

# the COLONIAL

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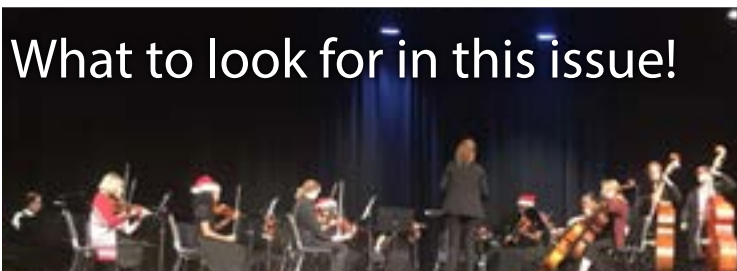


Photos Submitted By Students

Happy  
Holidays!



What to look for in this issue!



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# A Note from the Editors

Sophie and Kyla would like to wish everyone Happy Holidays, and a Happy New Year! They are beyond excited for 2020 and can not wait for what is to come. They thank you for joining us on our adventure this year and reading the paper. Sophie and Kyla are super grateful for their newspaper family. The paper will see so many more accomplishments in the new semester, and they hope you all are here for the ride! A big thanks from your Colonial Staff!

\*If you would like to be featured on

The Colonial's Front Page\*

send your school spirit pictures to Kyla Andrews:  
email: [kyla79667@students.sbcsc.k12.in.us](mailto:kyla79667@students.sbcsc.k12.in.us)



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# Recap Of The Decade

BY JEANA ALBERTS '20

The 2010 decade ends on December 31, 2019. This will be the first full decade Clay High School students will have experienced. Most of us were in lower elementary school back in 2010, and now we're getting ready to graduate high school or take finals for the first time.

During the 2010 decade, the Kardashians and other famous icons influenced the clothing we wore and sayings we said. Our clothes had a minimalistic, 90's throwback, street style, and glam vibe. Throughout the decade a common factor in the clothing were brands. Brand-name clothing was an essential to fashion and ranged from Michael Kors, Nike, Tommy Hilfiger, Adidas, and Gucci. The period of fashion dropped and started trends more frequently than in any past decade.

Unlike fashion styles, the decade changed the way we use technology forever. The enhancement of computers, cell phones, and everyday technologies have increased our demand for technological products. We have created in home assistance, like Alexa, that have made our lives easier by completing simple tasks. The enhancement of facial recognition technologies has improved security programing and how we access our devices. We went from flip phones in the early 2000 to the iPhone in the small span of ten years. The great technological advancements in this decade will forever change the way we live and communicate.

Our views on politics have shaped the way we view the world around us. In 2010, President Obama signed a regiment that got rid of the band of homosexuals serving in the armed forces. Many states adopted the legalization of marijuana, however, the federal government hasn't followed along with the popular demand. The first African American presidents served his eight years

in office and was replaced by President Donald Trump. President Trump is currently being reviewed for impeachment due to speculation about abusing his power in office. Natural disasters like earthquakes, wildfires, hurricanes, and even water crisis brought our communities together.

The entertainment industry has also come a long way since the 2000's. We love to watch Netflix, Hulu, Disney Plus, and Amazon Prime in this decade. Cable, which was once in high demand, is not as popular anymore due to the advancements in the entertainment industry. Movies like Frozen, Black Panther, The Hunger Games and the Avengers are some of our favorite movies from the decade. The growth of entertainment increases our want

for new creative movies and television programming.

Social media became popular in the 2010 decade. The creation of Facebook sparked the interest of many people who later became members. This great movement sets the foundation for the social media programming we have now. Tick Tock, Instagram, Snapchat, and Kik all derived from the early idea of social media. Now we are addicted to our phones and check our accounts daily. The impact of social media on our generation has allowed us to connect with each other in ways we never could before.

The 2010's shaped our lives forever. They were the childhood years of each current CHS student.



# Student Spotlight

PHOTOS AND ARTICLE BY MARK WILLIAMS '20

Stephen Shafer leads the junior class with a 4.1 GPA. Stephen is a part of the Visual and Performing Arts Magnet, taking part in the band here at Clay, playing the trombone. He is also on the swimming team.

Stephen encourages himself to do well academically because it offers him better opportunities. He also strives to do well for his parents,

aiming to make sure they are not disappointed. Stephen says that it can be sometimes stressful to keep up with everything. He tries to counter this stress by planning out his schedule ahead of time and also takes frequent breaks while working.

Stephen said that the people are the best thing about Clay.

He is unsure about what he plans on doing in the future or where he plans to attend college.

