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## Key Club Unlocks Lunch for Guidance

by Bella Blind

Guidance Appreciation Week took place on February 1 through February 5. The WHHS Key Club took advantage of this opportunity to show their appreciation for the guidance department by hosting lunch for them.

The guidance lunch occurred on February 3, an early release day. The Key Club purposely planned this lunch on an early release day so that guidance would have enough time to eat their lunch. The lunch served was KFC chicken paired with sides of mash potatoes, biscuits, coleslaw, and topped with a sweet dessert of cake. Along with the lunch, Key Club members made goodie bags and cards to hand out to guidance counselors and other staff members. The lunch was held in the front office break room area.

A lot of planning went into making this lunch a possibility for the guidance counselors with about \$500 dollars allocated for this event.

"We wanted to show our appreciation," reported current Key Club President, Senior Molly Koos, "because they do so much, and they don't get the recognition."

Koos stated that the biggest struggle when it came to preparing the lunch was the lack of sides and the fact that the office staff could not congregate together and converse while eating. However, even though this was a problem for the club, the guidance counselors still enjoyed their lunch.

"The whole thing [the lunch] was nice," Cynthia Jaime recounted with a smile.

Jaime is the College and Career Specialist, and she stated that she works very closely with guidance counselors and students. She has countless tasks, ranging from meeting with seniors to discuss their plans for their future, to helping seniors find the answers they need to be successful.

"It [the lunch] was an extra nice treat with the goodie bag and card, and of course [it was nice] having a nice hot lunch for a change. I wasn't rushing to eat. It was very nice that it was planned out on an early release because I was able to have a relaxable, enjoyable lunch."

Joanne Farthing, school counselor, agreed that the lunch was very pleasant, and it was a "special day."

"It was really sweet to be thought of," stated Farthing. "The group [Key Club members] was very thoughtful. There were so many kids helping out and they gave up their early release day for that... I think it was very cool of the Key Club to do that and [for the guidance department] to get recognized."

Farthing stated she appreciates not only the Key Club, but also Dr. Miller, the Key Club sponsor, for helping to organize this event.

According to Koos, the Key Club has a special event upcoming for Teacher Appreciation Week.  
**Drama Students Sweep ACTFest**

by Loc Dinh

Receiving the highest rating possible in all of their performances, the Blue Devil Drama students triumphed in ACTFest 2021. ACTFest brings in industry professionals to act as judges, to teach workshops, and to give practical feedback.

In addition to all superiors, Senior Michael Palacios received a Critics' Choice award in the Original Script/Screenwriting category for his play *The Fall of Society*.

"I felt really honored because all the hard work actually paid off and especially since I didn't have much experience in this field," said Palacios.

Sophomore Makila Powell won superior in Monologue playing Amanda from *The Glass Menagerie*. Junior Holly Fritz garnered a superior in Musical Theatre Solo for "Ireland," from *Legally Blonde, the Musical*; and Senior Savannah Hooks earned a superior in the same category for "I Dreamed a Dream," from *Les Misérables*.

"I think I was nervous and thought I could have definitely done better," said Hooks.

In the Musical Theatre Ensemble category, Makila Powell, Savannah Hooks, Sophomore Riley Coleman and Sophomore Cameron Weeks won for "Say My Name," "I Dreamed a Dream." Sophomore Riley Coleman and Sophomore Cameron Weeks won for "Say My Name," "I Dreamed a Dream." from *Beetlejuice the Musical*.

"Most of the rehearsals were held in our own auditorium and I felt pretty good," said Weeks. "I thought everyone I was working with did well too."

Despite sweeping with all superiors in the competition, the Blue Devil Drama students continue to strive to perfect their craft.

Six high schools competed in the event as it is open to all theatre students in a Polk County public school.



Junior Hunter Mathews and other Key Club members serve KFC to the guidance department.



Senior Savannah Hooks performs her solo for *Les Misérables* singing "I Dreamed a Dream."

Sophomore Riley Coleman and Sophomore Cameron Weeks won for "Say My Name," "I Dreamed a Dream." from *Beetlejuice the Musical*.

"I think I was nervous and thought I could have definitely done better," said Hooks.

In the Musical Theatre Ensemble category, Makila Powell, Savannah Hooks, Sophomore Riley Coleman and Sophomore Cameron Weeks won for "Say My Name," "I Dreamed a Dream." from *Beetlejuice the Musical*.

## Senior Calendar



Yearbook Sales  
02/01 - 04/30 \$75  
05/01 until sold out \$80

**TBA: Graduation Announcement Delivery** – Graduation announcements will be delivered in the cafeteria during all lunches

**TBA: Prom** –

**TBA: Senior Meeting/Cap n Gown Delivery**

Senior graduation meeting, 8:30 auditorium; cap/n gown orders will be delivered in the cafeteria following sr. meeting

**May 21: Grad Walk**, voluntary-Denison Stadium (seniors arrive 7am) 8 am walk the field with classmates, wear cap'n gown, parents invited, park on Denison side of field.

**TBA: Chain of Lakes Grad March voluntary**-seniors walk the halls in celebration of the Class of 2021 in cap'n gown attire cheered on by elementary students

**TBA: Grad Bash-Universal Studios & Islands of Adventure:** tickets-\_\_\_\_ no bills larger than a \$20, ticket sales \_\_\_\_\_

**TBA: Senior Exam dates**

**TBA: Official Senior last day**

**TBA: YEARBOOK PARTY** TBA-Mrs. Jaime

**May 1 Community Service Hours due for award purposes**

**TBA: Baccalaureate** – The Winter Haven Ministerial Association sponsors this senior event. First Presbyterian Church, 637 6th Street NW, Winter Haven, FL 33881, 4 pm (lineup for seniors 3:30)

**TBA: Senior Awards:** Winter Haven High School auditorium, 6 pm, invited seniors arrive 5:30 (individual scholarships)

**TBA: Mandatory senior breakfast, 9 am, Nora Mayo Hall**, 500 3rd St. NW, Winter Haven, sr. accolades distributed

**TBA: Graduation Practice Mandatory Practice**, 9 am RP Funding Center 701 W. Lime Street, Lakeland, FL 33815

**May 24: Graduation** 7 pm, RP Funding Center, Seniors arrive 4 pm, doors open to the public 4:00 pm

**Contact Information:**

School Website: [www.winterhavenhs.com](http://www.winterhavenhs.com)

School Phone: (863) 291-5330

WHHS Facebook page – search @winterhavenhs

Leonard's (Senior Portraits): 1(888) 224-5045

[www.leonards.com](http://www.leonards.com)

Jostens (yearbook) 1(800) 567-8367

[www.jostens.com/](http://www.jostens.com/)

Herff-Jones (Cap n Gowns): (727) 545-3288

[www.HerffJonesTampaBay.com](http://www.HerffJonesTampaBay.com)

Senior Class Sponsors: Cindi Jaime (Cynthia.Jaime@polk-fl.net #291-5330 ext. 421)

Gina Cea, Rob Fritz



(From left to right) Sophomore Gracie Robertson, Junior Natalie Williams, and Sophomore Ivy Muller have been selected for the 2021 Polk County All County Chorus.

