

# the INDEPENDENT

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## Administration develops plan, logistics for hybrid learning

Students will return to school on Jan. 19

By Madeline Lai  
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

As the start date of Jan. 19 for the hybrid learning model approaches, the middle school and high school administrative staff are working out the logistics and technicalities of making in-person education run smoothly, Principal Patricia Puglisi said.

Middle school Principal Joanne Maino said one of the difficulties she has encountered involves the number of available teachers.

“Staffing continues to be a challenge...It is hard right now to find people who want to come in and be substitute teachers. It is also a challenge because inevitably the quality of

education will diminish because substitute teachers can never do the job as effectively as classroom teachers,” she said.

Puglisi said for the high school, there are a few teachers that are working out their circumstances

with the central office, and those positions have been posted in the event that the teacher is unable to return to the building.

Maino said that although the school community had questioned the decision to postpone hybrid learning until Jan. 19 when surrounding schools moved to

partial in-person instruction at the beginning of the year, other districts have more resources and space available to them.

“Our school situation is differ-

**‘Staffing continues to be a challenge... it is hard right now to find people who want to come in and be substitute teachers.’**

- JOANNE MAINO



COURTESY OF PATRICIA PUGLISI

Students will be required to disinfect their desks during the transitions between each class period.

ent from other schools because of our size. We are a small school in terms of what we can manage inside of our facility and with our staffing,” she said.

In order to accommodate these special circumstances, adjustments had to be made when switching to a hybrid system such as switching the daily bell schedule, Puglisi said.

Moving back to the old bell

schedule for hybrid days is a necessary change, she said. In order to allocate enough time to safely accommodate lunches for all students and music teachers for both the middle and high school band and chorus students, returning to the old bell schedule was the most practical solution, despite requests to maintain the 10-minute transition time between classes.

“In reality, on hybrid days,

[the time between classes] will be closer to 10 minutes because students in the building will need to wipe down their desks, pack up their computers, and move to their next class to set up there,” Puglisi said.

Although there were inquiries regarding dividing the cohorts by grade-level, she said, doing so would be logistically more

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## Network administrator leaves for new post at Marblehead District

By Isabella DiPasquale  
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

After over 20 years at Manchester-Essex, network administrator Steve Kwiatek is leaving the district to take on the position of director of educational technology in the Marblehead District.

He said he will continue to have some of the same responsibilities he has had at Manchester-Essex, such as designing installations of new technology, purchasing all of the technology for the district, and working with the different

departments to make sure the systems are working properly.

Kwiatek said he will be in charge of the planning and the day-to-day management of all the technology throughout the Marblehead District.

Throughout his years at the school, Kwiatek said he has got-

ten the opportunity to work with all of the departments, one of his favorite parts of the job.

“I have really enjoyed my time here, and I am definitely going to miss all of the close relationships I have made over all these years,” he said.

Guidance counselor Beverly Low said Kwiatek has always been extremely helpful with assisting her, particularly with uti-

lizing Aspen.

“Steve is patient beyond belief, especially with those of us who are sometimes frantic because we have something [urgent to] take care of,” Low said.

Kwiatek said he will miss working alongside his brother, network manager John Kwiatek.

“I think not a lot of siblings always get along really well, but we always have, and it’s been really nice having him with me all these years,” he said.

The two brothers have been working together for the past 19

**‘I have really enjoyed my time here, and I am definitely going to miss all of the close relationships I have made over all these years.’**

- STEVE KWIATEK



COURTESY OF STEVE KWIATEK

Steve Kwiatek worked as network administrator.

years, and it has been a great experience, John Kwiatek said.

“We get along well and we are able to share information well. [Steve] is somebody who is dedicated and a hard worker and is always looking to meet a challenge,” he said.

Digital learning specialist Matt Tangney said he has worked closely with both of the Kwiateks. While they handle technology, his role is to coach teachers to use that technology, he said.

“[The Kwiateks] speak technology, and I speak teacher, so together we are able to take the different pieces of the puzzle and fit them together,” he said.

Tangney said in the year-and-a-half that he has worked in the district, Steve Kwiatek helped

**KWIATEK, page 2**

## Former Boston Globe reporter and Air Force pilot speak to 9/11 and War on Terror classes

By Emma Ketchum  
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Author and former Boston Globe reporter Mitchell Zuckoff and Air Force pilot Jeff Mnich spoke about their life experiences as guest speakers for history teacher John Mullady’s class 9/11 and War on Terror via Zoom.

Zuckoff wrote the book “13 Hours,” which is about the raid on the U.S. embassy in Benghazi, and the book “Fall and Rise: The Story of 9/11,” which explains the events that took place before, after, and during 9/11.

Zuckoff discussed the process of writing the books and the research that he had to do, Mullady said.

Zuckoff said he wrote “Fall and Rise: The Story of 9/11” because he felt “the story was out there waiting to be written because of people like you (the students).”

Mullady thought it was im-

portant and impactful for the students to hear about what it took to write the books and how the work impacted Zuckoff as a person.

Zuckoff is also a newspaper reporter and teaches journalism at Boston University.

He talked about how he teaches his students about the idea of secondary trauma, and how he has not written a book since he wrote “Fall and Rise: The Story of 9/11,” which was published over five years ago, Mullady said. Mnich is in the National Guard and explained his thoughts on the importance of service to the class, Mullady said.

Mullady said he has known Mnich for many years through coaching tee-ball, but he did not know his full life story until now.

Mnich is married with two children and has been deployed several times overseas since they were born, Mullady said.

Junior Kellan Heney said he learned more about what it is like to be in the Air Force and what training is required to achieve Mnich’s position.

Mnich discussed how the attacks on 9/11 triggered his decision to join the Air Force, junior Maddy Curran said.

“It was really interesting to hear how one event that impacted our world determined the rest of his life,” she said.

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## SCORE advisers work to provide valuable experience for seniors

Program adapts to remote environment, offers students alternate options

By Eli Heanue  
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Co-advisers James Wallimann and Margaret Kane are working this year to ensure the SCORE program offers seniors with a valuable experience that reflects the skills expected of a graduate, Wallimann said.

Principal Patricia Puglisi said that the SCORE program will offer seniors alternate options due to the difficulties of the pandemic.

"If seniors are able to get an internship, either virtual or remote, that's great, but we also understand that may not be possible. We are going to allow for students to propose independent projects and present their learning in an area they are passionate about," she said.

In order to ensure that seniors have a valuable experience with the SCORE program, Puglisi said projects will be based around or strongly linked to the Vision of the Graduate.

**'The silver lining of this year is it is pushing us to think of SCORE differently.'**

-MARGARET KANE

"We spent some time last year developing this idea. The Vision of the Graduate is the skillset and the dispositions a student should have upon graduating- things like critical thinking, communication, and collaboration," she said.

In order to maintain some normalcy with the program, Puglisi said students will still present their final projects to a panel.

"In the spring, we will be doing virtual presentations where students will talk about what they did and reflect and do a short question and answer section with the panel. We are going to ask students to invite teachers that they want to come see them present," she said.