Junior Sydney Maurer has attained a 4.06 GPA over her first four semesters at Clay. She is in the magnet program in the musical arts strand and is on the soccer team and is also active in theatre. Sydney says that her motivation to do well comes from her mother and her own determination to be the

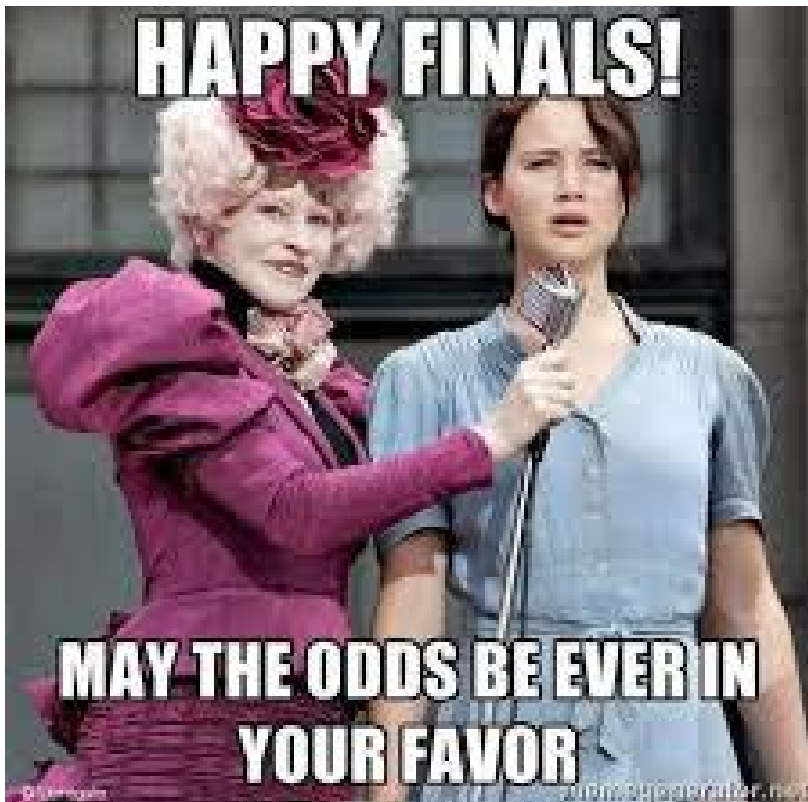


best that she can be. She explained how the academic side of school was never overwhelming, but the extracurriculars were stressful to keep up with.

Sydney also loves Clay because of the people. She is considering either performance or law as a profession but is still torn between the two. Her college decision is still undecided.







# Studying Tips

BY OLIVIA LARGENT '22

be a packet or a single piece of paper.

advantage! Write down what you don't know that well, and make sure to not write down every single thing you have learned that entire semester. It is easier to study that way. If you get stuck on a problem it is easier to find your information if you don't have an entire textbook on a single piece of paper.

Some of the best advice, however, will come from your fellow classmates.

Rayana Michalak, a senior, says that focusing on studying the materials that you don't know very well is best. "Stop stressing about things that are out of your control," she says, "focus on what's in front of you - in high school or not. That's the best advice anyone could give you."

We have only a few school days until finals are upon us. As we draw nearer to the holidays, both teachers and students alike get pretty occupied with activities outside of school. Final exams are part of the last little burst of energy from teachers before the holiday craze captures them. So many teachers have little tricks that they use to make the exams easier for them (and for you)!

One of the most important tools is study guides. Most of your teachers will provide one, whether it

Generally, a significant amount of the information on your exams will come from your study guides, so basing your studies off of them is ideal. Making notecards, Quizlets, or other study materials may help as well.

Another tool that some of your teachers will give you is "cheat sheets." They are usually a half piece or a whole piece of paper, and you can write whatever material you need to. You can look at your cheat sheet during the exam! Use these to your



# The Return of the Motorola Razr

BY OWEN CONYERS '20

On November 13, Motorola announced the creation of a new, foldable smartphone modeled after the classic Motorola Razr. Almost immediately, the media quickly responded with some praising its innovative recreation of old designs and others were surprised by the return of such an old, nostalgic device. For many people, the original Motorola Razr was their first true cell phone; and even those who never owned one still recognize its compact folding design. As such, Motorola's goal seems to be to capture the nostalgia of the classic flip phone with a few new tricks up its sleeve; and judging by the response, it looks like they've succeeded. But while publicity is great, the new Motorola Razr's innovative yet strange design warrants a closer look.

As one might expect, the most eye-catching feature of the new Razr is its folding display. Rather than having a single screen like its predecessor, the Razr boasts

a fully flexible screen. While this type of screen isn't exactly new, it also innovates on the concept by creating a pocket of air around the seam that forms as the screen closes. This pocket of air formed within a gap in the case allows it to fully close, leaving the closed case completely flat unlike similar phones like the recent Samsung Galaxy Fold which is asymmetrical when closed.

