



Viking Voice

November 5, 2020

Kingsburg High School

Issue 1, Volume 93



TOP ROW: Gomez, Velarde, McDonald, Swearing, Williams, Bravo, Poma, Hill, Harvey, Jensen
 ROW 4: Corona, Marquez, Morris, Alvarado, Schiller, Domingo, P. Grass, Albers, M. Manley, Brown
 ROW 3: Mynderup, Sultisfeld, Olsen, Phillips, Klein, Calken, Donovan, Ferguson, Fuga, Cornstock, Wanda Velde
 ROW 2: Hale, Vallenari, Peterson, Mandini, Aspar, Woods, Cordova, Contreras, J. Hill, Lund
 BOTTOM ROW: D. Wilson, H. Wilson, Sembrizaki, Davis, Mandini, Bergstrom, Pheasant

In this Issue:

News

New teachers on Campus at KHS.



Features

First ever online Spirit week at KHS.



Opinion

Differences between Online School and In Person Learning.



Sports

KHS sports teams are starting again with COVID safe practices.



VIKING VOICE



Kingsburg High School 2020-2021

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Letters to the Editors

Email your comments, opinions, and ideas on this issue's articles to the Viking Voice at 6004356@stu.kingsburghigh.com. Your responses may be published next issue!

Check out the Viking Valor page at kingsburghigh.com

KHS Teachers Welcome Students With Virtual Back to School Night After 8 Months Out of the Classroom

By Kimmy Alexander
Staff Reporter

On August 31, 2020, KHS held the annual Back-to-School Night. Due to COVID-19, this year's traditional introductions had to be conducted virtually.

Principal Ryan Phelan, as well as the rest of KHS staff, are doing their very best to help their students succeed in their new way of learning.

Back-to-School Night videos were intended to be brief introductions of classes and teachers so that parents and students had an opportunity to become more familiar with expectations and curriculum for the school year.

Since the semester began with distance learning, it was important that this long-standing tradition still found its way.

As the COVID-19 outbreak in Fresno County has started to decrease, the students here at KHS, have been able to return back to in-person classes.

Students must wear masks covering their nose while inside and class-

rooms have been split between morning and afternoon sessions to prevent overcrowding and ensure the health and safety of staff and students.

While the personalized videos leaned more towards providing valuable information to parents, at the time of press, the Kingsburg High YouTube channel showed the Back-to-School Night video had 271 views.

Besides the virtual format, KHS provides

As everyone is back in school, upperclassmen have started to remember their routine of their previous years, and while Hybrid learning might seem a bit different, KHS has not changed fundamentally.

Over time, the students and staff are hopeful that they may not have to wear masks and they can go back to how school was before the Coronavirus outbreak.



Although not everyone watched the video, KHS staff and students know how dedicated our school is to providing quality education. Administrators and teachers are working together to solve problems and provide the same resources they would if things were completely back to normal.

KHS' Back-to-School Night video was a new twist on old ideas. It's exciting to see how our community had adapted to a tough situation and still maintained excellence.

After School Tutorials Provide KHS Students Support and Help In Core Classes

By Jadyn Frabco
Page Editor

This school year at KHS teachers will be offering tutorials Monday through Thursday. Tutorials will be offered via Zoom as well as in person. The Zoom option is mostly put in place for students in the A.M. schedule wishing to remain at home.

Tutorials are a program that KHS does every year to try and help students get their grades and their GPA up. Grades are very important to students. Teachers have been pushing their students to try and go to some of the meetings planned in order to work on late assignments.

For KHS to implement this program for students shows they want the best for them and want the students to try harder and get the best grade they can possibly have this school year.

many opportunities for parents to communicate with teachers and staff. Aeries, email, and even Zoom are helping parents provide extra support for their students.

The classes that will be holding tutorials are Math with Ken Harvey, Science with Satinder Klair, and English with Jacob Simmions.

Klair will be offering science tutorials on Mondays and Wednesdays.

There are certain times teachers will be offering help. Klair stated, "Science

teaches Sophomores and Juniors, will be giving the students an opportunity to reach out and get help.

Simmions said, "Students may reach out to their English teachers at any time for additional support, but I will be conducting the tutorial session on Wednesday afternoons for one hour, 2:45-3:45."

Mr. Simmions will only be doing his tutorial classes on Wednesday afternoons every week.

