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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to *The Warrior*, the student newspaper of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic High School. We are proud to present this edition of *The Warrior*, on which all our writers and staff have worked very hard. This is our first publication in over a year, as a result of the pandemic, but we are excited to share it with the community in the hopes of bringing us all together as we move towards the future. We hope you enjoy reading!

Kate Csicsak

Editor-in-Chief

NASA LANDS HISTORIC PERSEVERANCE ROVER ON MARS

March 25, 2021

By Brian Zhu

After a 7-month journey, the Perseverance Rover built by NASA landed on Mars on February 18, 2021. The goals of this rover are to find signs of ancient life and to gather samples of rock and soil that could come back to Earth. It will examine Jezero Crater, which is thought to have possibly been home to a river. This is not the first rover to land on Mars, but it is by far the most advanced and modern rover sent to Mars. Moreover, it is the first rover that intends to bring Martian soil back to Earth. All life organisms require water to survive on Earth, so it is natural to assume that life on Mars needs water too. The rover is investigating whether microbial life existed on Mars in the past and attempting to find evidence that life does not only exist on Earth. Most importantly, the Perseverance rover assists in determining the potential for human life. It will use technology to test for oxygen in Mars' atmosphere, and this will help scientists to gauge Mars' natural resources.

The rover will spend two Earth years examining the landing site region and carries seven instruments that will be tested on Mars. The Perseverance Rover will also be used to characterize the climate and geology of Mars. Perseverance is unique because it creates its own path by sending data to a machine-learning algorithm, which was not possible in past rovers on Mars. Additionally, the Ingenuity Helicopter, which is attached to the belly of the Perseverance Rover, will test the first powered flight on Mars. It is difficult to fly on Mars due to the thin atmosphere, and its rotor blades are much larger and spin much faster than a normal Earth aircraft. In the future, NASA hopes to look for energy sources other than sunlight on Mars. The expedition's full results are yet to be seen, but the potential for discovery is certainly exciting.

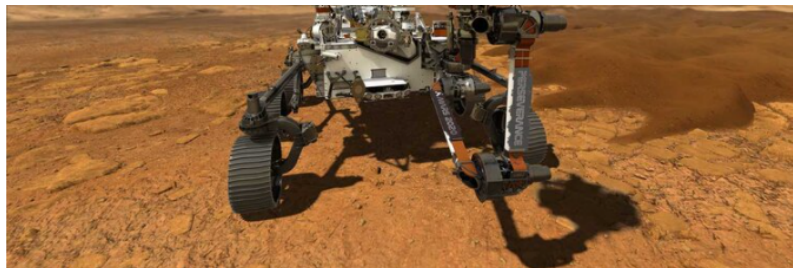


Image by NASA via <https://mars.nasa.gov/mars2020/>

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WOMEN'S HISTORY IN LITERATURE

March 25, 2021

By Mei Rao

On March 8th, people all around the world celebrated International Women's Day. The news and social media were filled with tales recounting the deeds of women, both famous and overlooked, in fields of science, mathematics, art, literature, and more. Historically, women's literature has been looked down upon as inferior to its male counterparts. The suppression of female authors came down to the basic misogynistic idea that women weren't capable of the advanced thought required to be writers; therefore, men's writing would always be superior. Throughout time, iconic women have proven themselves to be among some of the best writers ever known, and they have pioneered a world in which anyone can take pride in putting pen to paper.

In fact, the world's first known author was a woman by the name of Enheduanna. She lived in Ancient Mesopotamia in approximately 2250 B.C.E. in the Sumerian city of Ur. She served as a high priestess, composing dozens of hymns and poems to the goddess Inanna. Her contributions to early Sumerian literature has been lauded by the archaeological community for years since her work was discovered in the late 1920's. She has also been accredited with the earliest known usage of rhetorical strategies such as pathos, ethos, and logos, as used in her "Exaltation of Inanna", nearly 2,000 years before Aristotle gave them names during the classical Greek period.

