



Welcome to the new school year Colonials! Here is our first issue of The Colonial this year! The staff worked really hard to put this together, and we really hope you enjoy!:)

A NOTE FROM THE EDITORS...

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CLICK AND GO RIGHT THERE!

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If you have any pictures you would like us to include in the newspaper for the future, send them to Allyson Williams - allyson79008@students.sbcsc.k12.in.us

A letter from the Principal



DEAR STUDENTS, TEACHERS, & FAMILIES:

It is with great excitement that I am taking on the role of principal at Clay High School.

While these times may be challenging, I am encouraged by the creativity and strength of our Clay students and staff. As with any challenge we face, it is important that we remain focused on controlling what we can, and controlling our

what we can, and controlling our attitude and response when faced with the things that are beyond our control. We will succeed

and excel as long as we are committed to working together and serving each other. Keep logging in every day, checking your email every day, stay current with your assignments, and make time for self-care.

As principal of Clay High School, I am excited to be a champion of the arts. Already we are starting to hang student art in the main office and in my office. We will be adding other areas in the main office in which we can hang even more. I would like to expand this display out into the main lobby and throughout our halls. Our Graphic Design students are already working on four murals to hang outside the auditorium in the lobby. When our community walks into Clay,

I want them to know that we are The Visual and Performing Arts Magnet and I want them to be amazed by the artwork on display as soon as they enter the building.

When I met with our Assistant Superintendent, I told him my big goal is to drastically improve the graduation rate here. Last year we had a graduation rate of 73%, and I believe that we can work our way up to over 90%. We need for you to be aware of how many credits you have, how many you should have, and how many you need to graduate. You should be earning at minimum of ten credits per year. After your freshman year, you should have ten or more. After sophomore year, you should have at least 20. Going into your senior year, you should have at least 30. If you are not there, make sure you are having conversations with your counselors, teachers, and principals to help you get back on track. You earn your credits by passing your classes, and you do that by working every day, one day at a time. This is your education that will stay with you the rest of your life. Take pride in it!

Best of luck this year. Clay All Day!

Mr. Berg Principal

Counselor's Corner

Meet the Counselors -



cserrino@sb.school **Last Names A-G**



kbuda@sb.school **Last Names H-O**



chummer@sb.school **Last Names P-Z**

Edmund C. Sweeney Jr. Earth Space Science, Astronomy, Meteorology at Clay High School

Highlighting the End of Summer and the Start of Fall with Days and Nights of Equal Length

So what does September 2020 have to offer us astronomically? Keep in mind that most September daytime and nighttime skies are pretty much the same every year because we humans haven't been around long enough in the Universe to witness too many significant changes in the celestial objects of the day night skies as we view them from our "pale blue dot" ("Carl Sagan").

On September 1st the Sun will rise in South Bend about 7:10am and set about 8:18pm. At the end of this month (on the 30th) it will rise about 7:41am and set about 7:27pm. Daylight will last for about 13 hours and 07 minutes on the 1st. By the 30th the amount of daylight will decrease to about 11 hours and 46 minutes. What you lose in daylight you gain in darkness in order to maintain a 24 hour "day". During September daylight decreases and darkness increases because the Sun rises later and sets earlier each day. Each day the noon Sun decreases in altitude and noontime shadows increase in length. The information in this paragraph is good for September 2019 and September 2021.

With the ending of Summer, the Season of Fall (Autumn) begins on September 22nd at 9:31am.

This is when the Sun arrives on the Celestial Equator at the point known as the Autumnal Equinox. It is approximately then that the Sun rises and sets due East and due West and daylight and darkness last for twelve hours each. Technically, the Sun, on it journey southward, crosses the Celestial Equator on the 22nd and 12 hours of daylight and darkness will be experienced on the 25th. each day. The information in this paragraph is good for September 2019 and September 2021.

The Moon will be a Full Moon on September 2nd, a Last or 3rd Quarter Moon on the 10th, a New Moon on the 17th and a 1st Quarter Moon on the 23rd. Each one of these four major phases of our Moon lasts for "1 day". Each of the minor phases of our Moon, the waxing and waning crescent and gibbous moons, last for "6 days" and occur in-between each major phase. The Moon will be at Apogee (furthest from Earth) on September 6th and will be at Perigee (closest to Earth) on September 18th. September's Full Moon was called the Corn Moon. The Harvest Moon is the Full Moon closest to the Autumnal Equinox. If the Autumnal Equinox is on September 22nd, and if a Full Moon occurs on August 3rd, September 2nd and October 1st, then which of those

three Full Moons would qualify as this year's Harvest Moon?