This will affect the students academically. Simmions stated, "Students' critical thinking skills can benefit from tutorials, but so does a students report card."

KHS students should always try their best and get good grades. If students are struggling with their work KHS teachers would really like them to reach out for some help. KHS can benefit from this program and students can get the help they really need.

tutorials take place from 2:45-3:45." She will be giving the students an hour to get help on the work they have questions on.

Tutorials started on September 9th and are going to continue throughout the school year.

Simmons, an English teacher,

Kingsburg High School Tutorial Information



KHS Welcomes New Faculty, Familiar Faces to Viking Family

By Avneet Purewal
Editor-In-Chief

Mrs. Rosa Corona



KHS added a new attendance clerk for the 2020-21 school year, Rosa Corona. Corona previously worked at KHS as an instructional aide.

Corona's new position includes the responsibilities of answering phone calls to KHS and keeping track of attendance calls. She replaces long-time attendance clerk, Sharon Rodriguez, after her retirement in June.

Corona's change of positions happened quickly. She interpreted, "I interviewed for the position on July 30th, accepted the position on August 3 and started my new position on August 6th! Wow that was fast! Super blessed to work for a wonderful school district."

Corona attended KHS and graduated in 1998. She then worked at A&W Restaurants and then moved to Boston for 2 years.

Corona shifted her focus back to her education in 2002. She began at Reedley College and received her Associate of Science in 2004.

After earning her AS in 2004, Corona began working at Kings River Elementary in 2004. Unfortunately, she lost her job in 2010 due to budget cuts.

Although she was faced with many obstacles in her journey, Corona never gave up. She was determined to find her career pathway.

She enrolled at Fresno Pacific University to earn her Bachelor's degree in Liberal Arts in 2011.

When Corona was introduced to the job opening, she knew it was for her. She feels a personal connection when helping students. She elaborated, "Even though I love to work in the classroom and work with students, I also love to work in the office. I just LOVE to help people. Being bilingual gives me the opportunity to help others."

Mrs. Stephanie Marriott



KHS welcomes a new addition to administration, Stephanie Marriott, as the 9th and 10th grade counselor for the 2020-21 school year. Marriott has replaced long-time counselor, Marlene Pavilina, who retired after last year.

As Marriott steps into her new position as the

freshman and sophomore counselor, her goal is to guide students throughout their first two years of high school. She's available to meet with students individually, in small groups, or as a whole class. She focuses on academic planning and support, personal social support, 4 year planning, problem solving, some college and career planning, GPA, grades, and many other topics.

Marriott was ecstatic when she heard of the job opening at KHS. She elaborated, "It has been a long time dream of mine to return to KHS! My own school counselors inspired and supported me in so many ways, it is my goal to give that level of support to my students. It is truly my passion to work with students, and to help them achieve their goals!"

Marriott is a former Viking herself. She grew up in Kingsburg and graduated from KHS in 2002. Like many KHS students, Marriott is full of Viking pride.

After graduating from KHS, Marriott attended UC Berkeley and decided to major in Pre-Medicine. After her freshman year of college, she had a change of heart and switched her major to Sociology. She received her Sociology degree from UC Berkeley in 2006.

Next, Marriott was determined to get her Masters Degree and School Counseling Credential. She attended Fresno State for this and graduated with her degree and credential in 2009.

Prior to working at KHS, Marriott worked as a college counselor at Fresno Pacific University and an elementary counselor at Kingsburg Elementary.

Marriott has a special connection with the community of Kingsburg. She explained, "I grew up here and I am a former Viking (2nd generation, my parents are also Viking Alumni!) I love our community and I have a unique understanding of what it is like to grow up in a small rural town."

Marriott is excited to begin working with students. She advises, "Be yourself, be kind, do not be afraid to start a spontaneous Viking chant, and enjoy every minute. High school goes fast!"

Mr. Nathan Ayers



KHS staff introduced a new World History and United States History teacher this 2020-2021 school year: Nathan Ayers. Ayers has also taken the head coach position of the Girls Basketball Program at KHS.

Ayers is excited for the upcoming school year. He wants to create a comfortable learning environment for students to be successful in the future. He interpreted, "My goal is to help each student be successful and to help them in any way I can. I want to help students be well rounded, active participants in society."

Students in his class have already learned a lot from Ayers. Sophomore World History student Lilliana Dias explained, "The learning environment in his class is really positive. I'm excited for this school year and really happy to be back to in-person learning!"