**Editors-in-Chief** - Bella Blind, Loc Dinh

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Grace Corkins, Loc Dinh, Cassandra

Hendron, Luci Lippelgoos, Ty Nguyen,

Xithlalic Vasquez

## Congratulations

Junior Anderson Garner was named a Sunshine State Scholar.

Congratulations to Senior Jadyn Knox and her Hampshire cross Cosmo for winning first place at the Youth Fair.

Congratulations to the following students for being selected for the 2021 Polk County All County Chorus: Ivy Muller and Gracie Robertson, sophomores; Natalie Williams, junior; and Christopher Hostetler and Thomas Bennet, seniors.

Congratulations to the following students who passed their ServSAfe Manager certification in culinary: Juniors Tyler Luby, Mitchell Villanueva, Sierra Gilcakis; Seniors Jose Gutierrez and Taylor Lingley. To celebrate, graduate Jordan Isaacs, who attended the culinary program at Johnson and Wales University in North Miami, demonstrated how to make pasta from scratch and served the winners a special meal.

Congratulations to these wrestlers who competed in the District Tournament with these results: Seniors Noah Berto-District Champion, Janiel Colon-2nd place, Jake Rudd-3rd place, and Deven Sinett-4th place.

Congratulations to Our Nominees for the Silver Garland Award:

Trinity Hardy-athletics

Asier Arambarri-citizenship

Kara Scarbrough-communications

Taylor Lingley-English/literature

Vivian Cai-foreign language

Nicholas Lopez-mathematics

Kennedy Chambers-performing arts

Philrosen Monfiston Sejour-science

Ethan Thomas-vocational/technology

(Congratulations continued on pg 3)



From Johnson & Wales University, Jordan Isaacs, graduate of 2017, demonstrates to Senior Jose Gutierrez how to make pasta to congratulate him for earning ServSafe Manager Certification.



Congratulations to Freshman Luci Lippelgoos who, along with 35 other skiers, was named to the Guinness Book of World Records for the Most Swivel Skiers behind a boat when all 35 performed a 360 degree turn.



Congratulations to Senior Jadyn Knox and her Hampshire cross Cosmo for winning first place at the Youth Fair.

*The mission of the Trident is to keep the students, staff, and community of Winter Haven informed about news related to Winter Haven High School in order to entertain, congratulate, and motivate our readers while promoting a positive atmosphere*

**Trident**

Published by WHHS Journalism Class  
Winter Haven High School  
600 Sixth Street, S.E.  
Winter Haven, Florida 33880  
(863) 291-5330  
Website: [www.winterhavenhs.com](http://www.winterhavenhs.com)

# TOUCHING ON TALENT

## Student Blows up on TikTok

by Erik Clemons Jr

Recording her boyfriend's TikTok videos and then reacting to them as well as recording her own created a buzz for Isabella Arango. This senior was inspired by the fact that she can grow and become an influencer, which means traveling and making money by promoting her page.

"When my first video got lots of views, I knew I needed to keep going," said Isabella. Her goal is to reach 500k followers and possibly keep growing after she reaches her goal.

"I saw lots of growth and began taking it seriously," said Isabella.

Her favorite part about content creating is "getting invited to be with other influencers and meeting them and being able to make money."

"Her Tiktoks are so warm and cute, especially the ones with her boyfriend. She does a great job all the time," said one of her many followers.

Her account is sitting on 84.0k followers with over 1.6 million likes.



Sophomore Davia Martin poses for her photo shoot.



## Student Overcomes Challenges to Become a Model

by Xithlalic Vasquez

Davia Martin, sophomore, started modeling after posing with her older sister on Instagram and received attention. She was the face of GAP kids, but she currently wants to focus on school since modeling is a type of hobby for her.

Modeling gave Davia opportunities to "meet other people with vitiligo. Before I modeled, I hadn't ever seen anyone else with it, not even online; and when I started modeling, I started seeing more and more people like me."

Vitiligo is a disease that causes the loss of skin color in blotches. It occurs when pigment-producing cells die or stop functioning.

She travels and has to miss school for photoshoots and even though it's more a hobby, she would like to keep it as a possible option for after high school.

by Grace Corkins

Sophomore Maralee Thompson is a fifteen-year-old actress. She can be seen in *Walt Before Mickey*, *Andrea Perron: House of Darkness*, *House of Light*, and *Paperback*. She has worked with actresses such as Jodie Sweetin from *Full House*, David Henri from *Wizards of Waverly Place*, Lisa Kudrow from *Friends*, and Tina Fey from *Saturday Night Live*.

Thompson began acting at age six. She started acting because she wanted to become a model, and her agent sent her out on both acting and modeling auditions. She continues acting because she enjoys it and gets to meet a lot of interesting people.

"I like the process and the behind the scenes work that goes into a production and it makes me feel good to see that I can entertain people."

The part that Thompson is proudest of was in a short called *Addison's World* that helped bring awareness to the struggles of the hearing impaired.

She added, "My favorite roles have been theatre. I like being on stage and I love singing."

The weirdest things she's done for a part included running around a graveyard playing hide and seek, crying over a fake dead bird, and giving a football mascot an ear piercing. Her favorite part of acting is seeing the end result of what she has worked on. Her least favorite part is being on set for hours on end without a break.



## Congratulations Cont.

Congratulations to the following student athletes who have earned scholarships to play sports in college this up-and-coming season: Owen Boyce will play baseball for Carson-Newman University, Tennessee.

Becca Mack will play volleyball for Warner University, Florida.

Jesse Williams will play golf for Miles University, Alabama.

Rease Thompson will play golf for Webber International University, Florida.