As you look east, south and west this month the planet Venus will be noticeable in the east as a "morning star" prior to sunrise. Jupiter and Saturn, being almost side-by-side visually, will be noticeable in the west as "evening stars" after sunset in that order from west to east. A variety of nighttime constellations will be visible, from Scorpius in the west after sunset to Orion in the east before sunrise. One can also enjoy bright stars such as Antares in Scorpius and Betelgeuse and Rigel in Orion. Remember the North Star Polaris and the Big and Little Dippers as you look northward.

Closing Thought: A closed mind should have a safety valve so as not to experience possible asphyxiation. An open mind should have a filter to protect it from harmful concepts. Can education provide the safety valve and the filter? What do we choose to provide?

So: May your skies always be clear, may your eyes always look upward. . .and, no matter how you believe, may you always "feel" the beauty and mysteries of the Universe.

Fact Checking COVID-19: What's Really the Case?

We all know the quarantine has been less than enjoyable, but we are going to change that with a quick round of some quarantine trivia! The game is quite simple: decide whether each statement is true or false, and make sure to keep track of your points! The answers will be at the end of the article, so no cheating! I'm watching you. We will start with the easy ones and get progressively harder as we go on. The goal is to get all 11 correct, so good luck!

- Injecting bleach into yourself prevents COVID-19.
- Social distancing and staying home is the best way to prevent COVID-19.
- The COVID-19 virus was purposefully made by the Chinese.
- Alcohol can help protect oneself from COVID-19.
- Touching your face increases the likelihood of COVID-19 spreading.
- Most people recover from COVID-19.
- Heads up, this one is worth double points!! Both cold and hot weather will make the virus disappear.
- Wearing a mask for too long can negatively affect oxygen intake.
- Younger people are not susceptible to COVID-19.
- One should not wear a mask while exercising.
- Buying products from overseas increases the risk of spreading COVID-19.

And now, for the answers!

- 1. This one is obviously false. (please DO NOT do this)
- 3. This is false. The virus has been seen in different variations in nature before, this one has just evolved to more directly affect humans.
- 4. Contrary to many jokes at the beginning of guarantine, this is false. Corona beer won't do anything to fight against the Coronavirus :(
- 5. This is true. Make sure you continually wash your hands!
- 6. This is true! With proper and immediate medical care, most people recover from the virus.
- Both of these statements are false. Temperature does not play a major factor in the virus' lifespan.
- 8. This is false. WEAR. YOUR. MASK.
- 9. This is false. Anyone can be affected by the virus.
- 10. This is true. Any excess sweat can create the perfect breeding ground for bacteria, and you do not want that anywhere near your mask face.
- 11. This is false. Your Amazon package won't give you the virus, I promise.

Tally up your score and see where you landed on this very accurate scale:

1-4 Correct: Wow, you've been taking this quarantine really seriously, huh? Have you been living under a rock?

5-8 Correct: You have a moderate knowledge of our current situation. Make sure to keep up with your research!

9-12 Correct: Congratulations! You must be a scientist, no one can know all these facts!! Good for you, I'm impressed!

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Seniors, do you believe this new learning experience has made more of a positive or negative impact on your preparation and readiness for college?



Tyler Gibbs '21

"I believe it had a positive impact because we have to prepare and work just as hard as before, if not harder."



Kelly Kleppe '21

"Negative to say the least. This new learning experience has made me realize that I'm so looking forward to college and beginning that journey in my life."



Abigail Gonzalez '21

"Negative. ELearning is so much more difficult without in-class support. Still, to keep being successful, you have to put in effort and use resources."



Taylor Dukes '21

"A negative impact because I don't retain information when reading off a computer and it is hard to sit at a computer for hours."



Jeremiah Annis '21

"It hasn't really impacted my college readiness mainly because I'm going to the American Academy of Art and most of my classes are in digital forms of art"

Virtual Spirit Week By Jamie Bridgeman '21 By Jamie By Jam

Since the beginning of the Coronavirus pandemic, arguably the biggest question on every student's mind is, "What will my 2021 school year look like?' Well, as of now, we know that in South Bend schools, students will have to participate in eLearning for the first eight weeks of school. This begs the question: how will schools hold fall events like spirit week, pep assemblies, and homecoming? Will they be held at all? If so, what will those events look like?