Kane said it is important to keep SCORE as traditional as possible to ensure that students have an opportunity to pursue or discover their interests in high school.

"Some students really seize the opportunity to get real-world experience and pursue something they are passionate about. Other students might be lost and not know what they want to and where they want to make a difference yet," she said.

Through all of the difficulties caused by COVID-19, Kane said there is a unique opportunity to improve the program.



INDEPENDENT ARCHIVE PHOTO

2019 graduate Ryan O'Connell worked at Sound Shuttle Studios in Boxford for his SCORE project. This year's co-advisers want to create a sense of normalcy for the 2021 graduates, having their projects either virtual or safely in-person.

opportunity to improve the program.

"The silver lining of this year is it is pushing us to think of SCORE differently. Whenever there is a challenge like this, it pushes us to think creatively," she said.

Despite the pandemic, Wallimann said students will have many opportunities for their SCORE projects.

"Most businesses have figured out a way to adapt, so I think opportunities will definitely be there for students to do internships virtually or in person. Also, in the last few years, we have really brought back the ability for students to do independent projects," he said.

This is the last year Wallimann will be a SCORE adviser; he said he is thrilled to improve the program and work with se-

niors one final year.

"I'm excited to finish in this really unique setting. I think most, if not all, elements of SCORE that we wanted to keep anyway will in some way be part of this program this year. Virtual or no virtual, the pandemic will not impact SCORE as much as you may think," he said.

Senior Finn Carlson said he is concerned that COVID-19 will have a serious impact on the SCORE experience, but he is hopeful that he will have a valuable experience.

"With the pandemic going on, I think our options are definitely going to be limited this year. If things get better, I will be excited to study what I am interested in and learn from some first-hand experience," he said.

## Hybrid days, winter sports postponed

Plans shift as cases rise

By Carson Komishane  
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Unexpected circumstances related to the pandemic postponed the in-person hybrid days on Dec. 15 and 16 and pushed winter sports back a week, Principal Patricia Puglisi and athletic director Jordan Edgett said.

"We had one high school teacher directly impacted by COVID-19, as well as a few staff members that had to stay home because their kids were being tested. There were also a few other people affected for different reasons.

Overall, there were approximately 10 staff members that could not make it," she said.

Puglisi said this could lead to a number of different problems, but most importantly, it would not be safe.

"Without these staff members, there would be about 100 kids in the auditorium at one time when the students would have classes where the teacher is out," she said.

This change was a disappointment to many, including many students and teachers, but she understands the uncertainty of these times, Puglisi said.

"I was so excited to have these days because it felt like we were so prepared and we have done so much work. However, it is my greatest hope that we are able to do them the week of Jan. 11 so we are ready to go hybrid on Jan. 19," she said.

## CONTINUATIONS

### HYBRID

#### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

complicated because siblings would be on different schedules, and mixed-grade classes would be too difficult to split up.

"We had to define the cohorts based on the alphabet for middle school through high school...and that was in order to balance things like buses and to keep families together, and we are also matching those cohorts to the elementary school to keep families together there," Puglisi said.

Even though most classes will not surpass the 13-student limit per classroom once divided, she said for the 24 sections out of 230 that are too big, overflow students will be sent to the auditorium for the block on a rotating schedule.

The likelihood of having excess students is low, though, as not every student is partaking in the hybrid model, Puglisi said.

"There's about 80 students choosing to remain remote, and I think that number may increase as health conditions are changing currently," she said.

While students are discouraged from switching between remote and hybrid on a day-to-day basis, Puglisi said, they are allowed to notify the school the week prior if

they change their mind on which learning system they want to participate in.

"Based on students' experiences on how well hybrid works for them and current health safety conditions, students may want to transition between remote and hybrid," she said.

Digital learning specialist Matt Tangney said he has been working on fixing technical issues with audio and feedback to give teachers choices and flexibility.

Teachers are going to have leeway as to which audio setup they want to use in their room, he said, which can change daily depending on the lesson. They can either have students use individual headphones and microphones, or there can be one surround-sound microphone for all of the classroom students.

Technological updates in both schools will help identify contact-tracing if need-be and give health surveys to students, Puglisi said.

During lunch in the cafeteria or gym and study halls in the auditorium, students will scan a QR code when they reach their seat, which will help with contact tracing in the case of a student being exposed to or testing positive for COVID, she said.

Freshman Henry Thurlow said he was planning on going in these days and was disappointed they were postponed.

"I was really excited for a change in my schedule, especially during the winter while I am stuck at home. I also was really looking forward to seeing my friends," he said.

Junior Shea Furse said she was not planning on going into school on the hybrid days, but she was also disappointed in this change because she wanted two asynchronous days.

"I was really looking forward to these days, and it was hard for it to be postponed less than 24 hours in advance. It was going to give me an opportunity to catch up on projects and readings off of Zoom," she said.

A number of different factors also pushed

back the start of the winter sports season for all sports until Dec. 21, from its original date, Dec. 14, Edgett said.

"The combination of positive cases, postponing the in-person sessions, and technical difficulties that would not allow us to enter the student athletes into MedBot, a program used as our daily attestation form, all played a role in this decision, but because we still have 10 days between the first practice and the first scheduled game, this will not impact our current schedule," he said.

Edgett said he thinks that the students can complete this season successfully, as long as everyone adheres to the new guidelines that were put in place.

"This season will be challenging, but I am confident that our students will excel at overcoming these challenges," he said.

In addition, students will be using an app every day called "MedBot," Puglisi said, where they will submit a short survey each morning answering questions about their symptoms and exposure to COVID in order to enter the building.

For parking, spots will be available on a first-come-first-serve, day-to-day basis with no fees for anyone, which will also help with school-provided transportation so that the number of students on buses is minimized, she said.

"There should be plenty of parking now for juniors and seniors on any given day. Maybe in April [the parking lot] may get a bit more crowded, but the seniors will start to move out by that time anyways," Puglisi said.

At the beginning of the switch to hybrid learning before teachers develop a routine, the model is predicted to be more difficult to manage than usual.

"During the first two weeks of the transition, teachers need to adjust, and that is going to take time... so it might be a little bumpy at the start, but we know that it is going to happen," Puglisi said.

Maino said maintaining communication within the school community is of utmost

importance.

"I am always here for questions or concerns. We need to have a partnership of trust and understanding with parents in order for things to work as effectively as possible for students," she said.

### ELECTION

#### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

him get acclimated, as he had a lot to learn about the district and what was expected of him in his position.

"It took me a while to get to know him, but the more I got to work with him, the more I came to appreciate how good he is at his job and what a resource he is," Tangney said.

As of right now, the district has not made any decisions on how to fill his position, but there will most likely be an addition to the team in some form or another, Tangney said.

"In a lot of school districts, the position that [Steve Kwiatek] has would be filled by two or three different people, so he's been wearing a lot of hats. With COVID, our technology use has exploded, and our number of people to help with the technology has not necessarily exploded with it," he said.