By the time society progressed to the Greeks, the patriarchy had established itself and women were seeing its effects. They had increasingly fewer rights and lack of expression. Classical literature during this time period nearly always depicted women as sexual objects rather than as individuals, constantly being taken advantage of by Gods. They were painted as demure and submissive, and when they did have power (i.e. goddesses), they often used it for jealousy or vengeance. Yet in the midst of this suppression, one woman stood out and was well respected in her field as a teacher and poet. While running a school for unmarried women, Sappho became widely regarded as one of the greatest lyric poets of all time. Unlike other poets of the time who addressed the Gods or told epic narratives, Sappho wrote her poetry as a voice speaking from one individual to another, often about the "bittersweet" difficulties of love. Most of her poems were made to be accompanied by the lyre, a harp-like instrument, thus giving rise to the name of "lyric" poetry.

Poetry was not the only literary genre that women pioneered; they also made leaps and bounds in the genre

of prose narrative. The world's first novel was also written by a woman, a Japanese noblewoman named Murasaki Shikibu. She worked as a lady-in-waiting for the Imperial Court during the late Heian period (approximately 784-1185 C.E.), and wrote *The Tale of Genji*, a monumental work of fiction whose impact on modern literature is unparalleled. It is widely regarded as not only the first novel, but the first modern novel and the first psychological novel as well. The story follows Prince Hikaru Genji in his exploits and romances, and yet there is no discernable plot to the novel; rather, the characters get older and events simply happen. Though fiction at the time was considered inferior to other genres, *The Tale of Genji* gained unprecedented popularity and recognition as a result of its complicated use of literary devices. There is evidence in the work of use of irony, distancing effects, and internal conflict within characters' thoughts. For the first time, readers, men in particular, found themselves sympathizing with characters like Genji, who struggled with the duality of internal flaws and external praise, political power and political weakness. Shikibu wrote in an archaic form called 'kana', which utilized the common vernacular form of Japanese. This relatable type of literature, used by many female court writers, was characterized by the phrase 'onna-de' meaning 'women's hand.' However, due to its archaic nature, it was unreadable mere centuries after it was written. It was only in the early 20th century that poet Akiko Yosano was able to translate the novel into modern Japanese. Nearly 1,000 years after it was first written, Virginia Woolfe reviewed an English translation of the work and raised *The Tale of Genji* to levels of well-deserved international acclaim.

Mary Shelley, author of *Frankenstein*, is considered to be one of the first science fiction writers. Daughter of the iconic Mary Wollstonecraft, whom we have all learned about in history [class](#), Shelley was a pioneer in gothic writing because she took the "mad scientist" trope of classical fiction and used the characters in *Frankenstein* to create a fantastical world which reflected real-world social commentary. The genre of science fiction has been known to hide messages and warnings of present day in works set in the future. It is when the reader realizes that the seemingly outlandish events in the story are eerily similar to those that happen outside their door that science fiction is truly understood. Mary Shelley's work opened up a new genre and paved the way for more social and political commentary in science fiction like *1984*, *Fahrenheit 451*, *Ender's Game*, and *Stranger in a Strange Land*.

Naturally, this article could go on for pages upon pages, going through the works and achievements of female writers like Jane Austen, Margaret Atwood, Toni Morrison, Maya Angelou, and more. However, educating

oneself about the achievements of womankind is not something that can be done through the reading of one measly article. It takes continuous effort to seek out knowledge for yourself, to read about women's history, which is endlessly expanding as historians uncover more and more. Inevitably, you will reach the same conclusion as me: that no matter how many times you are told otherwise, women have always had a place in literature and they will continue to do so until the end of time.

ENTERTAINMENT IN THE COVID ERA

March 25, 2021

By Noah Barrett

Hollywood was prepared and ready for a bad box office year when Coronavirus hit the world. The box office was first negatively affected when the Chinese government shut down theaters on January 23, ruining the releases of major feature films such as *Mulan* and *Fast and Furious 9* which would have made most of their profit from China's box office. As COVID-19 spread, other countries closed theaters and delayed the opening of numerous feature films. For example, producer Barbara Broccoli made the tedious decision to move the James Bond film, *No Time To Die*, from its April 2020 release date to November 2020 and eventually made the release date April 2021. During the beginning of the pandemic, movie theaters in major American cities like New York, Washington, D.C. and Los Angeles have begun to reduce admission or close completely to correspond with the increase in COVID-19 cases.