## An Editorial : Which Streaming Service Shines?

by Ty Nguyen

Ever since Netflix became the first television streaming service back in 2007, more streaming services have joined them. For cord cutters and television watchers, it can be very difficult to decide which streaming service to choose. On one hand, there are streaming services that have been running for years, which many still use today. On the other, there are very recent ones who many have been anticipating for their content. With such a wide variety of streaming options, Netflix comes out as one of the most popular options to date.

Netflix offers three payment plans to choose from: Basic, Standard, and Premium. Basic starts off at \$9, while Standard is set at \$14 and Premium costs \$18. With each plan the video quality, resolution and amount of people who can watch at the same time increases. It also does not have ads; however, its library does change consistently with new shows being added while old shows disappearing. For shows, episode updates are very slow. Payment plans may also increase due to the company wanting to invest more in feature projects. Although it doesn't have live tv, the unlimited number of movies, shows and genres helps to make up for the lack of it.

Hulu has four different payment plans. The first plan only \$6 a month or \$60 annually. There is also the option with no ads at \$12. The third plan is Hulu Plus Live TV at \$66 monthly and lastly, Hulu with no ads Plus Live TV at \$71. Hulu has a very low-priced starting plan that allows add-ons and is great at updating new episodes. However, that only applies for new shows because old shows can be seen with missing seasons. Additionally, ads can be very annoying, and a person has to pay more to remove them. Compared to other services, Hulu has a very small collection of shows and movies, but it does have the option of live tv.

Prime Video costs \$9 by itself. However, with Amazon Prime perks; it can costs up to \$13 monthly or \$119 annually. Amazon offers a free trial beforehand and does offer a payment plan for students. Customers can watch over thousands of free videos and may rent or buy movies or tv episodes if wanted. They can also subscribe to over 100 premium channels. If one were to buy the Amazon Prime plan, there are countless other benefits included. Amazon Prime has free shipping on packages, offers Prime Music, and prime photos. This plan works best for people who shop online excessively or use the other benefits Amazon has.

Disney Plus cost \$7 monthly or \$70 on its own, but it also offers two other bundles. The \$13 bundle consists of Disney Plus, ESPN, and Hulu, ad supported. The other bundle, which costs \$19, has all three, but Hulu does not have any ads. Disney Plus does not only have just Disney shows and classics but offers other channels like Pixar, Marvel, Star Wars, National Geographic and 20th Century Fox. The service itself can be buggy and slow. Also, not all films are available due to Disney having to wait for licenses with other streaming services to expire before they can use their own content again.

HBO Max starts at \$15 monthly and does have another option, a \$70 six-month plan. With HBO Max, customers have access to newly released movies, allowing them to stay at home instead of going to the movie theaters. HBO Max does not have any commercials or ads. However, it is a stand alone service and is not included with HBO. Compared to other services, its pricing may be high, but others have stated it is worthwhile for the content they are offering.

Out of the six streaming services, the best one to choose would be Netflix. Netflix has been a dominating streaming service company for many years and is still popular. It has no ads and while it may be slow on updating, it's great for others who love to binge other shows while waiting. Netflix is also available in many places and offers a variety of shows and movies from other countries and not just ones in English or just in America. Overall, for those who need a streaming service to start with, Netflix would be the best one due to its decent price and how many shows and movies it has to offer.

## Decoder Pencil Work

by Bella Blind

### Instructions:

Decode the message by matching the appropriate letters to the right place.

### Key:

A=T C=R F=L S=E O=I P=U N=G B=K D=J X=H

1. LET

2. ETA

3. TRA

4. SIR

5. EUCOGN KCSTB

6. KPOFJOGN EOH

7. NIIJ FPRB EAPJSGAE!

Answers on page 11



An unexpected guest pays a visit to testing coordinators Mrs. Lewis and Mrs. Warner.

## Students Show Their Passion for Economics

by Loc Dinh

Displaying their love for economics, the students in Mr. Brown's class, located in 35-212, started a club. The Economics Club meets every Monday and focuses on learning more about the topic.

The members plan to prepare for competitions in economic concepts and hope to gain more experience in leadership roles.

"I want to improve my leadership skills to help others and expand my knowledge on economic concepts," said Vice-President and Junior Nitya Thakkar.

Their current competition events include a rap contest based on economics, a poster contest, and a simulation event involving stocks. With the new extracurricular, the students plan to grow the interest in economics around campus.



## FBLA and HOSA Take on Competitions

by Cas Hendron



Juniors Khushabu Patel, Nitya Thakkar, and Khushi Patel display their winning medals.

With competitions going on for both FBLA and HOSA, things are starting to heat up. Due to Covid-19 restrictions and new protocols, competitions were held over zoom. Though this year's competitions underwent massive changes compared to previous years, students adjusted well.

With online competitions, there was less interaction between judges and participants, but this didn't keep students from succeeding.

"It felt like I was talking to a screen," said Deeya Patel, junior. Patel had a rough start with technical difficulties that prevented her from sharing her screen for a part of her presentation. Even with these issues though, she managed to complete her presentation and won first place in Sales Presentation as well as second place in Health Career Photography in regionals for HOSA.

"The biggest leaders have to take the biggest risk," said Patel. Her success came at the cost of many late nights and hours of hard work putting her presentation together.

Linda Robinson, FBLA director, is proud of her students for "taking the initiative to participate" and hopes that more students will begin to attend the FBLA meetings.

Five out of ten FBLA students placed first in their competition: Junior Deeya Patel in Sales Presentation, Sophomore Binskee Anilus in Introduction to information technology, Junior Moneska Metellus in Banking and Financial Systems, Senior Liberty McKinney in Client Service, and Freshman Calen Nowroozi in Spreadsheet Application.

In HOSA competition Azylah Awer, junior, placed first in Healthy Lifestyle. This year's competitions were definitely an adjustment. Students had many obstacles they never had before. Competitions have not yet come to an end, so many students will be attending the FBLA state competition in March.

## Floridians Gets Vaccinated

by Grace Corkins

2020 was a devastating year for most of the USA. With the Pandemic leading to 24.3 million cases and over 500,000 deaths, it is safe to say that Covid-19 changed the United States permanently. However, there are now approved Coronavirus vaccines being distributed and with them, a glimmer of hope for the world.

According to states.aarp.org, Florida is now administering COVID-19 vaccines to adults 65 and older, health care workers, K-12 teachers over the age of 50, and long-term care residents and staff. Vaccines have been shipped to all of the state's 67 county health departments. The state's goal was to vaccinate most people in its top priority group by February. The vaccine would then become available to more people, likely including essential workers like teachers and police officers.