Unfortunately (or fortunately depending on your perspective) to make this clean closed design feasible, the 2020 Motorola Razr looks rather unorthodox when opened. Naturally, to achieve a similar form factor to the closed Motorola Razr, it's necessary for the 2020 Razr to have a similar shape when opened. This results in an odd, long and thin design that is ubiquitous to flip phones but practically unheard of when it comes to modern smartphones. And to cleanly fold the screen in half, the bottom of the case has a raised bump in which

the top screen rests when the phone is closed, which the original Razr also had. With these traits in mind, it's fairly obvious that Motorola is intent on the 2020 Razr being a faithful recreation of the classic Razr, even if the end result looks bizarre compared to other modern smartphones.

Whether or not you see the design of the 2020 Razr, it is clear to see that it was ultimately designed to be a nostalgia trip and a throwback to the cell phones of old. While it may deviate from the core design principles of modern smartphones, this can easily be justified by pointing out that this deviation is the point! However, this raises questions as to whether or not it's worth it to buy a smartphone that costs over \$1,000 when it looks to emulate obsolete design principles; especially when more modern smartphones are a fraction of the cost. However, if the 2020 Motorola Razr appeals to you, be sure to look out for its release in mid-November 2020.

## Ask a Colonial:

## How do you feel you'll do on finals?



**Javony Cailes, 09**  
"Not good."



**Alex Reed, 11**  
"Good."



**Emily Hess, 10**  
"Good."



**Aran Tuxans, 12**  
"Bad."



**Shane Willis, 12**  
"Great."



**William Reid, 10**  
"Pretty good. I'm gonna pass them all because I always do."



**Joshua Hodges, 09**  
"I think I'm gonna do pretty well."



**Nhi Bui, 12**  
"A little hard because I'm a foreigner and English is my second language."



**Harley Largenet, 10**  
"Oh bad, horrible but you know whatever."



**Xavier Ward, 12**  
"Horrible."



**Robert Allen, 11**  
"Good."



**Annika Fervida, 09**  
"I feel like finals will be pretty easy for me and I'm excited for them."



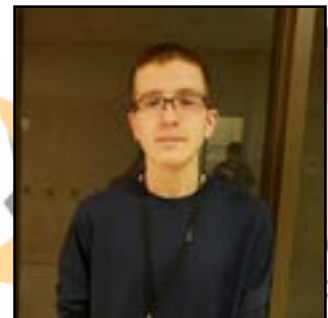
**Christian Gordon, 10**  
"I don't know."



**Alexandria Brassell, 09**  
"Eh."



**Joseph Walatka, 10**  
"I think I'm gonna do alright."



**Addison Nally, 09**  
"Uh, decent."



# Alumni Corner

BY HAYLEY DEMLER '20

Let's take a look at Clay alumni, Aaron Willis. Willis is a 2010 graduate. Even though he is a South Bend native, Willis currently resides in Elkhart, Indiana. After his high school years he graduated from Valparaiso University with a bachelor's degree in Biology and secondary education. Once he graduated from college he had a short stint of three years at the South Bend School Corporation. In these three years he taught two years of science at Clay Middle School and one year of biology and marine biology here at Clay. After teaching at the middle and high school, he went on to teaching science and coaching the girls track and field team at Goshen High School. While he only taught at Clay for one year he left a lasting impression on all of his students. Why is that?

Even though this year's group of seniors are the last class who will remember him teaching in the South Bend School Corporation, they had nothing but good things to say about him. Some graduate students of his even had positive comments about him. "He really connected with all of his students and he was so cool with us, I feel that is what's why everyone was so fond of him"- Senior McKayla Noecker. "He was very energetic and down to earth

with everyone. He was real"- Senior Hunter Aker. "I liked Mr. Willis as a teacher because he made learning fun and he actually enjoyed teaching the class"- 2017 graduate Emily Demler

While Willis is extremely well respected and loved by all his students, he has a strong resume to back up his teaching. After getting his bachelor's degree from Valparaiso University, he went on to get his M.ed: Curriculum and Instruction; Science from Concordia University and his EdD: Education and Leadership in Healthcare from Nebraska Methodist College. To add on to his resume this July he will be receiving his doctorate degree and then going on to get his principal license from IU Bloomington.

In high school career he was a part of many extracurricular activities. Willis was involved in National Honor Society, swing choir, football, and track and field.

While he has been out of high school for ten years, he still has fond memories of his high school years. Some of his favorite mem-



ories were the canned food drive, winning sectional basketball for two years in a row (boys 2009 and girls 2010), and the homecoming pep rallies.

During his college career at Valparaiso University, he was just as involved in extracurriculars as he was in high school. He was a part of greek life, order of omega (greek honor society), mortar board (National Honor Society), black student organization, and the track and field team.

As Willis has graduated from high school for almost ten years now he has one piece of advice for the upcoming 2020 graduating seniors. He said, "Be true to yourself and once you leave high school leave the drama and bad vibes at graduation. Your worst enemy will be someone that you are excited to see during your class reunion."