Most of the major movies set to premiere in the next few months which include *Mulan*, *Fast and Furious 9*, *A Quiet Place 2* and *Black Widow*, have been delayed to various degrees. *Fast 9* pushed its release date an entire year forward, while other postponed release dates remain unannounced. Many film festivals, like the famous Tribeca Film Festival located in New York City, were postponed to further dates. Recently, the box office hit a 20-year low, down 60% from a year ago. Movie theaters did better the weekend after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 than they are currently doing now. The National Association of Theaters have requested a bailout from the federal government to support the 150,000 people who work at and for movie theaters during the pandemic.

Meanwhile, Nielsen found a 6% increase in television viewing across America over the year and a 13% increase in the use of streaming devices, which also includes Smart TVs and Streaming Sticks. Nielsen firm's research has found that during times when people are forced to stay in their homes, they increase the amount of content they watch on TV or streaming by as much as 60%. TV-watching has increased in countries that were hit early and hard by Coronavirus: South Korea saw a 17% increase in TV viewing, according to Nielsen, and Italy has seen a 12% increase in TV watching in the Lombardy region, the main center of the Coronavirus outbreak, according to The Italian Industry Committee in 2020.

Currently, the future of the movie industry is uncertain. The marketing machine took time to come to a stop. With numerous cases and complications, studios are trying to rapidly calculate how to cut their losses. At first, many swore that it simply did not make economic sense for big studios to ship films straight to streaming in an effort to recoup some profits. However, Universal broke its theatrical windows and announced that it would offer many feature films including *Emma*, *The Hunt*, and *The Invisible Man* to stream for \$19.99. As the pandemic continues, streaming devices continue to profit and increase, while theaters decrease in profit due to the risk of the COVID-19 Virus.

THE YEAR WE WILL NEVER FORGET: A RETROSPECTIVE REFLECTION

March 25, 2021

By Anna-Marisa Dimisko

One year has passed since March 13th, 2020. It has now been over 365 days since the entire world was introduced to a "new normal," whatever that means. I can still fully recall our last "regular" day in school when the majority of us were truly unaware of the changes that were about to occur. As my memory drifts back to that infamous date, I can still hear the jokes we made about not seeing everyone again until the following September. I can hear the uncertainty present in my teachers' voices as they attempted to give each student a clear outlook on the upcoming weeks in regard to their lesson plans. Having been in my junior year at the time, I was honestly looking forward to the "two-week break." Initially, I viewed it as an opportunity to rejuvenate and revive from pre-existing stress that I was experiencing. During this time at home, I planned to catch up on upcoming school assignments, study for my ACTs, fix my sleep schedule, research more college programs, etc. I figured that we, naturally, would return to school after two weeks had passed. Everything would, in a sense, return back to the way it had been. The two weeks off from school would have little to no effect, for I assumed that many of us would eventually forget about it after we returned to Lourdes.

I did not realize the seriousness of the situation until I spoke with my older sister over that first weekend of our time away. My sister, who was supposed to be returning to college, informed me that her spring-break would be extended indefinitely. All of her classes had been rescheduled to an online format for the remainder of the 2020 spring semester. Every student was urged to stay home and only return to campus once to clean out his or her dorm rooms. After hearing this news, a realization suddenly became crystal clear: if it was not safe for my sister to return back to college any time soon, how would I be able to attend in-person classes after the two weeks? How would simple activities, such as grocery shopping, eating in restaurants, and hanging out with other people be considered safe? Without any surprise, our two-week period of online learning was extended another few weeks and, eventually, the ultimate decision to go fully remote for the remainder of the year was made. Living in a world where I had little to no interaction with others would have been a preposterous idea to grapple with, yet I was existing in it every day. The fact that I had not experienced personal contact with any individuals, besides my immediate family, since March 13, 2020, had not exactly registered with me. Every week proved to be the same as the last; the only difference was my motivation level, which seemed to be steadily declining with the passing of each day. During this time, I forbade myself

from feeling sad or even slightly disappointed at the current state of the world. I told myself that I should be grateful for the situation that I was in. Unlike many people at this time, I was not suffering from the extreme effects of the pandemic. For instance, both of my parents still had their careers while working from home. Additionally, no one within my family had contracted the virus. This "neglecting" of my inner feelings challenged my mental health; I felt alone and as if I truly had no friends. I refused to admit that COVID could actually cast a dark, impassable shadow over my life. I overlooked the minuscule amount of motivation that I had towards completing schoolwork, let alone signing on to Canvas each day. As expected, I felt completely indifferent to the last day of online classes before the summer break, for I dreaded the idea of having an immense amount of time on my hands.