# Journalism staff collaborates remotely to publish online issues

New staff members learn writing, editing skills in remote environment

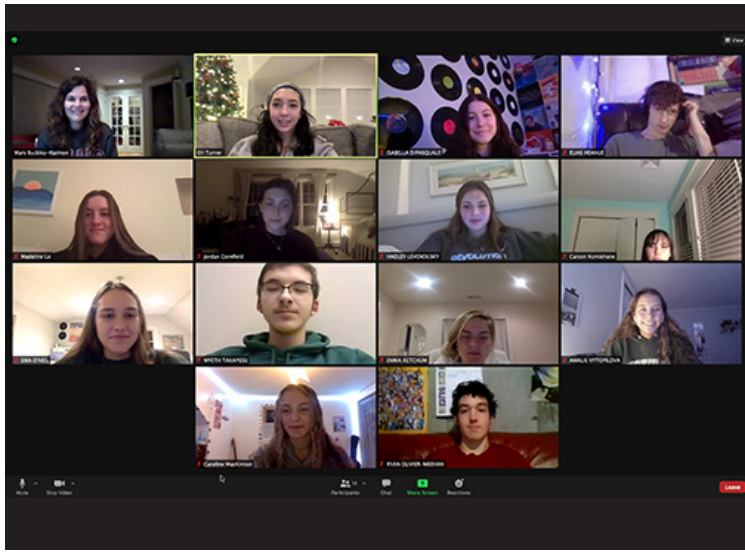
By Olivia Turner  
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

After remote learning became a necessity due to the pandemic, the journalism class was forced to move to online-only publication of The Independent for the first time, a change that affected production and the class itself.

The journalism class, which meets each Monday evening, now gathers weekly over Zoom.

Faculty adviser and English teacher Mary Buckley-Harmon said while she is pleased with the production of the paper so far, she misses the ability to meet with the staff in person.

“In terms of the vibe of the class, I do feel like we’re sort of missing that relaxed community feeling that we normally have, where we come together in our sweats after school, after sports... and we sit around the



OLIVIA TURNER PHOTO

Journalism class meets virtually over Zoom on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. to assign, type, and edit articles, and to lay out the paper.

table and talk,” she said.

Buckley-Harmon said the editors have brainstormed solutions like using breakout rooms to meet with writers, which has worked well to assist with the synchronous production of an issue of the paper over Zoom.

“Each issue, we’re coming up with new ways to streamline it a little bit more,” she said.

Although the staff is now

comfortable with remote production, she said writing and editing articles remotely was initially a challenge for the staff because of the switch from written feedback to the use of Google Docs.

Co-editor-in-chief senior Madeline Lai said the biggest changes this year are remote editing in Google Docs and remote layout of the paper, for which the staff uses Adobe InDesign.

Despite these challenges, Lai said the entire staff is doing a great job of making remote production operate effectively.

“I think it is definitely easier for experienced members of the staff because we’ve seen how it works already, so it’s easier for us to adapt,” she said.

Sophomore Wyeth Takayesu is one of seven new staff members. He said the first issue was a challenge because he was learning a new style of writing remotely.

“I thought that, in general, it was very welcoming, and once I got over my first two articles and the first issue went out, I was really happy with what I was able to accomplish,” Takayesu said.

A highlight of remote production has been the ability to distribute issues of the newspaper that contain color photos, Buckley-Harmon said.

“Everything has been so hard during the pandemic, and we can’t meet in person, but I feel like, for some reason, the color really makes us happy. It makes this particular production different in a really good way,” she said.

**‘I’m absolutely amazed at what the staff has been able to produce during remote learning.’**

- MARY BUCKLEY-HARMON

Although interviews, editing, and layout have become more difficult, Lai said the staff has been up for the challenge.

“I think overall, everyone is being super accommodating and adaptive and accepting of change,” she said.

Buckley-Harmon said these challenges have presented the staff with new opportunities to learn, and the editors have stepped up as leaders for the entire class.

“I’m absolutely amazed at what the staff has been able to produce during remote learning,” she said.

## Sophomore shares firsthand experience of surgery during pandemic, time spent inside hospital

By Jordie Cornfield  
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

I have never been a fan of hospitals. The fluorescent lights stung my eyes, and the permanent stench of various cleaning agents made me nauseous. However, as my mom and I entered the lobby of Anna Jaques Hospital, the abrasive smell of antiseptic relieved me since I was about to undergo surgery during a pandemic.

We approached a woman sitting behind a low-topped table, who handed us each a mask to replace our own. She then asked us a series of questions. First, she listed off the symptoms of Covid-19. Then we were asked if either of us had experienced the symptoms firsthand or if we had been exposed to anyone exhibit-

ing them.

“We haven’t seen anyone since March,” my mom joked, adjusting her new mask.

While this statement wasn’t entirely true, it did hold some accuracy to it. Other than my parents, I had seen only a small number of people since March, including a few friends, my aunt and cousins, and my grandmother. I left the house for grocery shopping or to go for a drive, but overall, I was completely isolated. While others partied and super-spread, I counted down the days until my surgery.

After her questions, the woman took our temperatures using a thermometer. After she declared our temperatures normal, we were allowed into the waiting room.

I had only just sat down when a nurse called my name. I followed her into the surgical ward, where she directed me to a cot with beeping machines surrounding it.

Other cots with their own machines and tired patients lined the ward walls, but curtains separated us. Seeing so many people in one room made a part of me apprehensive, but I knew that I would soon spend the rest of my time unconscious and not have to worry about anything at all.

Once my mom and I had entered the small cot enclave, the nurse closed our curtains, creating a private room. I changed my sweatpants and sweatshirt into a hospital gown and sat down to have my blood pressure taken.



JORDIE CORNFIELD PHOTO

Sophomore Jordie Cornfield underwent surgery at Anna Jaques Hospital, following all of the safety guidelines for COVID-19.

I was given relaxers through IV tubes, then put under anesthesia. When I woke up, I was out of it, but I still managed to recite all the lyrics to a Megan Thee Stallion song to the nurses in my haze.

During the pandemic, the (non-Covid part) of the hospi-

tal is the safest place to be. It’s sanitized constantly, staffed by well-trained doctors, and uses a stringent screening process. Overall, the experience was less nerve-wracking than I had expected. I didn’t feel unsafe or scared of catching the virus. It almost felt normal.

## Veteran’s Honor Wall project pays respects to Manchester’s veterans

By Hadley Levendusky  
INDEPENDENT STAFF

After 13 years of planning, the Veteran’s Honor Wall project is almost complete. The wall is made out of seven granite panels inscribed with the names of veterans who were raised and grew up in the town of Manchester.

Any veterans who served from World War I to present could be included on the wall, Paul Sullivan, a veteran in charge of the project, said.

Manchester residency at the time of service was one of the main qualifications to have a name inscribed. The veterans also needed to show proof that they served, Sullivan said.

Approximately 1,000 names

of volunteer and drafted veterans are written on the wall, Sullivan said.

Manchester resident Bruce Heisey, also in charge of the project, and Sullivan, both veterans from the Vietnam War, were put in charge of this project by Dan Senecal, the head of the Board of Selectman in the early 2000s.