Currently, Florida is limiting doses to full-time and part-time residents. People can't travel to Florida just to get a vaccine. Some vaccination sites are asking for proof of identity or eligibility. Officials recommend that one bring a driver's license or other state-issued ID that shows one's name, age, and state residency, and health insurance card. One will not be charged, but the vaccine provider may bill one's insurer a fee for administering the vaccine.



## Test Taking Tips from the Reading Coach:

by Mrs. Sue Petty

- 纏 Take a practice FSA test.
- 纏 Take the test seriously!
- 纏 Put reminder in your phone.
- 纏 Get a good night's rest.
- 纏 For Writing-plan your essay.
- 纏 Read each question carefully-some questions might ask you to choose two answers.

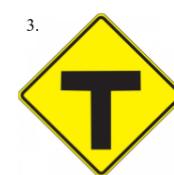
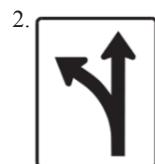
纏 Use process of elimination.

纏 Take a 1 -minute breather between passages.

纏 Answer every question.

纏 Do your best!





- 1. A. Winding Road Ahead
- B. Sharp Turn to Right
- C. Left or Through
- D. School Crosswalk Ahead
- E. Divided Highway Ahead
- F. Road Narrows
- G. Tow Away Zone
- H. Side Road Right
- I. Circular Intersection Ahead
- J. T Intersection Ahead

As soon-to-be drivers, teenagers should be prepared to know which road signs are which and what they mean. Match the signs to their meanings. Answers on page 10.

## Why are car crashes so common?

by Luci Lippelgoos

As technology advances and distractions on the road increase, so do vehicle fatalities. The number of collisions have grown over the years and will continue to climb. According to the ASIRT (Association for Safe International Road Travel) nearly 1.35 million people die in car crashes each year, 38,000 of whom are Americans. 20 to 50 million people who are involved in crashes each year suffer non-fatal yet lasting injuries.

Driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol is often one of the reasons most fatal car crashes occur. Florida drivers, who are pulled over and do not pass the BAC (breathalyzer test) may receive a fine from \$500 to \$1,000. If a passenger under the age of 18 is present in the car, then fines are bumped up \$1,000 to \$2,000. Drinking underage is also considered a second degree misdemeanor, so the offender may be fined up to \$500 and either will serve time in jail or have probation. Nearly 28% of car crash fatalities are caused by drunk driving. There are many alternative options to driving while intoxicated such as ordering an Uber or riding a bus.

Even while sober one must constantly be attentive to the road and surroundings. Texting while driving can be even more destructive than driving while intoxicated. Only three seconds is needed for a car crash to occur. According to teensdrivingsource.org, multitasking or using a phone behind the wheel can reduce the amount of brain activity which is associated with driving. It is difficult for our brains to multitask, let alone do so safely and effectively. An officer may simply pull over drivers for suspecting them to be texting while driving. When pulled over due to texting and driving, a fine may be handed out costing up to \$30 for first time offenders and \$60 for second time offenders.

Driver fatigue or a tired driver may be also likely to cause a car crash. Between school, sports, and work there is hardly enough time for teens to get enough sleep. Sleep deprived drivers may be unable to react quickly enough to an obstacle on the road. They are unable to swerve around or stop before hitting something or someone. A recent CDC survey found that 37% of workers get less than the recommended seven hours of sleep.

Whether in a rush to get to school or work or simply frustrated with other drivers on the road, drivers tend to speed. In America the average speeding ticket costs \$150. Speeding increases the stopping distance, meaning it takes longer to stop the vehicle in an emergency. The car is put at a higher risk of a rollover when speeding, and there is greater potential of losing control on the road. Along with speeding, it is also dangerous to go extremely below the speed limit. The fine for going below the speed limit is \$60.

Car crashes occur every day, and it is important to limit one's distractions to avoid car crashes. Factors such as drug and alcohol use, texting while driving, drivers fatigue, and road rage all play a serious role in one of society's largest fatalities. Students should be aware of surroundings and try to limit the amount of crashes that happen each year.

## Don't Drive Around the Online Test

by Ty Nguyen

As teenagers grow up, an important aspect of their lives is learning how to drive. In order to have a driver's license, teenagers have to first obtain a learner's permit then wait one full year. After waiting, they take their driving test at the Department of Motor Vehicles.

To get a learner's permit, a person has to pass the drug and alcohol course and the learner's permit test. Earlier, a learner would only have to pass a written test, but within recent years, both courses, the drug and alcohol and permit test, have been certified to be taken online.

A person must sign up and make an online account for websites such as First Time Driver, Lowest Price Traffic School and more. If the participant is underaged, a licensed driver's ID is required. The participant will also need to pay a fee once she or he has made an account.

For people to pass the online test, they must earn an 80% or higher by answering 40 questions correctly out of 50. Failing the test three times in a row will require the tester to come in person to the DMV and take the written test instead.

Along with these online courses, there come many concerns.

Teens can easily cheat on the online test, which endangers both them and those on the road with them. Test takers can use another window to search up answers and scroll through the thousands of Google pages, or they can call a friend to help them with the questions.

With teenagers cheating, this means they may not understand the dangers or the basic rules of driving, possibly causing an increase in accidents and reckless driving.

Also, with schools not being able to provide in-person driver's education due to budget cuts, it isn't guaranteed that teenagers will know traffic laws as well as they should when taking the exam. Before driver ed courses were cut, those who took the class would also be given a discount on car insurance.

According to Ticket School, online tests have a few advantages due to being more convenient and accessible since online tests can be taken in the homes of the tester.

Having a permit and being certified to start learning how to drive may be a great achievement to many soon-to-be drivers, but it is still important to go over the guidebook and learn traffic laws to help both the upcoming drivers and other drivers around them.



## WHHS Teen Hit by Vehicle

by Luci Lippelgoos

On Thursday January 7, a 16 year old girl was hit at 6:50 am on her way to the bus stop. The crash occurred on Avenue G NW near 22nd street.

She was hit by an 18 year old boy on his way to work. After the accident, he stayed at the scene and tended to the girl while waiting for authorities to arrive.

The girl was airlifted to a hospital and suffered minor cuts and a brain bleed, which were both treated. She is expected to make a full recovery. No other students were harmed in the accident; however, many students on the bus witnessed it. As the students arrived at school, crisis counselors were available. Some of the students who witnessed it did not come to school that day, according to Mrs. Williams.