The South Bend School
Corporation recently
announced that fall sports
games will be allowing a
limit of 600 spectators into
the stands to support their
teams. At first thought,
this seems quite fair.
However, in the event of
a homecoming game,
would the corporation
allow a homecoming

court? Each year many seniors, myself included, look forward to being able to run for homecoming court. But, with the current health guidelines, would a homecoming court in a socially distanced world be more trouble than it's worth? This could very much be the case.

Homecoming court isn't the only rite of passage that the class of '21 may be missing out on. The infamous toga day is quite possibly one of the most anticipated days of Colonial spirit week. It gives the seniors a chance to stand out from the other grades (and a chance to admit that they didn't have to wear pants to school). Seniors aside, students in all grade levels love spirit week, and having to go without one this semester would certainly be a disappointment. However, there are certainly avenues to explore that could still capture the essence of spirit week. The idea of a virtual spirit week has been tossed around. What would a virutial spirit

week look like, you might ask. Well, there are many different ways it could go. Wearing a themed outfit in each of your google meets for the day, or allowing students to create videos to emulate pep assemblies, such as tug-of-wars and obstacle courses are just some of the ideas that come to mind. Fall sports could share collages of the highlights of their seasons with the rest of the school. There are so many possibilities as to how we could go about it, but no matter how spirit week or homecoming turns out, this

year will certainly be one that we'll

never forget.



Girl's Golf Team



Clay vs Washington

Learning Protocol By Elizabeth Farrough '21

At the end of last school year, students were stuck at home, figuring out how to learn from their own rooms. Teachers were not any more prepared than students were. Teachers had to figure out how to transfer all their teaching materials online. Basically, all plans they had for the rest of the year went out the window.

This year, students and teachers have been preparing for the beginning of eLearning. ELearning will be taking place for approximately eight weeks. In mid-September, health data will be evaluated and next steps will be determined. If concluded that in-person learning can safely be conducted, students will then be gradually phased into classrooms after October 5. While no back-to-school shopping necessary (except maybe some hand sanitizer), preparations still had to be made. Some of the preparations included new structures for students, including timed schedules. Starting the 24th of August, students' school schedules will be similar to in-person schedules from last year. This means the school day will be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with 45 minute classes

and fifteen minute breaks in between. As well as having a thirty minute lunch from 11:45 to 12:15.

Another significant preparation that was carried over from last year is wifi-equipped buses. The South Bend School corporation has provided 35 wifi-equipped buses. These buses are scattered through areas that lack internet service. You can find a map with all the locations of the South Bend Community School Corporation's website.

In addition to online learning, CTE (Career and Technical Education) students have been going into the building for their various hands-on programs. At Clay, safety precautions include temperature checks before entering the building and all students are required to wear masks. There are also precautions set for meals. Only three students are allowed to be seated at one table, with six feet of spacing in between students. There are no lines, as everything is grab-and-go. Clay is doing everything in their power to protect these students while also

providing them with their technical education.

Along with eLearning regulations presented by the South Bend Community School Corporation, regulations for sports have also been released. For 918-10/2 all sports, each family unit must sit six feet apart. **eLearning** & evaluate Masks must be worn by based on

all fans upon entering, during the game, and exiting. Hand sanitizer and extra masks are provided.

Specifically for outdoor sports, only athletes, coaches, and essential personnel will be allowed on the fields. There is a limit of 600 spectators that will be allowed for outdoor sports. For indoor sports such as 10/5

volleyball, 200 spectators will be allowed (families of players and essential personnel only).

health data

continues, health data monitored

8/17-9/4

eLearning

9/18

Evaluate latest health data & provide communication to parents

eLearning continues, in-person instruction possibly begins



How has COVID—19 Affected the Theatre Program?

As an arts school, Clay has been deeply affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The theatre program has been hit the hardest. Performing on stage in front of an audience plays the biggest role in the program, but the school is unable to put on any shows at this time.

According to Mrs. Beard, Clay's magnet advisor, all live performances have been

canceled for the safety of the students and

audiences. This has greatly affected the theatre magnet, since students rely and thrive on the experiences of live performances. Seniors in the theatre magnet are being robbed of their last show season. For now, One Acts and the fall musical have been canceled in their original format, but Mrs. Beard and Miss Hein, Clay's Theatre Arts teacher, have been working on alternative ways to perform. Though the first two live shows of the year are canceled, hopes are still high for the winter straight play and spring musical. Mrs. Beard is hoping that we can finish the year with a fun production, but it all depends on the Coronavirus and students' safety.