The former Veteran’s honor wall, located on the side of the town hall, was made out of plexiglass and wood and was falling apart, Senecal said. Senecal reached out to Heisey and Sullivan to be in charge of a newer, more permanent recognition for veterans in Manchester, Sullivan said.



HADLEY LEVENDUSKY PHOTO

Outside of the Manchester Town Hall, the newly constructed Veteran’s Honor Wall pays tribute to the town’s veterans.

During the recession of 2008, the project was pushed back a few years, until 2015 when the economy improved and there was enough money raised, Sullivan said.

Before any fundraising could occur, Heisey and Sullivan had to present their project to the

Board of Selectmen to be approved. It was then passed by the Historic District Committee and the Conservation Committee.

People could also buy a paver to accompany the names on the wall surrounding the Honor Wall to help raise money. The pavers could be bought by anyone who

lived in Manchester at any point in time.

“I knew one man who bought a paver in honor of all Manchester veterans,” Sullivan said.

Many different locations were discussed for where to put the memorial.

“We ultimately chose Town Hall because it was the most widely traveled place,” Sullivan said.

The Veterans’ Honor Wall project is about 98 percent completed. It will be finished around early spring next year, Sullivan said.

“I hope to have a big important reveal when it is completed and safe to have large gatherings,” Sullivan said.

He said he hopes the reveal can be scheduled around Memorial Day to honor the veterans in Manchester.



# Junior creates DECA website to help new students

Website helps members connect, strengthens DECA community

By Carson Komishane  
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

DECA officer Lynn Benali, a junior, created a new DECA website as a hub of information for students to replace the old and outdated one, she said.

"The website was created so students can keep up to date with DECA, have an area where they are recognized for their achievements, and prepare and pick their categories for the DECA tournaments. It was also made to increase membership," Benali said.

She said she started creating the website this past summer, and

it took her about three months in total. The different sections of the website include introducing DECA and each of the officers, informing students about upcoming events, organizing class resources, picking competition events, and more.

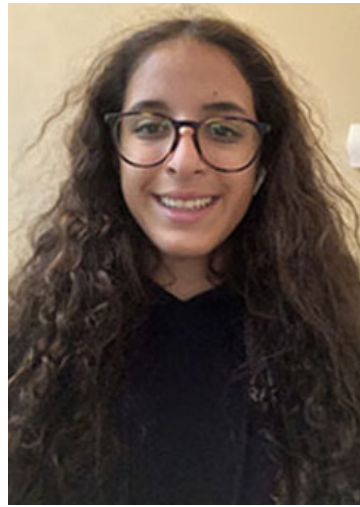
"It was hard to locate all of the information necessary for the website, and it took a while to decide what information was necessary to add to the website and what would benefit the members the most," Benali said.

**'The website was created so students can keep up to date with DECA**

- LYNN BENALI

DECA adviser Dean Martino said he helped Benali find the information needed for the website and has high expectations for the future of the website and the impact it will make.

"I hope it continues to grow when [Lynn] moves on to her next success story. It is important that it is student-managed and easily accessible," Martino said.

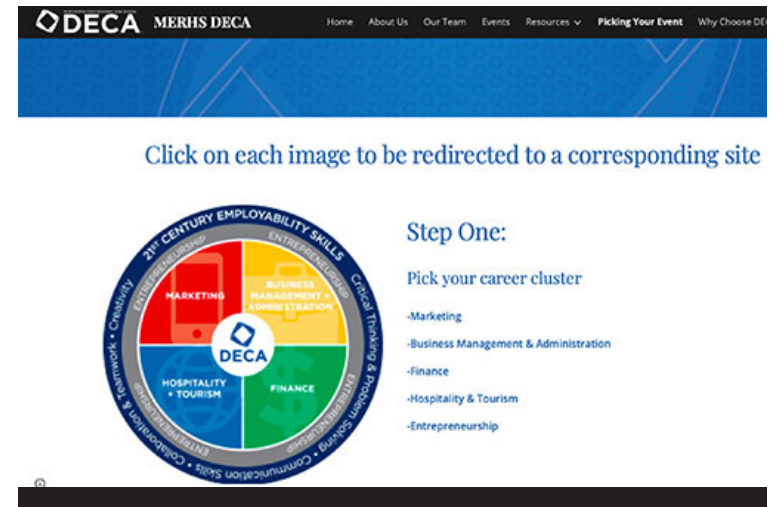


Junior Lynn Benali creates new website for DECA, allowing students a valuable resource to learn and create a digital presence, as well as connect with students, DECA adviser Dean Martino said.

The website was also created as a way to help students with their college applications and their futures, he said.

"It creates a digital footprint for them, as well as another communication channel for students and a marketing presence for our business partners to be able to see what students are doing," Martino said.

DECA officer Aidan Cun-



COURTESY OF LYNN BENALI

ningham, a junior, said the website is a very valuable tool and resource for new and returning members.

"This new resource will be very useful in the future as the website continues to grow. It provides information for the students to expand their knowledge and skills, as well as gives a little insight to what DECA is all about," he said.

The website will soon be a very important part of the preparation process for upcoming DECA competitions, Cunningham said.

"It is a great supplement to the material taught in class. With the well-thought-out and visually appealing design, I hope that this website will help students learn more about DECA and become more interested in it," he said.

## Communities adjust their holiday traditions due to COVID-19 pandemic

By Ema O'Neil  
INDEPENDENT STAFF

Holiday traditions are looking different this year due to COVID-19, and people are continuing to come up with new ways to celebrate.

To keep communities safe, many towns have either canceled or adjusted annual events. This year, the Santa Claus is Coming to Manchester event that takes place every year at the Manchester harbor had to undergo several changes. On Dec. 6, Santa toured the town on a fire truck, instead of arriving by boat, in to reduce crowds.

Director of the Manchester-by-the-Sea Parks and Rec., Cheryl Marshall, said she hoped the event still "helped our town get into the Christmas spirit."

Marshall said that the Parks and Rec. was able to work with the Community Center to sponsor the Downtown Holiday Scavenger Hunt that took place on Dec. 12.

The event was eventually canceled due to the rise in cases. She said the hunt would have taken families to different places, including local businesses in Manchester who have all faced hardships this year due to the pandemic.

Many people have also faced the hardship of not being able to see their families during the holiday season. Foreign language department head, Michelle Magaña, said that her family's holiday celebrations usually consist of around 20 people. However, this year, she and her family had to make several sacrifices to keep

everybody safe.

She celebrated with her husband, son, parents, and her younger brother's family, consisting of nine people in total. Magaña said that they all set up tables 6 feet apart, and each household got to sit at their own, separated dinner table when eating.

"I can't say it was a bad day; it was just different," she said. Although this wasn't what her Thanksgiving usually looks like, Magaña said her family was still able to enjoy themselves by getting to see each other and catching up. They were even able to get into the Christmas spirit by watching the movie "Home Alone" after dinner and listening to Christmas music, she said.

Junior, Alex Briggs, said she is thinking about her family's



COURTESY OF RACHEL MOLINARI

Manchester continued the tradition of Santa touring the town this year amid the pandemic but took measures to reduce crowds.