"I wish people would abide by the guidelines and watch for buses," said Mrs. Williams. "I would hope students were more observant of their surroundings when crossing the road."

The 18 year old who was behind the wheel told the authorities he did not see her while driving westbound approaching the bus. It was still dark out during the time of the crash, and his windshield was fogged up; however, the bus was stopped and had working lights.



An unidentified officer and empty school bus keep vigil at the accident scene of a Winter Haven High School student.

## Voices of the Campus

### Why do you think teens are so prone to getting into car crashes?

"Not as experienced as adults" **Bettina Madhavath, 9th**

"Not paying attention to the road, texting and driving and not paying attention in drivers ed"

**Mr. Fleur**

"Texting, driving, not paying attention to the road and doing something they shouldn't be doing" **Officer Ryan Neely**

"Immaturity, poor decision-making and obviously, distractions" **Mr. Colon**

"Social media, we're always on our phones" **Becca Mack, 12th**

"Because they cheat on the [permit/driving] test" **Elizabeth Nguyen, 11th**

"We go on our phones and zone out" **Tori Martin, 10th**

"They get distracted easily by phones or other things on the road"

**Caroline Jarrett, 10th**

"Because they don't really understand what could happen and haven't seen as many accidents happen" **Mrs. Williams**

"Lack of experience and they are more likely to get distracted"

**Guisean Mirtil, 9th**

"We are not as experienced and a lot of things are new to us"

**Vivian Cai, 12th**

## Idolize Is A Strong Word

by Xithlalic Vasquez and Bella Blind

As more social media platforms grow, so does the possibility of normal people getting famous. Nowadays, it's easier to start up a YouTube channel or Instagram page than to search for an acting audition. Social media apps like TikTok and Instagram also helps people grow audiences and become influencers rather easily.

In a study conducted by market research company Morning Consult in 2019, 54% of young Americans would become influencers if given the chance to become one, and 86% said they would post sponsored content on one of their personal pages if given money.

There are different tiers of social media influencers, as there are celebrities with A-list and B-list.

According to the Influencer Marketing Hub, there are five different types of influencers:

Nano-influencers: 1,000–10,000 followers

Micro-influencers: 10,000–50,000 followers

Mid-tier influencers: 50,000–500,000 followers

Macro-influencers: 500,000–1,000,000 followers

Mega-influencers: 1,000,000+ followers

Depending on the app being used, one post on Instagram as a nano-influencers could get 10-100 dollars, while on TikTok could get 5-25 dollars, and one on YouTube could get double that of Instagram.

The top five social media platform for influencers are Instagram (82%), YouTube (41%), TikTok (23%), Twitter (23%), and Facebook (5%), all according to the 2020 Influencer Marketing Outlook report.

These are all apps that teenagers tend to have. There are all types of different influencers. Some focus more on beauty, others focus on music, and some just make funny content.

They all have some form of edge that makes them relatable to different groups of people.

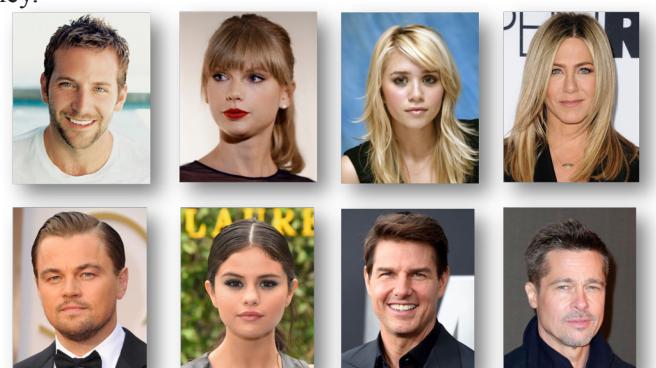


The definition of an influencer, according to the Merriam Webster Dictionary, is "one who exerts influence: a person who inspires or guides the actions of others." Since these people have so much control that they tend to "influence" the trends and buying patterns of their audience, some believe that these people should be worthy of admiration. However, this is not always the case.

"Most global internet users lack confidence in what they see and read online, with only 8% believing that the bulk of information shared on social media is true, dropping to 4% when it comes from influencers," stated Rebecca Stewart in the article "Only 4% of People Trust What Influencers Say Online." On the other hand, the wrong people can be influencers simply because they are celebrities. According to the article "Idolization is Actually Harmful" by Emily Long, "People tend to turn a blind eye and allow terrible things to happen... For instance, a football player can hit his wife and still be allowed to play... Our morals are very loose when it comes to people that we seem to worship."

Because of the things some influencers have done, cancel culture was formed. People, sometimes not even influencers or celebrities, get outed on social media for the bad things that they have done and get "canceled." In some cases, their careers end and in others after apologizing, they still have a career but their audience has been reduced as has their credibility.

Most of the exposed negatives are a racist post or slur they used or something negative said against the LGBTQ+ community. These things that come to light could be recent or from years ago.





by Bella Blind

A youth is exposed to a multitude of advertisements and different types of media. Since adolescents are still learning and growing, they tend to be very impressionable or easily influenced by their surroundings.

“70 Percent of teenagers trust influencers and specifically social media influencers more than celebrities,” according to the article “Influence of Social Media Influencers on Young Generation.” This article goes on to state how six in ten of those teens take the advice of their favorable influencers, and four out of ten believe that influencers understand them better than friends and family.

These influencers can have a major impact on their younger audiences. For example, influencers on social media can cause youths to compare their lives to the lives of the influencers. These negative comparisons can result in low self-esteem and new insecurities.

Influencers are also well known for either their accomplishments or the amount and quality of their possessions.

According to “Influence of Social Media Influencers on Young Generation,” youths will be swayed to buy certain products and clothes based on the influencers they idolize. Marketing is a critical element when it comes to the success of influencers because advertisements are geared right towards the younger audience.

According to the article What Is Influencer Marketing and How Does It Target Children? A Review and Direction for Future Research, “... digital advertising spending for children reached 900 million U.S. dollars in 2018 and is forecast to increase in the future...” This piece of information reveals how big-named brands will reach out to influencers for exposure to a product. This confirms how influencers can persuade an impressionable younger audience to buy certain products.