When one disregards his or her emotions, "bottled up" emotions build up. Like anything that gradually accumulates over time, feelings cannot stay trapped. Eventually, they will continue to further escalate and push through the temporary "jar" that they have been placed in. As I am writing this, I can still clearly picture my moment of release. I see myself standing in front of my mirror, staring at my reflection. I see myself acknowledging the change that has occurred in everyone's life, regardless of their situation, over the past few months. Most importantly, I see myself acknowledging the negative impact that the pandemic has had on my mental well-being.

If you asked me to define the year 2020 with a few words, I believe it would be best answered as "a rollercoaster of emotions" which would include sadness, anger, frustration, and doubt. However, despite this constant whirlwind, I do not regret anything that has happened over the past year. I have managed to find good within these past months. Although I cannot speak for every individual, I believe that all of us have learned to not take simple things, such as regularly attending in-person school, for granted. As for myself, I know that I have learned about the vast importance that personal interaction has on people's lives. In particular, one aspect of the pandemic that I am grateful for is my family. Throughout this time, I have become more aware of the continual support that my parents provide for my sister and me. I have come to the realization that my parents also endured their challenges with some of the same "rollercoaster of emotions" that I experienced. However, they attempted to keep everything as "normal" as possible, trying their best to see this "new normal" as a once-in-a-lifetime event that is truly temporary and will one day be recorded in academic history books for future generations to learn about.

Now that I am a senior in high school, I have come to realize that life itself brings about a "new normal" with each changing phase of life, such as graduating high school. Ironically, we never label an event like high school graduation as a "new normal," since we have essentially planned for this event based on the choices we have made. Instead, we call it "the next great thing" to experience. The experience of the last year has neither been a "new normal" nor "the next great thing" to happen for me (and I dare say for any of us). Truly, it has been a time in which I experienced my innermost emotions, fears, and challenges – and it continues to this day. However, with each passing day, I am comforted knowing that my family is always there to support and hold me up with their love, encouragement, and strength. I can and will persevere with the firm belief that better days are coming, yet we cannot be so bold as to count them like days of a week. Truly, the "new normal" or "next great thing" awaiting us will be defined by what we have learned of ourselves over the past year. Our love and care for each other, which includes reaching out for aid when needed, will ultimately help us to find peace in all that we experience within our lives.

ONE YEAR LATER: HOW STUDENTS ARE ADJUSTING TO HYBRID LEARNING

March 24, 2021

By Julia Morales

During the coronavirus pandemic, many of us have put our lives on hold. One aspect of normalcy that children have depended on is school. But has the different learning environment affected students' motivation and social interactions? The concept of physically attending school has always been second nature. A two week precaution last March turned into a year-long disruption of student life. Fortunately, Our Lady of Lourdes has taken the initiative and formulated a plan that allows students to attend school on a hybrid schedule. Hybrid learning is a combination of traditional face-to-face instruction and online learning. The student body is split into two cohorts based on last name. While one cohort attends in-person school, the other cohort learns from home. This system allows students to attend classes in person 2-3 times a week. No matter which cohort a student is in, classes begin at 8:10 in the morning every day. Students are expected to follow a normal schedule regardless of whether they are learning from home or in school. Unlike most school districts, Lourdes emphasizes the importance of a consistent schedule; consistency symbolizes stability, which will set students up for academic success.

What are the benefits of hybrid learning? Typically, most children would not have envisioned themselves attending school both physically and virtually in the same week. Hybrid learning has allowed many students to obtain more hours of sleep per night. Time normally allotted for morning transportation can be spent in bed sleeping. Getting more hours of sleep helps students' overall performance and attentiveness by reducing stress and allowing them to think more clearly.

Nina Fiordaliso, a junior who uses hybrid learning, says, "I think hybrid learning is beneficial because I get to be in a more comfortable environment when I am learning [from home]," but that being in person every other day is also helpful because sometimes information in a lesson can be lost or miscommunicated due to technological issues. "I think that a physical presence in school and in-person teaching is very important in keeping a student attentive and intrigued in the topics being presented," says Jason Kasper, a hybrid classmate of Nina's. He also commented on the factor of hybrid learning presenting a combination of comfortable learning at home and being able to interact with classmates at school.