Christmas as well and said that the holiday will most likely be the same as this year's Thanksgiving.

"Sadly, I was not able to see any of my grandparents or older relatives this year," Briggs said.

However, on Thanksgiving, she and her family were able to drop off food for them so they could still enjoy a homemade Thanksgiving meal. For Christmas, her family is planning on doing the same.



COURTESY OF ANYA BIXBY

Sunday River mountain takes precautions on ski lifts and reduces activity in their lodge to ensure the safety of skiers.

## Ski mountains adjust to follow COVID-19 rules and regulations

By Caroline McKinnon  
INDEPENDENT STAFF

COVID-19 has disrupted usual plans for families in the Manchester Essex community who take advantage of skiing opportunities in New England.

Many ski resorts are opening despite the challenges involving running with COVID-19. Examples of mountains opening this winter are Cannon Mountain in Franconia, New Hampshire, and Sunday River in Newry, Maine.

According to the Sunday River official website, the mountain opened on Nov. 23 and is operating safely under COVID-19 this

winter.

Freshman Anya Bixby, frequent skier at Sunday River, said that there are new rules accommodating COVID-19.

"You have to be socially distant in the lift lines, and you have to ride the chairlift with someone you live with. You have to always wear a neck warmer or some sort of face covering," Bixby said.

Due to COVID regulations, activity inside of the lodge is prohibited.

"You have to get ready in the car or at your house; you can't get ready in the lodge or eat there," she said.

Bixby's family owns a house

at Sunday River, where they are spending most of their winter, she said.

"I personally know some families who are having a hard time with COVID because they live farther away from their mountains," Bixby said.

Sophomore Chase Dickson said he doesn't have a ski house but plans to go up to Sunday River for only a few weekends this year.

"I'm going to be skiing a lot less, only with my family and not with friends," Dickson said.

The changes due to COVID-19 at the mountain don't take a huge toll on everybody, he said.

"If you don't have season passes, you buy tickets a few weeks in advance. I don't think it's a huge deal," said Dickson.

The Cannon Mountain website

states they opened on Dec. 12 and are prioritizing cleaning common areas as well as following all CDC guidelines.

Sophomore Grace Gerhardt, who normally skis at Cannon Mountain during the winter, isn't planning to ski this year, she said.

"It's gonna be a lot more difficult and a lot more expensive. We won't spend weekends there," Gerhardt said.

Travel bans are preventing her family from spending any weekends at their ski house near Cannon Mountain, Gerhardt said.

According to the Mass.gov website, all visitors entering Massachusetts, including residents, have to quarantine for 14 days or have a negative COVID-19 test administered 72-hours prior to entering Massachusetts.



# Holiday season festivities

## Should Christmas celebrations begin before Thanksgiving?

**Pro**

**Wyeth Takayesu**

Christmas can be celebrated as early as desired because the positive effect of the holiday spirit goes beyond one day, bringing happiness and charity to people of all races and religions.

Celebrating is done in many different ways as a result of the holiday being largely self-determined within America. Christmas has become heavily commercialized, leaving the decision of how to celebrate in the consumer's hands instead of being left to religious tradition.

Pew Research, a non-partisan think tank, found that up to 80% of non-Christians still celebrate the holiday, so since people of all different backgrounds make their own take on the holiday, celebrations will be different.

Listening to Christmas music or putting up decorations in November is reasonable because there is no common tradition between the diverse people of America that limits the celebration to strictly December.

Early decoration is even proven to produce more happiness. The psychological phenomenon known as savoring is an easy way to build anticipation and excitement while also remembering past events.

In an article by the American Christmas Tree Association, psychologist Deborah Serani and psychotherapist Amy Morin of the 2019 investigation provided proof of how the celebrations can spread happiness out to all.

"It creates that neurological shift that can produce happiness. Christmas decorating will spike dopamine, a feel-good hormone," Serani said.

Happiness is only one of many emotions and thoughts evoked by the holiday; the idea of giving and spreading holiday cheer is a huge focus of the Christmas ideals and should stretch further than a single month.

Christmas encourages charity, love, and goodwill for fellow neighbors. The spirit of Christmas extends kindness past Dec. 25 and makes giving back a part of the entire year.

The charity of Christmas ties in perfectly with the sense of sharing in Thanksgiving. Both holidays spread the spirit of giving and sharing in their own unique way, overlapping cleanly while maintaining their own flair.

Christmas is about giving back to loved ones, while Thanksgiving is about sharing with family and friends. Sharing meals and conversation while thinking of what would make the best, festive present only enhances the overall theme of appreciation.

Both holidays are part of the holiday season and are meant to be celebrated together with their overarching message of love. The act of decorating simply extends the anticipation of Christmas, detracting nothing from Thanksgiving.

**Con**

**Madeline Lai**

Celebrating Christmas before Thanksgiving makes the holiday less special; therefore, Christmas songs and decorations should be held off until after Dec. 1 so that the holiday can be appreciated to the fullest extent during its proper season.

Although many enjoy the holiday season and want to lengthen the time to enjoy the festivities for as long as possible, Christmas becomes less special when the holiday activities start earlier in the year, as people cannot appreciate the unique joy of Christmastime if it interferes with other holidays.

Just the same as if any singular day holiday were to be extended to an entire month and lose its distinctive annual celebration, Christmas festivities occurring before December makes the holiday less meaningful and special for everyone.

In turn, drawing out holiday jollities interferes with other holidays as well that fall just before Christmas season, such as Thanksgiving, which deserves to be appreciated during the time leading up to it.

Senior Greta Dickson said she prefers to not commemorate Christmas before Thanksgiving is over.

"Christmas and Thanksgiving are two separate holidays and should not be mixed up. It's not 'ThanksChristmas,' it's Thanksgiving and Christmas... We are not ready to celebrate Christmas when the Halloween decorations go up," she said.

Extending the celebrations diminishes the point of Thanksgiving: to be grateful and appreciative before the hectic, end of the year shopping season begins.

Before the time of giving can be celebrated, people should give their complete attention to the era of gratitude and be reminded of what they have to be grateful for, which is a reminder many need during the stress of the winter season.

Impeding on Thanksgiving depreciates the value of Christmas festivities and ruins the November holiday, and it also causes some people more anxiety if they feel that they are already behind on holiday shopping before the season has even begun.

According to Kiran Brar in an article by The Butler Collegian, "Christmas is commercialized much earlier than it needs to be, which adds pressure to buy gifts before there is a chance to relax during Thanksgiving. There needs to be time for relaxation before the gift buying hustle begins."

Admittedly, there is not much harm done if a Christmas song or two is played before December 1, yet the holiday's spirit truly arrives only when Christmas can be appreciated in full, so people should wait to embrace their yuletide excitement.



ISABELLA DIPASQUALE ILLUSTRATION

## Community should support small businesses, shop local

By Caroline MacKinnon  
INDEPENDENT STAFF

COVID-19 has taken a huge toll on small businesses this year, which is why the community should support local small businesses as much as possible during the holidays.

