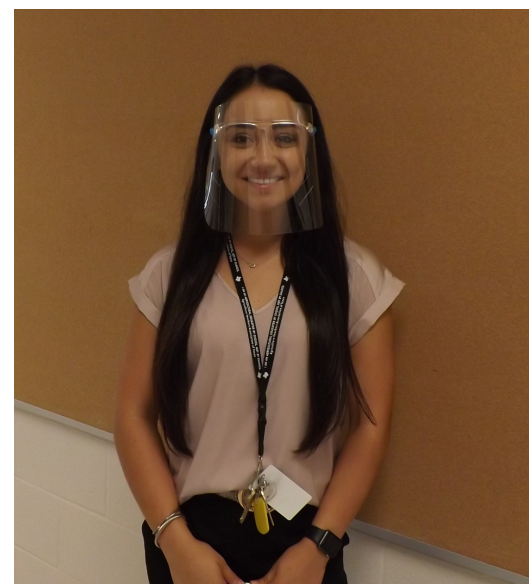
This year we have a new agriculture teacher, and FFA sponsor. We don't know much about Ms. Bauer, so why don't we get to know our new agriculture teacher, and her goals for this program.

Why did she chose agriculture, what made her choose it? She's a 4th generation agriculturalist, she grew up on a family ranch and always had great interest in agriculture. Once she was older, she was able to explore different opportunities in FFA and agriculture. Her agriculture teachers were very motivating to her, they helped her reach her goals and supported her. She's really been passionate about agriculture, and always liked teaching/helping some of her peers.

What experiences did she have in FFA? She started exhibiting at a young age of 8 years old (in the 3rd grade), exhibiting swine. Once she hit 8th grade she took her first agriculture class-Principles of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources. She was also in Leadership Development and Career Development Events. Then she hit high school, and became even more involved in FFA. She served as the Pleasanton FFA chapter secretary her sophomore and junior year, then became president her senior year. She represented Pleasanton FFA as much as she could.

What future courses does she see for our agriculture program? This year, she plans to gather research from her students and the community on the amazing path way of agriculture. In the future, she hopes to establish more important Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources pathways, based on her pathways.

She is extremely excited to finally be able to give her students what was given to her. She is really looking forward to get to know her students and have a spectacular school year.



Ms. Bauer, new Ag teacher & FFA sponsor

FOOTBALL RIDES ROLLER COASTER SEASON

By Geo Gibson

This year has been a real doozy with all the new and added precautions us as students and teachers have to take. I have met with a couple of coaches and asked them how they felt about this year in particular and how they felt about football this year.

First I met with coach Carl Straube, and he said he was really excited about this year, and he knows that there are many obstacles that we as a school have to overcome. He knows that this situation is a unique situation that we have to face.

Straube stated "Remote learning started in March and has become a constant evolving process that is providing students an opportunity to continue learning from the safety of their home. Face to face instruction and learning is also a constantly evolving process that challenges all of us to safely social distance and wear masks or shields while providing students an opportunity to learn. Extra-curricular activities are also another challenge that has been the most difficult thus far."

This has been a real roller coaster of a ride this year in particular. As a football team from experience I know we have had to shut down our practices multiple times due to safety issues that had to get resolved.

Then I met with coach Royce Leonhardt on his opinion on the expectations of the football team this year during this pandemic. He was very firm on his answer and stated "My expectations for the football team are no different than they are every year. The expectation is to win a district title and a state title every year."

Leonhardt said, "The current world we live in gives a lot of teams an excuse and it will not give our team an excuse". He knows we have a very hard working talented team this year and is sure this pandemic will not slow the team down.

A lot has happened during this pandemic, and this year in particular has been a roller coaster of emotions. But as a school we remain strong and vigilant, and we won't let some pandemic back us down, we remain strong.



HOW LOCAL BUSINESSWOMAN IS AFFECTED BY VIRUS

By Frank Wilson

I start by interviewing a local worker to see what transitions they and the company they work for have made. The main people who were in charge of making the changes and implementing them are the executive staff and management staff.

The main precautions they were taking was personal protective equipment (PPE), temperature check, and questioning once inside and monitoring populations in the workplace. She said she could see changes in her work environment in a mere few hours after the governor issued an order to wear a mask and social distance.

She is very cautious in the workplace making sure to keep chairs and handheld items most clean, seeing that's one of the easiest places to conceive the virus. The main reason most workplaces are doing well is because everyone is following protocols and procedures and working as a team and to maintain control over everyone to ensure a safe work space.

In half a year the future of her work space will hopefully be different by less restrictions but still enforce to wear masks and socially distance. "I truly hope everyone just keeps following the rules. Maybe one day we can break away from this new normal and return to the old life. The normal life..."

NEW DIRECTOR LEADS MIGHTY LION BAND

By Kymberlee Gonzales

Mrs. Villarreal is the new band director for both high school and middle school for this school year. Becoming a band director has its struggles and may take some time to learn how to pace yourself.

"When I started teaching Band, something that I struggled with the most was pacing - mostly when teaching Beginning Band. Sometimes, I would move on too quickly and sometimes I would take too long on a particular skill. It is hard at the beginning to figure out timing, but there are many resources that helped me out!"

She first started teaching in Tatum, Texas August 2017. Someone she was inspired by the most was her high school band director Mr. Snider." I still remember the day when he told me that I would make a great Band Director someday."

Now she is where she is at because of her colleagues and mentors. "I am where I am today because of my amazing mentors and colleagues. Anytime I need help, advice, or suggestions, they always come to my rescue. I make sure to do the same for them whenever I can!"



Mrs. Villarreal, new band director



Mrs. Cardin's Class

CHEER SQUAD PLAN SPIRITED YEAR

By Shaina Molina

The 2020-21 Kenedy High School cheerleaders were excited and prepared to cheer their first game on September 4th.

The seniors for this year's squad are Vanessa Garcia, Emily Cruz, Katelynn Farias, Nayeli Rangel, Alejandra Hernandez, and Ana Segovia. The juniors are Ashlynn Serrano and Shaina Molina. The sophomores consist of Heaven Garza and Kylee Farias, and the freshmen are Jayzlin Chapa and Miranda Serenil.

The cheerleaders goals for this school year is to have a fun year by cheering on the lions and making it a successful season. Emily Cruz, Co-captain, said, "I plan on making this a successful cheer season by following all rules so that we can continue to cheer at games, and also make sure that everyone has the best time while cheering."

All of the cheerleaders love supporting the lions. They also plan on bringing spirit to the school. "I plan on bringing spirit to the school by making spirit signs and getting the student section more involved," says Captain Vanessa Garcia.

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