Although hybrid learning has created a sense of normalcy, it has also posed many challenges for students.

Since the student body is divided in half, the freshmen class has been unable to meet half of its classmates. In contrast to traditional learning, all material is taught on Chromebooks, rather than paper and pencil. Freshman Jackie Kozakiewicz notes, "Focusing in class at school is already difficult, and now being expected to pay attention and be active at home on a computer screen for six hours everyday, it's overwhelming." In addition to classwork, all homework, tests, quizzes, and projects are completed online. Spending an excessive amount of time staring at a screen can result in headaches, lack of physical activity, and eye strain. Despite the safety that comes with digital lessons and projects, it is challenging for students to spend six consecutive hours online, take electronic tests, and complete their homework on their Chromebooks all in one day, especially for students who have never used a Chromebook or laptop of any kind for school.

School is so much more than a place of learning. It provides students with an environment that allows them to interact with faculty, coaches, and peers, which encourages them to build healthy relationships with others. Madison Montemayor, a sophomore who is fully remote, says that she prefers in-person learning because she experiences "lots of distractions by staying in the house." She also noted one of the hardest things about online learning: being separated from peers, and how difficult it is to make friends when one never sees them.

Due to safety precautions, all lunch is eaten in classrooms, rather than in the cafeteria. By doing away with lunch in the cafeteria, which was divided among four class periods, all four grades no longer have the opportunity to interact with each other in the cafeteria. In addition, desks are six feet apart from each other in all classrooms. Although students have more personal space, many students feel the new layout of class makes it more challenging to interact with one another. Senior Ryan Murphy adds, "It has been kind of challenging interacting with people... It is especially challenging at school, because students are so spaced out, it makes it hard to have a conversation with someone. Plus there are less people to talk to in class." All students, more specifically newer students, are struggling to develop friendships while having to maintain social distancing regulations.

Despite the numerous changes students have had to experience in order to stay safe, they have adapted to their new surroundings and have kept moving forward. Since the beginning of the school year, Our Lady of Lourdes has changed the meaning of the word 'normal.' Lourdes has protected its students, giving them the opportunity to interact with their teachers and peers, both online and in person, while advancing their academic goals.



If you are interested in writing for the newspaper, contact either the moderator, Mrs. Katz, or the editor-in-chief, Kate Csisack.

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LOURDES TEACHERS RECEIVE TEACHER APPRECIATION

By Kate Csisack

This last year has been one of the most challenging experiences that many of us have had to deal with, especially in trying to keep up with our education. Here at Our Lady of Lourdes, we have so many people to thank for keeping us learning, whether we be in the classroom, virtual, hybrid, synchronous, or asynchronous. The short list includes Mrs. Merryman, Mrs. Villardo, Mr. Fernandez, Nurse Barrick, and so many, many more that have done so much to help the students. We also have to thank our amazing teachers, who have adapted

AWARDS

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their lessons to fit the ever-changing circumstances, and who have dealt with innumerable technological difficulties, all while facing the natural obstacles of teaching.

That is why this year, more than ever, we are so excited to share that some of the faculty have been presented with Hudson Valley Magazine's Teacher Appreciation Awards! Mrs. Gateson and Mrs. Katz were nominated for their roles in helping to design Lourdes' hybrid learning plan so that we could come back to school this year, in addition to their never-ending commitment to their students. Mrs. Gehlhoft was nominated for her commitment to teaching Spanish and keeping the Spanish Club up and running even though meetings have to be virtual. Mr. Herles was nominated because of his work in building up Lourdes' STEM programs and increasing hands-on learning in his classroom. Mr. Keenan was nominated for his dedication to the support of his students and all of our Warrior athletes. Mr. Rutigliano was nominated for his help in training the other teachers to use some of the new programs they have used this year to keep teaching.

To all the teachers at Lourdes, thank you for all you have done and are doing to help the students keep learning during these difficult times. The last year has been such a challenge, and we cannot thank you enough. If you would like to read the full article on the awards by the Hudson Valley Magazine and celebrate all the incredible teachers throughout the Hudson Valley, please visit their website [here](#).