According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce website, 70% of small businesses have suffered financially due to closures, and 58% of small businesses worry about permanently closing.

4 BEACH, a gift shop in downtown Manchester, is an example of a local small business that took a large hit due to COVID-19, owner Liz Swanson said.

"[COVID-19] affected our business financially. We have lost thousands of dollars due to the closure from March to June. It had affected how we run our business due to safety protocols," Swanson said.

Rather than mainly supporting big retailers such as Amazon, members of the community should try to focus on giving back to small businesses that provide unique items and cater to specific needs, even during the pandemic.

According to the 4 BEACH Facebook page, the store carries items such as children's toys, apparel, housewares, stationary, MBTS merchandise, local artists creations, Old Fashion Candy, and other affordable gifts for a variety of occasions.

"I think that in our shop you'll be able to find a little bit of ev-

erything, and also we're always open to suggestions. We want to be able to stay in business and serve the community," Swanson said.

Large retailers such as Amazon might be easy and less expensive for shopping, but local businesses provide personalized service and unique products. Plus, shopping in-town supports the local economy.

**'The value in shopping in a small business is that you're directly dealing with someone from your community that will give you the best possible service.'**

LIZ SWANSON

connection that you're supporting a local business and local economy," Swanson said.

4 BEACH has kept the community satisfied with their variety of products, and the com-



CAROLINE MACKINNON PHOTO

**Supporting local shops, such as 4BEACH, helps to keep them in business during the hardships caused by the COVID-19 shutdown and restrictions in place, owner Liz Swanson said.**

munity should give back to them and other small businesses that are working hard.

Even with the hardships caused by COVID-19, 4 BEACH is staying open and will continue to make the local community happy.

"There was a point where we were considering, because of COVID, maybe not continuing on because we all do other things. Why work for dealing with these tough times to keep it going? But we're going to stay in

business," Swanson said.

I plan to do most if not all of my shopping locally in order to support local businesses. For Christmas shopping this year, I went to 4 BEACH to get special and unique gifts for my loved ones. The atmosphere is extremely welcoming and comforting.

The local community should shop at 4 BEACH and other small businesses in town that need and deserve the business, especially during the holiday season.



## STAFF EDITORIAL

## Students must act responsibly, refrain from gathering

When hybrid learning begins, student gatherings outside of school will pose an even greater risk to the school population and surrounding towns. Students must act responsibly and refrain from gathering without proper social distancing guidelines for the safety of the school community.

Principal Patricia Puglisi said if the administration receives a report of a large student gathering or party, the first step is to gather information about the event and attempt to identify each student in attendance.

If all students can be identified, they can then be tested, and select students may need to quarantine, she said.

However, the largest issue arises if authorities are unable to identify the students who were at the party. If students scatter when the party is broken up, the situation becomes more complicated, Puglisi said.

She said the administration has been able to learn how to handle these issues from other schools in the area.

"There was an incident in Ipswich that they were able to identify the students that were at the party, and they were able to just ask them to... be remote... while they maintained their hybrid," Puglisi said.

Superintendent Pam Beaudoin said the administration is in close contact with the Manchester and Essex police departments and boards of health. She said she meets with the school nurses weekly, and every third week, representatives from the boards of health are involved in the meetings.

Beaudoin said the board of health will advise the administration on a case-by-case basis if an incident occurs, and if details about party attendees cannot be gathered, it is likely that the board of health will advise the

school to close in an abundance of caution.

"There is an assessed risk when we can't identify who's been at the party and potentially who at the party may have been carrying COVID or not following social distancing guidelines," she said.

Hybrid learning is a fragile balance that can be easily disrupted, so one party could force the entire school community to transition back to remote learning.

School nurse Cyndi Aldrich said there is a complex system of extensive safety protocols in place for when students enter the building.

She said QR codes will be used as part of the system as well as alphabetical seating so that contact tracing can be confidentially performed if needed. This only works if everyone adheres to the guidelines, Aldrich said.

If students disperse from the scene of a party, everything changes. The meticulous protocols the administration has worked tirelessly to create will be virtually unusable.

The reality is that the ability to identify the students in attendance and properly conduct contact-tracing is the best-case scenario.

In short, any party or gather-



ELI HEANUE ILLUSTRATION

ing has the potential to topple the delicate system. Even if contact tracing could be conducted, direct contacts of infected students have the potential to force many members of the school community to stay home.

The transition to a hybrid model will establish a new routine, and breaking that routine can be detrimental to students' mental health. Maintaining a routine that is as sure and steady

as possible is important to the school community.

The entire school community must understand that the actions of each individual can and will have effects beyond themselves in this hybrid learning model. Acting responsibly will save lives.

So stay home on Friday night. Stay home in the first place, and your classmates and teachers can continue to come to school.

## Airlines must protect passengers by leaving middle seats open

By Hadley Levendusky  
INDEPENDENT STAFF

As the pandemic surges on, airlines should not start filling middle seats or filling the plane to capacity.

In the past few months, airlines have begun ending their pandemic policies, which included not selling middle seat tickets. As of the beginning of December 2020, Southwest Airlines made the decision to stop blocking middle seats. Even earlier, American Airlines and others started filling their planes to capacity in October 2020.

In the beginning of the pandemic, airlines blocked middle seats to allow passengers physical distance while flying.

Sitting less than six feet from someone who is symptomatic for 10 or more minutes puts a person at medium risk of contracting COVID-19, health officials say.

Arnold Barnett, an MIT Sloan professor and aviation safety expert, collected data that showed blocking middle seats lessens the chance of a passenger getting COVID-19. Barnett collected data over the course of two-hour flights.

The data showed that a passenger on a fully booked flight, with middle seat booked, has a 1 in 3,900 chance of contracting COVID-19 versus a 1 in 6,400 chance of contracting COVID-19 when middle seats are blocked off.

This shows that there is still



PIXABAY.COM

Although the CDC has not made a statement about middle seats, it acknowledges the risk of flying during the pandemic.

an increased risk for sitting in a middle seat while flying. Airlines should be worried about the safety of passengers, not about making more money.

In an article written by Sara Brown, a news writer for MIT management, Barnett said he had

never seen airlines disagree over a safety matter so much.

While Delta Airlines has extended their policy of no passengers in middle seats to March 2021, United Airlines started selling middle seats in October of 2020.

In an article written by David Slotnick, a senior transportation reporter for Business Insider, he quotes United Airlines chief communications officer, Josh Earnest, who said for other airlines, blocking middle seats is a "PR strategy."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (the CDC) has given airlines strict guidance on cleaning the airplanes and dealing with COVID-19. While it does not have any guidelines on the selling of middle seats, the CDC acknowledges that fact that there is a risk when flying.

Health officials recommend avoiding flying during the pandemic, but in some cases passengers have no other options.

With the known risk of catching COVID-19 on flights, airlines should be held accountable for passengers' safety and begin to block middle seats again.

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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.



# Athletes have mixed feelings about changes made to winter sports

## Captains react to new rules added to sports due to COVID-19

By Ema O'Neil  
INDEPENDENT STAFF

Changes made to this year's winter sports season to accommodate for COVID-19 have left athletes with mixed feelings.