## V.O.C In-depth

Xithlalic Vasquez & Bella Blind

### Whom do you idolize and what makes you idolize them?

“I would use the word admire because idolize is a strong word; Our U.S government because they have so many responsibilities and I admired their workload and how they balance everything on a day-to-day basis.” - **Mr. Damien Jones**

“My parents because they are fearless and influence essentially everyone they speak to.” - **Philrosen Monfiston-Sejour, 12th**

“I admire my dad because he sets a good example and always treats others with kindness.” - **John Nguyen, 9th**

“Noodles because they’re skinny like me and the flavor is phenomenal.” - **Khushi Patel, 11th**

“I idolize Kamala Harris, queen, because she took the courage to run for vice-president and won making her the first Asian-black female vice-president.” - **Mr. Brown**

“My sister, she taught me a lot growing up and what to avoid, balancing my moral compass, and avoiding what doesn’t suit me.” - **Bushra Khaliq, 11th**

“I idolize my little sister. She’s been sick for a long time but she’s a very positive person and has been strong.” - **Hailey McDermott, 10th**

“His name is Steve White. He was the principal at Lake Region High School, and the reason I became a principal. He was very encouraging and loved the kids.”

- **Mrs. Williams**

“I idolize Kobe Bryant because of his accomplishments he added to basketball.” - **Trinity Hardy, 12th**

“I idolize my grandpa because he has good work ethic and worked hard for all his money.” - **Mac Kranzler, 9th**

## Boys Lacrosse Overcomes Challenges

by Ty Nguyen

The boys’ lacrosse team started with preseason preparation from January 25 to February 12. On Saturday, February 13, they participated in a preseason tournament hosted by Bartow. The season will last until April 10 with their post season beginning on April 13 if they make it to the top four teams in the district.

The Florida High School Athletic Association had created two classes for lacrosse. The Blue Devils are in Class 2A Region 3-District 11 with Bartow, Bloomindale, Durant, Lakeland and Newsome.

“Their biggest competition was Newsome, a youth feeder program that helps to be successful at the high school level,” said Coach Matt Harris.

The team had 12 returning players and 20 new players consisting of freshmen and sophomores.

Coach Harris is very excited for the season due to having 12 experienced players and 20 new freshmen and sophomores. He believes the team has a lot of young talent.

“Coach Harris is an amazing coach that pushes us not only to become better athletes, but better people as well,” said defense and face-off specialist Jackson Holby, junior.

According to Holby, Coach Harris was in the Marines, and that helps him to lead the team and coach them to the best of his ability.

Boys’ lacrosse had many goals, but they also had some difficulties throughout the season.

Their goals were to learn the game, have fun and to be better than when they started.

Some obstacles were the overlap of the soccer season since they had some players who played both sports and having to learn new offensive and defensive sets.

Another major problem for the team was covid.

“COVID has affected some players prior to our season getting underway,” said Coach Harris.

Covid protocol also impacted the number of players and opponents being able to play throughout the season, due to it potentially making them postpone or cancel games.

Last season, the team was only able to play six out of 14 scheduled games with their last game on March 13, 2020. During the season, while practicing, they had to break into small groups and at games, limit the number of spectators.



Artwork by Senior Alexander Nguyen



Boys lacrosse team cheer after winning a competition.

## What's New with the Blue Devil Battalion?

by JROTC Cadet Janessa Thomas; JROTC PAO

### Law & Order Dinner

Held on February 13th cadets from the Winter Haven High School JROTC program aided in the serving and coordination of the American Legions annually held law and order dinner and ceremony. Hosted at the American Legion Post 8 our cadets volunteered to serve first responders and veterans that were getting recognized and rewarded due to their services. The whole purpose of the ceremony is to provide a second source of recognition for the “unsung heroes” that provide for the community. The American Legion encourages all its posts to host a ceremony and dinner if possible, for the local community hero's and appreciate the paid and unpaid hours that the individuals put into the field. Our cadets were happy to assist the American Legion staff for the entirety of the night in whatever way they could.



### Service-Learning Project

Every year the JROTC program strives to accomplish a service-learning project. When addressing what a service-learning project is and entails it can be described as an experimental learning strategy where students have a direct impact on an identified area or issue. A series of lessons get done before a project can begin to ensure that cadets take away valuable information and can conduct a sufficient act of service. Currently the Blue Devil Battalion by class period are tackling areas of the Winter Haven High School campus that lack luster and restoring them to a more optimal and appealing area of the campus that staff and students must interact with these areas. In place of the program's traditional project which is normally Junior Achievement, where our cadets get the opportunity and training to teach pre-arranged lessons to children in the elementary school setting for part of a school day. Due to restrictions because of Covid-19 the battalion has stayed close to home and is working on what we are calling campus beautification in hopes to instill the same set morals and buildup as previous projects the program has done.



### Rifle Team

A new team that the battalion will be taking on is the establishment of rifle team. Cadets must go through a series of lessons before being able to be hands on with any of the air rifles and close monitoring is done when cadets have completed a standard test that they must receive a 100 percent on. Rifle team starts in the early season of the school year and the program hopes to be able to prevail and establish a team that will put Winter Haven High School in the spotlight.

### Santa Run

Cadets from the Blue Devil Battalion signed up to aid and run in the Santa's Run for Our Kids held by the Winter Haven Optimist Club where the club gives back to the local community raising money and awareness for kids during the holiday season.

### Girls' Lacrosse Makes Up for Missed Season

by Luci Lippelgoos

With their season cut short last year due to COVID-19, the girls' lacrosse team was very eager for this year's season.

Last year, the girls' lacrosse team was unable to finish their season due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Players lost over half of their scheduled games and practices including their senior night.

“Last year we had a really strong team dynamic,” said Junior Skylar MacCalla. “We played against some really hard teams, so it was a good season overall.”

The girls' lacrosse team played their biggest rival Lakeland on March 10th, but other opponents also loomed on the horizon.

“I’m excited to play against Cypress Creek,” said MacCalla, “because we beat them at home last year.”



In pursuit of the ball, Senior Scarlet Minix moves up the field while Junior Taylor Wright guards the goal.

## Creative Corner

# Paranormal Busting: One Disappearing Principal

by Xithlalic Vasquez

“It’s honestly amazing how she can’t be found,” Tansa muttered as he took a bite of the cardboard school pizza. “Ugh, this is taking years off of my soul.” Videl rolled her eyes. She had forgotten what she had for breakfast, but she was oddly full. Luci and Abyd flicked at their lunch. None of them had an appetite compared to Tansa. He could eat enough for all of them and more.

“Why don’t you start a fight? That’ll probably summon her,” Luci said as she flicked a carrot too hard which made a free fall towards the ground.