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SWITCHING UP SENIOR TRADITIONS

March 23, 2021

by Gianna Desdune

This school year has been incredibly challenging for all students, but as a result of Covid restrictions, the class

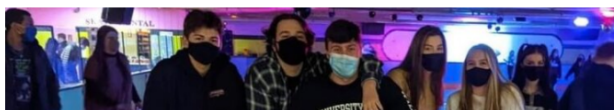
of 2021 has not been able to enjoy the usual senior traditions such as the senior trip to Disney World. Instead, the administration has put together an amazing list of fun but safe activities that the seniors will have the opportunity to enjoy.

The first senior event took place on February 26th at Roller Magic. The seniors got to spend a safe, action-packed day with friends and faculty. Mr. Fernandez challenged anyone who wanted to try to race him around the rink, and two students took him up on it. Mr. Fernandez won the first challenge against Robert Polidoro, but he lost the second one to Ryan Connolly. Some of our seniors won gift cards to Five Below, Panera, and two free tickets to Six Flags Great Adventure. This day of games, skating, and celebration is one our seniors will never forget.

To make sure none of the seniors miss out on the exciting trips to come, they were given the option to go back to school in person for five days a week starting March 8th. One of the many events the seniors certainly won't want to miss is a trip to Six Flags Great Adventure on April 30th.

The seniors' last day of class is on May 26th, and what better way to celebrate the day than with an outdoor movie night? The day after, on May 27th, our seniors get to dress to impress for an outdoor prom in the school courtyard. The seniors will also have a baccalaureate mass and a senior athletic awards ceremony on June 1st. The following day, the seniors are in for a sweet trip to Hershey Park on June 2nd. All buses taken to the parks will have spaced seating for social distancing. Masks are required at all events, as well as other safety precautions to make sure our seniors can have a safe and enjoyable time.

A graduation ceremony on June 4th will conclude the year for the class of 2021, as they embark on their next chapters. Our seniors are in for a very exciting rest of the year, full of friendship, celebration, and adventure!





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CARDINAL DOLAN BLESSES NEW ATHLETIC

by Julia Biamonte and Akasha Cervantes

Timothy Cardinal Dolan came to Our Lady of Lourdes High School on February 10, 2021 to bless and dedicate the brand new Health and Wellness Center during its grand opening ceremony. As he entered the school, the

FACILITIES

March 23, 2021

Cardinal's kindness was immediately displayed as he greeted and joked with the younger children, Sophia and Daniel, and everyone in attendance. He greeted Mrs. Merryman with great joy and noted how happy he was to be visiting OLL again.

Cardinal Dolan walked around the school and looked in on many of our classrooms, taking time to meet students and teachers. He stopped in the classroom of Mrs. Graham, who has been teaching for more than 30 years. He talked to her English students about the importance of writing. As he walked down the halls, he commented on the school's history depicted in the many photographs on our walls.

As Cardinal Dolan and Mrs. Merryman entered the Wellness Center, they were met by many amazing people who contributed to its building and construction. Mrs. Merryman publicly thanked the many individuals and organizations who helped the Center to be built, such as the Archdiocese of NY, the James J. McCann Charitable Trust, Teresa and Albert Rotunno Family Foundation, Inc., Our Lady of Lourdes Fund Inc., The Connolly Family, and the Millbrook Tribute Garden Inc.

After many greetings and laughs, Cardinal Dolan began his blessing of the Wellness Center. "We entreat Your blessing upon this place with these magnificent facilities that they may renew and strengthen the soul, mind, and body," Cardinal Dolan prayed. In a memorable moment that will live in Lourdes' history for years to come, he blessed the center. The cutting of the ribbon signified a new beginning for OLL. Cardinal Dolan reflected on this, saying, "You're building for the future and that's a shot of hope that we all need."

The facilities are beautifully decorated in blue and gold with the Warriors' logo featured throughout the space. The new center has cardio equipment, weight machines, new locker rooms, a classroom for a physical education class, and a splendid dance studio. The cheer team has found the new dance room very helpful in practicing their routines and have been grateful to have access to equipment such as mirrors and mats. The weight room has been a fantastic way to get in shape during pre-season. There is a variety of different types of equipment that help strengthen every part of the body.

The new addition has allowed practices of different sports to be able to take place at the same time but in different areas, which had been a conflict in the past. The additional spaces have made it very easy to maintain safety and distance during COVID due to the tremendous amount of space. The new Athletic Facility

has been a great addition to Lourdes. We are all proud to be Lourdeans, and our powerful sense of community and school spirit is demonstrated by this investment in our school.