On Dec. 2, the Manchester-Essex Athletic Department approved basketball, skiing, ice hockey, and swimming and diving to take place this winter.

The school will be following MIAA guidelines, which have undergone many changes to keep all players and officials safe.

All sports were expected to start on Dec. 14. However, due to a rise in COVID cases, most seasons were postponed a week later and began on Dec. 21. Exceptionally, the ice hockey team was able to start on time.

Basketball has faced many

changes due to its classification as a higher risk sport. Most of the rule adjustments have been made to accommodate for social distancing.

To avoid contact, the jump ball has been eliminated, free throw lanes are limited to four players, and in all throw-in or inbound plays, the defender must maintain an appropriate distance from the player inbound the ball.

Senior girls' basketball captain Lily Athanas said the biggest challenge this year is going to be getting everyone used to all of the new rules.

"We need to put a lot of work in to make sure that everything stays safe," she said.

Some athletes believe all of these changes make their sport not even worth playing this year.

Senior Avari Litka has been a part of the school's gymnastics team for the past three years.

Her decision not to participate this year was due to her summer job at Iron Rail Gymnastics Academy. She was able to see what her season would have looked like this winter by coaching younger gymnasts during the



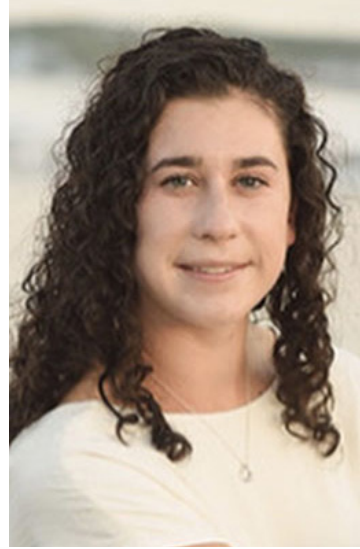
**'I feel like racing virtually is not going to be as fun or exciting.'**

-MADDIE LAWLER

pandemic.

"The gym just didn't seem the same," Litka said.

She said that the gymnasts had



**'We need to put a lot of work in to make sure that everyone stays safe.'**

-LILY ATHANAS

their temperature taken before every practice and were placed into strict cohorts. Litka said that these rules, in addition to the

school team's meets being fully remote, made her not want to participate.

This winter, the swim team's meets are also fully remote. The MIAA decided that all schools, to participate in a meet, must upload the swimmer's times online instead of having them race in person to reduce the risk of exposure.

Senior Maddie Lawler, who has been a part of the swim team throughout high school, decided not to participate this year due to the many adjustments.

"I feel like racing virtually is not going to be as fun or exciting," she said.

The sports that are classified as lower risk, according to the MIAA, such as ice hockey and skiing have faced fewer changes this year but their seasons will still look a little different.

Senior boys' and girls' ski team captain, Lilly Coote said she will miss the team traditions like eating meals all together after a race and "slipping the course," which is when the team would ski together through the course after the race.

# Senior commits to Saint Lawrence University to continue playing field hockey

By Amy Vytopylova  
INDEPENDENT STAFF

Senior field hockey captain Anna Coyne has committed to play Division III field hockey at Saint Lawrence University.

Fellow senior captain Lily Athanas, who has played alongside Coyne since freshman year, said she is fascinated by Coyne's talent as both a player and a person.

"Her really strong and quick stick skills make her an amazing player but also her ability to work on a team and lead people around her is so important to a team dynamic; having someone like that who can motivate everyone to play their best and help people reach their potential is a really great quality of a team captain," she said.

Athletic director Jordan Edgett says that COVID-19 has heavily



COURTESY OF ANNA COYNE

**Senior field hockey captain Anna Coyne has committed to Saint Lawrence University to play girls Division III field hockey.**

impacted the recruiting process for athletes like Coyne.

"Recruitment has been much different. I've spoken with many college coaches, and it feels like they are still trying to figure it out...there aren't as many games

and tournaments that coaches can go recruit players," he said.

Coyne said COVID-19 gave her a different recruiting experience due to all the social distancing guidelines.

"You couldn't really go to

**'I'm really excited about being on a team and to stay in shape... just to play the sport against different colleges where I don't really know anyone.'**

-ANNA COYNE

showcases or anything, so it was kind of more like emails and videos instead of actually playing in front of them," she said.

Coyne said she has many things to look forward to for playing with the Saint Lawrence Saints in the fall of 2021.

"I'm really excited about being on a team and to stay in shape...just to play the sport against different colleges where I



don't really know anyone rather than playing towns around us is exciting," she said.

Coyne says the Manchester team has always been a family for her in her past four years of playing.

"I'm going to miss the team aspect and all the people I've played with, including my teammates," she said.

## MIAA pushes indoor track to fall II season

By Wyeth Takayesu  
INDEPENDENT STAFF

Indoor track, typically run in the winter, has been pushed into the fall II season, along with football, to accommodate the MIAA's four-season model.

Indoor facilities like Reggie Lewis have closed to teams due to COVID-19, aiding in the decision to move indoor track instead of other sports, athletics director Jordan Edgett said.

The sport will run from Feb. 22 to April 25 in accordance with the published four-season model. The change has been met with

relatively positive reactions from runners like junior Jane Whitten.

"It was probably the right sport to push since for indoor track you need arenas to run, which would condense people," she said. "With many other sports you only usually have two teams, but with indoor track there's not really a limit on the amount of kids and multiple teams."

Due to the new season change, runners are looking for ways to stay active during the winter months, coach Nelson Desilvestre said. He and other track coaches are working on exercise regimens for their teams during the winter.

"The coaches and I are hoping to put out workouts for the kids for the weeks off, and if they have some time and some space somewhere, we won't be starting



COURTESY OF JANE WHITTEN

**Junior track runner Jane Whitten has a positive reaction to the season change and agrees with the decision to switch seasons.**

at ground zero," Desilvestre said.

Coach Mark Dawson has put together an open conditioning program starting on Jan. 4, which will be free to enter and focuses on training runners for the fall

II indoor track season.. An up-to-date physical form with the school is required, but students do not need to run indoor track to join.

Although little is known about

what the rules will be like, competitions and meets will all be the same despite the move, Edgett said.

To help avoid condensed spaces, playing outdoors is being considered. Nothing has been confirmed as of yet, he said.

Senior cross-country and indoor track member Anna Whitten was excited to hear about the possibility of having outdoor meets for the season, mentioning how the sport can often have difficulty maintaining distance between teams.

"It definitely made meets more difficult because we had to wear masks when within 10 feet of any other runners," Whitten said. "I would much prefer it to be outdoors and definitely with everyone wearing masks and social distancing."



# Seniors continue passion for art with independent studies

## Students use studies to experiment with new ideas

By Eli Heanue  
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Seniors Isabella DiPasquale and Abigail Thomas are participating in art independent studies this year in order to continue their passion for art and experiment with new methods and concepts.