While working on an alternative to live performances with Mrs. Beard, Miss Hein has been busy with her

classes. She teaches Introduction to Theatre Arts, Advanced Theatre Arts, Musical Theatre, and Technical Theatre. Though classes are going well, there are difficulties teaching a very hands-on class over the computer. The biggest problem Miss Hein faces is the

lack of direct interaction like maintaining eye contact, which is an important part

of performing. A performer cannot maintain proper eye contact with their scene partner over a video call while also reading their body language and actions. They either end up looking directly at the lens, which gives the illusion of eye contact, but they cannot

see what their partner is doing, or staring

at the screen. Another difficulty of eLearning is Improv Fridays. On most Fridays, Miss Hein breaks her students up into small or large groups, depending on the improv game, to perform. She is trying to come up with a way to adjust these games, exercises, and performances to fit the limitations of eLearning. She is trying to make their online performances feel as much like in person performances as much as possible. She stated, "For an online Theatre class, I want to provide our students with a comparable social, emotional, and physical experience as live theatre." Though she is trying to make it feel like a live performance, nothing can compare to standing up onstage in front of an audience.

Though a lot of things are up in the air right now, there is still hope for having a great theatre experience this year. Mrs. Beard said, "Though all of this seems like a downer, we must look at it as an opportunity to explore new and exciting ways to bring theatre to our audiences. Hopefully, we emerge from this pandemic with a whole new way to present theatre to our audiences!" She is excited to figure out new ways to make Clay's theatre program run smoothly this year. Her and Miss Hein are determined to find a way to make performances work!

THE END OF MOCK TRIAL?



By Olivia Largent '22

HAS CLAY HIGH SCHOOL'S MOCK TRIAL TEAM COME TO AN END?

TortIllustrated & DeMOCKracy -- what do those two names have in common? Success. For the past two years, Clay High School has been breaking records and making news with their Mock Trial team. In 2018, the team crushed the competition at their regional competition, placing in 5th, and made it to the state competition for the first time ever. Last year, the team earned a wild card, and again made it to state competition. The program has been growing in popularity, and the support from fellow staff members and students has been unbelievable.

A few weeks following their state achievement, COVID-19 struck the United States. Even now, almost half a year later, Indiana's Mock Trial program has suffered. The national competition last year was cancelled. This year, the program will be exclusively virtual. The teams, coaches, and judges will use software like Zoom or Google Meets to compete.

Adjusting to the new virtual competition is the least of the team's worries, however. This year, the team's now-former

advisor, Ms. Dianna Christopher, stepped down from her position. "I wanted to share this news in person but the virus doesn't look like it's helping anyone do anything in person anymore, so I will share with you here that I have resigned as the mock trial advisor. I am going to be teaching 7 classes this school year and I just can't do both," she stated in an email to the team.

Without an advisor at Clay, the team cannot compete. Due to this, the team has been scurrying around trying to find someone to act as Advisor. Because of eLearning and COVID-19 affecting the new school year, the team members were worried about their team not being a priority. Christopher Berg, Clay High School's new principal, settled some of their worries. "This is a program that we need to keep, and we will find a sponsor to make sure that happens. It has been too successful to let it go!"The team hopes that by the time that the season starts, Clay High School's team is able to have an Advisor, and is able to leap into their materials to start preparing for competition.

THE COLONIAL

ART CLASSES — COVID

By Olivia Montgomery '21

As we all are aware, this school year is starting out differently than many years past with students and teachers introducing themselves online, and working to introduce the classes they teach as well. One question that has been asked by many students and parents, though, is how art classes will begin with no in-person instruction, and if these hands-on classes are even possible to teach online. To answer these questions, a few of our art teachers have given us their plans for making these classes as normal and comparable to in-person teaching as possible.

"It's important that we keep consistent lines of communication open."

We first talked to Sarah Morris about her plan for teaching classes virtually. She told us that after students are able to pick up their individual art kits from the building, "...the art department hopes to be teaching more like [they] would have in the classroom."

Ms. Morris also shared that her classes will mostly be focusing on a lot of still life studies. She explained these studies as, "...something we all like to cover at the beginning of the school year to get students' hands and eyes moving." Painting students specifically are asked to invest in themselves a bit, which is also encouraged when in the classroom, to improve the learning environment and enhance techniques learned online. One last task her students are completing is uploading finished work to a google folder to share with one another, and add to their ongoing portfolios.

Lastly, we heard from Steven Romans, who laid out his plans for the beginning of the year.