The new equipment in the Weight Room

The new equipment in the Weight Room



The ribbon-cutting ceremony



Cardinal Dolan reads the blessing

CLUBS DURING COVID: MOVING TOWARDS NORMALCY

March 23, 2021

by Kate Csisack

One of the best things about being a Lourdean is the rich community within the school. A large component of the development of this community is student involvement in extracurricular activities. In a typical school year, about 27 clubs and 31 sports teams are actively meeting, holding amazing events, and enriching our community. However, as a result of the pandemic, not all clubs and sports were able to go back to what they had been in previous years. Fortunately, some were able to make a comeback. The 2020-2021 school year has seen the addition of new clubs like the Psychology Club, the People of Color Culture Club, and the return of the Spanish Club, Yearbook Club, Newspaper Club, and the Jane Austen Society.

Since in-person meetings have not been possible this year, OLL clubs have turned to online interactions instead. While Google Meets can be restrictive for a lot of activities, many have managed to adapt. The Psychology Club has been doing fun self-care crafts, like making stress balls and vision boards over Meet sessions. They have also had the opportunity to bring guest speakers from the field of psychology into their Meets so the club members can interact with them. The People of Color Culture Club has been able to hold Meets and talk about different traditional celebrations, individuals' ancestry, and current events. They wrote short biographies of important Black figures in history for Black History Month and member Mei Rao created an infographic about the Chinese Lunar New Year. Their contributions were all shared with the school community. The Spanish Club has been able to meet, converse, and engage in online activities like Kahoot (or Gimkit in Spanish). They even made a video at Christmas so they could spread Christmas cheer to everyone who needed it this year.

While things have been a little difficult for the Yearbook Club while working remotely, they are doing an incredible job designing this year's yearbook and capturing all the amazing moments that Lourdeans have had this year, even though they may look a little different. The Jane Austen Society has been able to have Meets and discuss the works of Ms. Austen - first the classic *Pride and Prejudice* and now *Emma* - as well as the history and culture in which her books are set. This is the Newspaper Club's first issue of the paper since the pandemic started last year, and we are so excited to share with the community what we have put together.

The students and teachers involved in all these clubs have been so happy to get back to seeing each other's committed to making the best of what we have.

If you have any interest in joining any of the clubs mentioned above, they are gladly accepting new members and cannot wait to make new memories in what is left of this year and the years to come.

Mrs. Ghelhoff - Spanish Club

Mrs. Patterson - Psychology Club

Mrs. Maserjian & Mrs. Kolosky - Yearbook Club

Ms. Zazzarino - People of Color Culture Club

Mrs. Soltis - Jane Austen Society

Mrs. Katz - Newspaper Club

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THE COVID EFFECT ON SPORTS

March 25, 2021

By Olivia Cassieri

Hearing the phrase "You made the team" can leave you with an ecstatic feeling. Making the winning touchdown, goal, spike, pass, basket, or beating your personal record makes you feel like you're on top of the world. Now, just imagine having to go a year or longer without feeling those sensations and sharing them with your teammates. Luckily, many schools across the country didn't have to go through this trauma. Here at Lourdes, we have the opportunity to continue the sports we love, even if they may take place during a

different season, by including the necessary safety precautions. However, will the effect on high school sports be short term or are we in for the long run?

Surprisingly, participation in high school sports started to decline before the pandemic commenced. According to The High School Athletics Participation Survey, issued by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), the highest ever recorded student participation in high school sports was 7,980,886 in the 2017-18 school year. The 2018-2019 school year documented a 43,395 participant decline from the previous year at 7,937,491 participants. If student athlete numbers were already starting to drop before 2020, this could possibly continue as certain risks are increased due to COVID-19.

Another question proposed is, what about those seniors? For college athletes, the NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) has granted fall and winter sports members another year of eligibility. So, most people want to know if it will be the same for seniors. The rule for all states is that those who turn 19 before September 1st aren't permitted to compete. In essence, the older athletes could be taking away a younger performer's spot. However, the only two states that are considering the additional year are Maryland and Kentucky. Good thing for us, the sports at Lourdes have had an opportunity to compete so far.