Videl grinned, “It’s amazing how I’ll blink and she’ll just appear. I’m surprised you guys haven’t looked into her before.”

Abyd rested his cheek on his palm, “Me too, this is giving me some serious déjà vu.”

A snicker came from Luci, “Well yeah, every Friday Tansa stuffs that pizza down and makes a similar comment.”

A sound of protest came from Tansa before he shot up. The other three look up at him and followed his gaze across the patio. There was their principal.

“Come on, we have a ghost to catch,” Videl said.

Tansa frowned, “Wait, but my pizza—”

“Oh just carry it, come on or we’ll lose her even sooner,” Abyd grumbled as they all started walking.

Tansa’s shoulders slumped as he let out a little sigh. He quickly stuffed the remaining pizza in his mouth before following the others. No one paid much mind to the group of misfits as they snuck off the patio and after the traces of the principal.

However, their usual trailing came to the usual end. She had disappeared once more. They stood in front of the office.

“We could just ask to see her,” Abyd muttered in defeat.

“No,” Tansa firmly said. “If we go in asking to see her, what then? What if we get to talk to her, what would we say? ‘Hey, Mrs. Morningstar, are you a ghost?’”

Luci sighed, “For once, I agree with Tansa.”

“Yeah, we should probably look more into the principal though. I mean, we could look through the old yearbook and newspapers to see just how long she’s been principal.”

Abyd nodded, “Yeah, besides even if she did die, it would be covered in both sources.”

“Yeah, aren’t you guys forgetting something though?” Tansa asked.

“What?”

Suddenly the bell rang.

“Class.”

“Tansa!” Videl groaned. “Fine, we’ll meet up after school though. The library has an entire backroom with the old yearbooks and newspapers.”

“Sounds good, come on let’s go before we’re marked even more tardy,” Luci ushered.

When it came time, no one batted an eye when Tansa showed up late claiming he had almost seen their principal disappear. He cursed his need to blink.

“Videl and I will look at the yearbooks and you two look through the newspapers,” Abyd said after they saw just how much they would have to go through.

The club got to work quickly, Videl silently was awed at how long the school had been keeping their records. About an hour had passed with no major occurrence besides Tansa tripping and narrowly ripping a particularly old newspaper.

Videl and Abyd did their best not to laugh when Luci gave him an earful, which was not that hard. They only laughed harder when Tansa glared at them, his face was too boyish to be seen as threatening.

Videl went to grab the next yearbook in order - she went through the newer ones while Abyd was going through the older ones since he was more cautious than she was. She was reaching for the yearbook from 1983 when her eyes landed on the one from 1980.

She felt drawn to it and quickly found herself flipping through the pages. She was not sure what she was looking for. She had seen the principal was not Mrs. Morningstar, but her hands kept flipping until she came to a sudden stop.

Videl’s eyes widened as she dropped the yearbook. She stumbled back.

“Videl! What’s wrong?” Abyd quickly came to her side.

Luci and Tansa quickly joining as she began trembling.

“Hey, hey, are you alright?” Luci whispered, offering a small back rub.

Tansa frowned as he bent down and picked up the yearbook from 1980. He was careful to pick up the book as to not lose the page that had shocked Videl. Abyd and Luci peered from behind him, still comforting a rattled Videl.

A loud and silent gasp filled the room as the club looked at the all too familiar face smiling up at them from the obituary page.

“But she’s...alive?”

(read the conclusion of this story in our final issue)

### Answer Key to Road Sign Quiz (pg 6):

1. I	6. E
2. C	7. F
3. J	8. G
4. A	9. H
5. D	10. B



## Boba Review

by Bella Blind

I reviewed four different local sites to get boba. For this review, I ordered one constant flavor, taro, and one bonus flavor from each of the four places. The factors that were taken into consideration to determine the best place were location, parking, taste, texture, price, varieties, atmosphere, customer service, and other options for food.

### Baking Donuts Plus

The two flavors that I chose from here were taro and honeydew. The colors of the flavors were pastel and very vibrant, and I noticed right away that the cup was very tall, so one gets his/her money's worth of boba. Getting boba from here will cost about \$4.99; however, one downfall of going here is that there are only about ten different flavors to choose from. Nevertheless, the taste makes up for a limited selection of flavors. The drinks have a thick, creamy, milky texture, and the taste is the right amount of sweet to pair with a sugary treat. Not only does Baking Donuts Plus serve boba, but they serve a wide assortment of donuts to nibble on with a creamy cup of boba. The shop is a charming, quiet place that seems to have a lot of personality behind all the decor. The boba is not prepared in front of the customer; however, I was asked about what type of additions I desired. I decided to get the flavor popping pearls instead of the usual tapioca. This was followed by the next question of which flavor of popping pearls I wanted. This made the experience better because I was able to choose exactly what I wanted. The flavor popping pearls gave this drink even more flavor, and the pop of the pearls was very satisfying. One major downfall of going here is getting into and out of the parking area. It was quite a pain trying to find parking as well, but that may have been because I went during a busy time of the day. If one is not interested in going inside the shop, then there is a takeout window to get exactly what is needed quickly. Overall, I say this is a very reliable place to order boba, and the customer service was top quality.

### Saigon Garden

Something to consider when coming here is that this is a restaurant, but I was able to walk right in and order some boba. I ordered the taro and banana, and I was able to wait at the bar as they made the drinks. There are plenty of seating inside and outside of the restaurant if one decided to dine here. The atmosphere was peaceful, quiet, and serene. One thing that makes this restaurant a top choice is that there are about nineteen different flavors to choose from, and the drinks were about \$4.99 each. One also has the option of having a milk or smoothie boba. I chose the milk option, and my boba was very bubbly and frothy, which made the thick texture enjoyable. The taro drink also has a brewed-type taste to it to add to the sweet flavor. One minor downfall of the drinks was that the amount of tapioca balls that was added to my drink was a bit overwhelming and took away from my enjoyment. The tapioca balls were also very thick and plugged up the straw while trying to drink the sweet boba. Another thing that I noticed about the drinks was that the colors were very faded and toned down, compared to Baking Donuts Plus's vivid colors. However, I was able to find parking easily, and the service was on par to the previous places. Overall, I enjoy that there are a wide variety of selections and that I can eat here if I wish.