Mr. Romans said that he plans on keeping students hands-on and focused with regularly scheduled online meetings. After the initial pickup of supplies, he also intends on replenishing these supplies regularly to keep pace with the speed of his classes. Mr. Romans also made it clear that, "It's important that we keep consistent lines of communication open." This helps teachers and students stay on track and avoid any confusion that is bound to happen during virtual schooling. All of our art teachers are hopeful that with these guidelines, and some flexibility, their classes will feel similar to how they will be when we return to in-person teaching.

Mental Health Challenges During the PANDEMIC By Shelby Tharp '2

Keeping yourself busy can distract you from the negative thoughts or feelings you might have.

elearning with Young Children By Nova Schmitt-Gonzalez `21

With school starting again, be it in person or online, everyone is having new stress for this school year. Teachers are wondering how to teach online, parents have to deal with their kids now having school at home, and kids are trying to deal with the new environment for schooling. One group of children that could have some problems are the younger students in primary school.

Students who are in middle school and high school have more of an understanding when it comes to doing schoolwork online, and they know how to contact their teachers when they need help. Students in elementary school have more trouble because they need more help in going the right direction for work and they can't really work independently yet. They require a teacher to help keep them focused. They need their parents to help them use computers, and if their parents are at work then they could have a harder time. Young kids also have a shorter attention span than older kids, and they could have a hard time following what their teacher is doing on google meets.

While young kids could have their siblings and parents to help them, that may not always be

available for everyone. If the child has older siblings they are probably doing their own work and can't help them, or their parents are at work and they are with a sitter or grandparent. Class time varies depending on what grade

you are in, but elementary school kids' schedules are broken down in a way to help them release energy. When a primary student is in school they usually have scheduled break times and recess, but at home they may not have that opportunity if they don't have anyone who can help them follow a schedule. When you try to have a child sit still for all their elegant in the

sit still for all their classes in the day, they could start to zone out or fidget and not learn what is being taught. Younger students may need breaks more frequently than the older kids.

While some parents may believe that online schooling is good for kids and

they can make their own schedule, in reality they can't because kids have to be doing work during their assigned school hours. Older kids may be used to it and can adjust to what is happening this school year, while the younger kids might

This may not be ideal for parents and students, but it is our reality during these times. If students need help and their teachers are spread thin trying to help all their students, they can check out some useful sites.

Google Meet

One good website
to help parents and
their young kids is
Khan Academy. Khan
Academy helps with
primary school students
all the way up to senior year

of high school. They have multiple resources on different topics and they also show the student how to properly answer questions if they get them wrong.

E-LEARNING

BOOK By Angela Bitner, librarian

Welcome back students! We are so excited to be teaching again even though we are virtual! I am Ms. Bitner and I am the librarian/media specialist at Clay High School. Each month I feature a new book that is currently available for check out in the library. We have a variety of amazing books and resources here in the library for all our students to access. Even though we are virtual right now, all those resources are still readily available to you! We are currently offering CURBSIDE PICK-UP for library books and reference materials. It is super easy to use and the entire library is at your fingertips! Here are some frequently asked questions regarding the NEW Curbside Pickup.

What is Curbside Pick-Up?

Curbside Pick-Up is a student service provided by the Clay High School library. Students will request material through a *google form*, submit the form, and I will gather your items. You will then be able to schedule a day and time to pick up your materials from the library. Materials will be located outside the main doors in a bin labeled "LIBRARY CURBSIDE PICK-UP."

Can I check out books if I have a fine or overdue book?

Yes! Please return books the same way you pick up books, by leaving them in the bin outside the main office doors when you pick up new items. But even if you have overdue or lost books, you will still be able to use this amazing service!

How do I know which books are available?

You will need to visit the Clay High School card catalog at *clayhssbcsc.goalexandria.com* search by title, author, or genre. The card catalog will tell you if in fact we have the book you are looking for and whether or not it is in.

How do I request books for Curbside Pick-Up?

It is simple! Just follow these instructions, or visit the <u>Clay</u> <u>High School webpage</u> under the library pull down tab!

Step 1: Visit the Clay High School Card Catalog to see what books are available!

Step 2: Fill out the Curbside Pick up form!

Step 3: Wait for pick-up confirmation from Ms. Bitner in your email! (Processing will take 1-3 days)

Step 4: Pick up materials in the bin outside the main doors!

You are always welcome to email me with any questions or special requests. My email is *abitner@sbcsc.k12.in.us* I am here to help you!