Art teacher and independent study adviser Tamera Burns

said both DiPasquale and Thomas are extremely driven and talented and are perfectly suited for independent studies.

“These students are both motivated and create terrific work. They both completed the AP art class last year, which is the prerequisite for

an independent study. This was an exceptional year in terms of talented students,” she said.

With remote learning, independent studies are able to be more flexible in terms of timing and scheduling, Burns said.

“Independent studies are not something we usually do in the art department, partly because we do not often have a place to put students in the schedule. It is different with remote learning, though. We try to meet every other week, and they are both very self-motivated,” she said.

Along with the advantages of time flexibility, Thomas said that there are many clear benefits to doing an independent study this

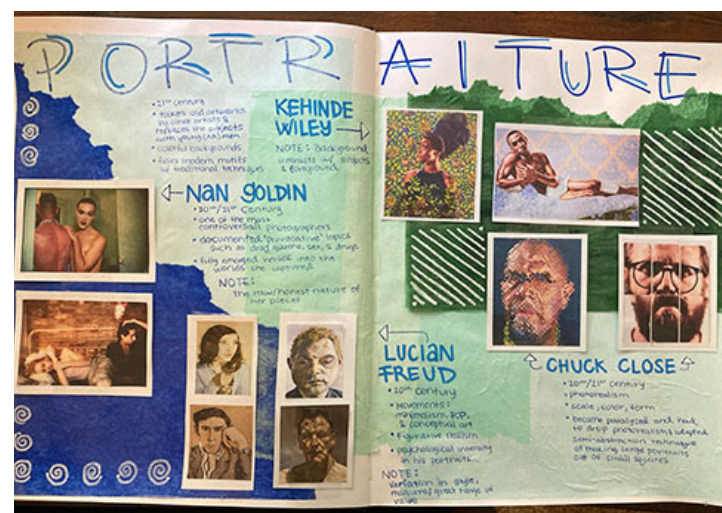
year.

“I have the opportunity to do art in my own time, and Ms. Burns gives me some feedback on my work, but it is mostly independent. It is much

nicer than AP last year because we do not have to complete 15 pieces with detailed sketchbooks. I can focus on trying new media



ISABELLA DIPASQUALE PHOTO



ABIGAIL THOMAS PHOTO

Senior art students Isabella DiPasquale and Abigail Thomas use their independent studies as a way to explore new content and media and create works without the restrictions of an AP art class.

and using the experience to learn and grow,” she said.

In her independent study, Thomas said she is focusing on creating art about people.

“I get to do art on people, which is what I love to do. For example, my first piece was a portrait of my friend Grayson. This study is really helpful because Ms. Burns pushes me to put a deeper meaning into my art, and it makes all of my work more meaningful,” she said.

DiPasquale said that she is using

her independent study as a way to experiment with new ideas without the restrictions of a normal art class.

“This gives me the opportunity to try a lot of new things. One of the problems with AP was I would have a million ideas and things I would want to do, but they would not all work under my concentration. This is much better because it does not offer the same pressure to be restricted,” she said.

Along with exploring new ideas,

DiPasquale said she is using her study to paint records.

“Over the past four years, I have become very close to Ms. Burns, and she trusts me to be a self-motivated and productive student, which allows me to have more freedom and independence. One of the cool things I am doing in my independent study is painting records, which I am trying to turn into a business, and she is supporting me with that project,” she said.

## Despite pandemic, choir students audition for Northeast Senior Districts

By Ryan Olivier-Meehan  
INDEPENDENT STAFF

Four members of the high school Concert Choir have qualified from the 2020 Northeast Senior Districts Festival this year.

Freshman Natalie Brunner, sophomore Owen O’Leary, and juniors Julian Friends and Reese Tully all received scores that qualified them for the Senior Districts Festival.

Due to COVID-19, a festival won’t take place this year; however, students were still able to audition for the festival at the Northeast Senior Districts.

“Northeast Senior Districts is an incredible opportunity for members of a school ensemble to

audition for the Northeast Senior District Festival,” choir director Donna O’Neill said.

Because of health regulations during the COVID-19 pandemic, choir members auditioned by submitting a videotape of themselves singing, rather than auditioning in person.

Student videos were then assessed by adjudicators on several key criteria, and scores were released to students, notifying them whether or not they qualified for the District Festival, O’Neill said.

“I am incredibly delighted that they found a way to keep auditions going despite all the restrictions.”

This year students received back much more feedback and

critique to make up for the fact that students are unable to have an in-person festival this year, O’Neill said.

“I think getting comments about what we should work on was something that was really nice about this year, as opposed to only getting a recommendation for the festival,” O’Leary said. “I was really excited that I got in; the part ended up being harder than I thought, so I’m happy the work paid off.”

Friends said that the online aspect of this year’s audition made the whole process less nerve-racking.

“You still know that someone’s going to be watching you sing, but it’s not like they’re right in



JULIAN FRIENDS PHOTO

Junior choir member Julian Friends qualifies for the Northeast Senior Districts Festival after submitting a videotape audition.

front of you assessing you at that moment,” he said.

Brunner said that while auditioning remotely was less stressful, she is looking forward to attending

the Senior Districts auditions next year in person so she can have the unique experience of going to the Senior District Festival.

## Teens can use extra time to watch Netflix

By Amy Vytopylova  
INDEPENDENT STAFF

Coronavirus has given teenagers a lot of extra time due to isolation. With this extra time, they have turned to streaming platforms such as Netflix, where they can watch shows such as “Outer Banks,” “Criminal Minds,” and “Grey’s Anatomy.”

The one-season popular Netflix show “Outer Banks,” directed by Jonas Pate, came out mid April and hit top ratings on Netflix.

“Outer Banks” is about a



NAMEOFTHESONG.NET

One-season show “Outer Banks,” starring actor Chase Stokes, makes Netflix’s top 10 with drama, plot twists and adventure.

group of teenagers who go through extensive measures to figure out the truth about the missing father of a member of the

group, John B.

The show takes viewers through the adventures of the group, which leads to them find-

ing a missing treasure that happens to be linked to John B’s missing father.

Actor Chase Stokes plays the role of John B and brings out enthusiasm and humor that entertains teenagers.

The hit show made Netflix’s Top 10. The thrill, drama, and plot twists interested teenagers and gave them a sense of adventure during the quarantine.

“Criminal Minds” has always been a fan favorite as it has a four star rating according to Common Sense Media.

The show, created by Jeff Davis, peaked and interested more teenagers during the pandemic. Actor Matthew Gray Gubler stars in the show as a young detective that outsmarts his colleagues.

The show follows a group of

FBI agents in the Behavioral Analysis Unit where they use their skills to investigate crimes as a team. Throughout the show, the characters have personal problems they struggle with that relate to the real world, giving teenagers a way to connect to the story.

There are 16 seasons of “Grey’s Anatomy” and every season is just as binge-worthy.

“Grey’s Anatomy” shows a glimpse of the medical world that follows Meredith Grey, a surgeon, through her professional and personal life.

The show has interested many teenagers with its knowledge of the medical field and the medical world. Not only is it an amusing show to watch, it can be quite educational.