Being an athlete myself, I know how great it is to be on a team and experience all the different benefits of being active. There is much to gain when involved in sports including better academics, time management, leadership skills, mentorship, and great physical/mental health.

I recently interviewed a student about her experience during the basketball season. I asked her, "How was this year different from last year and how did it affect you?" She answered that wearing the mask made the exertion of running up and down the court multiple times very strenuous. There was also the effect of no spectators. "It was very hard not having anyone watch the games, especially having my parents watch the game from the parking lot." However, her positive outlook on the season shined when she said, "I am glad that I still had a successful season and got close with new people!"

However, during these times engaging in after school activities comes with a price. I asked my fellow athlete if her schedule was packed and if she found it hard to keep up with all her work. She told me that practicing or playing late games seven days a week made it challenging to finish the workload each day. "I would get home

late every night, even on weekends," she explained. These are the conditions that most athletes at this time are experiencing, along with being flexible, committing to pre-season workouts/training, and basically preparing for anything.

This year, high school athletes need pastimes more than ever. It is a great outlet to be doing something you love, while also improving your skills. Questions still remain like how COVID-19 will affect senior athletes, if attendance in sports will continually decline, and how much longer we will need to wear masks when playing games, but it is fortunate that the opportunity to be a member of a team still stands. Once we get back to a form of normalcy, we won't take the ability to watch a game in the stands for granted.

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MARCH MADNESS

March 25, 2021

By Ryan Murphy

It has been a long two years since the annual March Madness tournament last took place. Since its beginning in 1939, March Madness has become a tradition with people of all ages. Not sure what March Madness is? Let me fill you in. March Madness is the ultimate tournament of college basketball. College basketball teams play many games during the regular season, before March Madness begins to obtain the best possible record they can have. Only the top 64 teams in the country can compete in this competition. The teams are then given a rank based on their regular season record. When the tournament begins, the best teams play the teams with the worst records. Within the first two days of the tournament beginning, half of the teams are eliminated and their seasons are over. It's win or go home for these college teams. Then during the next two days, half of the teams remaining are eliminated. At the end of this round, there are only 16 teams left, also known as the

"Sweet 16." The next two days of the tournament occur and (you guessed it) half of the remaining teams are eliminated. Now there is the "Elite Eight," then the "Final Four," then the National Championship. The winner of March Madness has a massive celebration honoring their team and coaching staff.

March Madness isn't just fun for the players though; it's a whole experience for the fans. Aside from just watching the game, fans usually fill out brackets with all the teams that they think will win. Many people have contests with their friends to see how many they can get right. Everyone strives to get a perfect bracket because if someone does make a perfect bracket, they can win some money. If someone can correctly predict every winning team and submit their bracket through ESPN, that person can win 1 billion dollars. No one has ever made a perfect bracket, but the chance of winning 1 billion dollars is enough to keep any fan motivated each year. This year no one got a perfect bracket. In fact, there were so many upsets this year that by the end of the first day 99% of brackets were eliminated from being perfect. One significant upset included Oral Roberts, a 15 seed, defeating Ohio State, a 2 seed. Another very significant upset was UCLA, an 11 seed, making a "Cinderella Run" to the final four before losing to the number 1 seed, Gonzaga. In the National Championship, Baylor surprisingly upset Gonzaga 86-70. Fans will be anxiously waiting for next year's March Madness tournament. There are only 338 days until March Madness starts up again, but who's counting?

If you are interested in writing for the newspaper, contact either the moderator, Mrs. Katz, or the editor-in-chief, Kate Csisack.

THE WARRIOR
NEWSPAPER

FRONT PAGE SCHOOL NEWS CULTURE SPORTS ARCHIVE STAFF

ARCHIVE

This section of *The Warrior* is devoted to archiving past issues of the newspaper. With the current model of Squarespace, there is no strong method of archiving past issues of the newspaper that are from the new online model. Currently, the process of archiving past issues are compiling screenshots of the front page, section pages, and different articles into a large PDF.

PAST ISSUE PDF FILES

FALL/WINTER ISSUE 2014

WINTER ISSUE 2015

SPRING ISSUE 2016

SUMMER ISSUE 2016

FALL ISSUE 2017

WINTER ISSUE 2018

SPRING ISSUE 2018

WINTER ISSUE 2019

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