### **Answer Key to Decoder Pencil Work (pg 4):**

1. FSA
5. Spring Break
2. SAT
6. Building six
3. ACT
7. Good Luck Students!
4. EOC

### First Oriental Market (Cho Tan Bihn)

One thing that I immediately took into consideration when arriving here was that this is a market, so one can grab some snacks or groceries when going to get boba. The two flavors that I chose were taro and passion fruit. The boba drinks differ very much here from Baking Donuts Plus. The taste was very natural and has a juice/tea consistency. This market has milky options, but there are also many fruity flavors. Instead of being milk-based, the fruit flavors have actual juice. What makes these flavors taste natural is that along with the tapioca balls, there are seeds, fruits, and jellies inside that heighten the taste. This drink was the cheapest out of four places at a cost of \$3.95. Something that I noted right away was that it took only five minutes to get both drinks. There are about fifteen different flavors to choose from, and the boba pearls and tapioca balls were already chosen for me. My boba was made right in front of me at a bar, and the aroma of the hot foods that they serve there was very tempting. Since organic flavors are used to create the drink, there are some unusual flavors served here, like red

bean (which was definitely not for me). One big downfall of going here is that this place was by far the most difficult of getting into and out of the parking lot. Since it is on a busy road, I had the hardest time leaving. Overall, this market was very solid, and I enjoy browsing for snacks before getting my boba. The tastes and textures are very natural, and the passion fruit juice feeds my sweet tooth.

### Pho Tan

This location is another restaurant. I did have some trouble finding the restaurant at first because it is slightly hidden, but I was able to find parking easily. I was able to also walk right in and order the boba, which came out not long after ordering. I ordered the constant taro and pineapple. My drink came out in a visually appealing cup. The taste of this boba came as a surprise to me because it was delicious! It has the same consistency as a milkshake or ice cream. The drink chilled my tongue, so that the sugary taste lingered longer. Unlike the other locations, this slushie-like drink did not have ice, but this did not take away from my delight. The drinks had a creamy texture and an intense sweetness to it that was personally enjoyable to me and my sweet tooth. This is what I would consider a dessert drink. The boba from here was the most expensive with a price of \$5.45; however, it is worth the amount paid if one is looking for a sweet treat. The inside of the restaurant was very quiet and tranquil, and there was excellent service. There are about fourteen different flavors to choose from here with interesting flavors to pick from, such as jackfruit. The boba from here was definitely one of my favorites and differed much from the other locations. Overall, if one does not mind paying a little extra for a sweet drink, then this is the place to go. (The pineapple is a personal favorite of mine.)



## Lady Blue Devils Rule the Court

by Xithlalic Vasquez

In the victory over Lake Howell, the girls' basketball team won their 22nd district title in since 1999.

The girls' varsity team brought their record of 18-1 to the final four, while the junior varsity team also put up an impressive record, according to Coach Johnnie Lawson.

"Everyone we play is tough. We always put together a hard schedule in hopes that it will prepare us for the playoffs," said Coach Johnnie.

Their schedules include practice five days a week and skill training on Saturday unless there's a game that interrupts either.

The girls prepared for the playoffs seriously. "I practice every day from 5 to maybe 7:30 on non-game days," said Freshman Anovia Shields.

While the pandemic has made the coaches wear masks and has made things rather uncertain if the girls will play week to week or not, the team continued to practice and work extremely hard.

"The goal is to win the state championship and to develop into the best team we can possibly be," said Senior Trinity Hardy.

The team defeated Seffner Armwood 86-66 to advance to the state semi-finals, where they played Wekiva.

During their remarkable season, the girls not only learned teamwork and discipline, but they also learned life skills.

Sophomore Bri'Asia Washington said, "I enjoy being able to use basketball as not just a sport but as a class to help me get through my time as an adult and future situations. Basketball will always be my reference sheet as I grow as a person."

"I absolutely love Winter Haven High School, our wonderful principal, administration, teachers, and study body. I want to win at all times for them!" Coach Johnnie proclaimed.

## Girls Soccer Glides Over Challenges

by Loc Dinh

Even as quarantine and a county wide pause on winter sports struck, the girls' soccer team pushed through and made the best of their season.

"My goals for this year are to grow as a captain and to become a better leader of the team," said Senior Jadyn Knox. She and her teammates faced challenges in meeting their goals.

The two-week quarantine and pause on winter sports left the team with just five games on their record before winter break. The team's record by mid-January was four wins, two losses, and one tie.

On January 5, the Blue Devils faced Lakeland Christian in their first game back from their month long break and lost 0-1. They soon bounced back with a 1-0 win against Lakeland the following Tuesday.

The Blue Devils also faced the problem of losing many players from last year due to graduation. The team rebuilt and pushed past the numerous struggles.

"I expected to get an amount of normal or at least something to feel more routine from it [soccer] and good memories with some of my close friends on the team for our last year," said Senior Jordan Gosselin. "I really want to win districts at the end of this season to finish off my senior year."

A district title for girls soccer would be the first one in about six years for the Blue Devils.

Coming off of the long break, the team hoped to ease back into the season and make the most out of their games despite the COVID-19 related delays.

## Boys Soccer Faces Tough Competition

by Grace Corkins

The boys' soccer season ended with a record of four wins, three losses, and one tie. Their biggest competition was Bartow High School, according to Coach Shawn Smith, who has been one of the boys' soccer coach for the past seven years.

Coach Smith stated, "Coaching is more than winning or losing: it's teaching players how to trust and support each other. It's teaching how to overcome adversity and succeed when there is not a chance of being successful."

Dain Warren, this year's team captain, said, "Our coaches are pretty awesome. They come out to every practice, they always work hard and they don't give up on us."

Warren played the center-back defensive position on the varsity team. His goal this season was to advance past districts.

Warren mentioned that this season was affected by Covid-19.

"We wear masks on the bench and when we show up to practices and matches."

## Boys Basketball Doesn't Miss

by Erik Clemons

The boys' basketball team isn't letting Covid-19 stop them from having a good season. They've pulled through and secured a spot in the playoffs after finishing second in the district.

"I love this season and this team," stated senior guard Tyler Williams. "We did well, and of course we are competing in district games again."

The team has continued the success from the last couple of years, making the post-season playoffs, where they faced Bartow in the regionals.

"Our talent this year is different, but we are still doing well," said Coach Woodside.

The team ended their regular season with a 8-9 record but were beaten by Bartow in the district championship game by a mere five points.



As Coach cheers her from behind, Senior Jayla Murray brings the ball up the floor.



Sophomore Rolijah Hardy attempts to make a basket.