Ayers was ecstatic when the job opportunity arose. He elaborated, "I've lived in Kingsburg for over 10 years

and I go to church here. I want to fully invest in the people of Kingsburg. My heart is definitely in this town."

Ayers graduated from Madera High School in 1993. He attended Fresno Pacific University to receive his Social Science degree in 1997. He then got his teaching credential from National University.

After graduating, Ayers taught History, Government, and Economics at Immanuel Schools for 10 years. After that, he taught Government and World Geography at Sanger High School for two years. Ayers also taught U.S. History at Abraham Lincoln Middle School in Selma, CA before taking the position at KHS.

Basketball has always been prevalent throughout Ayers' life from playing in college to coaching overseas missions trips to Thailand and the Philippines. He knew that the position as KHS Varsity Girls Basketball Head Coach was the right fit for him.

Ayers has high hopes for KHS Girls Basketball this year. He stated, "My goal is to not only win, but to empower the girls to reach their full potential, not only in basketball, but also in life. I want to make basketball a fun experience for everyone and I want to win as well. My goal for this year is to win league and to make the playoffs."

KHS is excited to see how Ayers will impact and improve the lives of his students and athletes.

Mrs. Nicole Comstock



Nicole Comstock began working as a Special Education Teacher at KHS in the 2020-21 school year.

Comstock looks forward to making an impact in her student's lives. She strives to help students with special needs in their general education classes.

Comstock has a real passion for what she does. She explained, "I choose this career because I have two sons who have ADHD and I noticed some of their teachers didn't have patience for them or understand ADHD. I wanted to help students who have ADHD and need a teacher with more patience."

She graduated from KHS in 1999. She attended National University in Fresno and received her Bachelor's Degree in Sociology. She also received her Special Education Credential and a Master's Degree in Counseling.

Previously, she worked as a Deputy Sheriff for the Fresno County Sheriff's Department. When she was pregnant with her fourth child, she decided to return to school to shift career paths so she could spend more time raising her children.

Currently, Comstock is working on finishing up her Master's Degree in Special Education. She stated, "My goal for this year is to finish my masters in special education. I have two classes left so hopefully I am done by February."

KHS is excited to see what Comstock has to offer on campus. She already has created a positive learning environment for all students.

She advised, "My advice for students is to ask for help if they need it. Due to COVID-19, our lives have changed so much and if they need help for any reason they need to reach out to someone. All the staff at KHS care and are here to help."

Clay School Welcome Students Back to In Person Learning After Long Distance Learning Stint

By Lauren Berry
Staff Reporter

Amidst the global pandemic, Clay School returned back to school on August 9, with a hybrid schedule.

As of right now, Clay is on a hybrid schedule much like many of the other schools in the area. Students were given the option to continue asynchronous learning or start in-person learning.

Students that chose to do asynchronous learning would not be able to go to school and attend in-person learning. These students will have assignments that they will do at home in order to continue learning.

If they chose synchronous learning, students go for about 2.5 face-to-face hours per day. Once those 2.5 hours are up, they are required to go home and then complete additional minutes of asynchronous learning.

After many months of not being on campus, Principal Judi Szpor, exclaimed, "We are thrilled to have most of our students back on campus!"

Szpor also commented, "We missed feeling connected to one another and the positive energy that happens when we are all together. We have learned how much we rely on the non-verbal response of our students to determine our next steps in our instruction."

Clay School realized how vital social interaction was during the school day. Szpor continued with, "Things we used to take for granted, we learned to miss when students are in a zoom screen. We need smiles and happy spirits."

While in quarantine, there wasn't a lot of face

to face interaction with people since social distancing was enforced. The hardest adjustment for everyone was re-adapting to being around so many people. Szpor said, "If we didn't take it slowly, we would all be overwhelmed and exhausted causing us to fatigue and be more susceptible to illness. The goal was to keep everyone healthy while safely returning to more and

activities to help keep them engaged."

It's important for these students to have a regular schedule.

Over the course of many months of not having a schedule and going to school could be hard for some students. With everything constantly shutting down and closing, people were having a hard time figuring out what to do. Once the school was able to open back up in August, these students were finally going to get back to some kind of normal.

Catherine Hambleton, parent to 2 students at Clay says, "I'm comfortable with them going back to Clay because science has proven that kids are not super spreaders of Coronavirus and I think it's more important for them to have a regular schedule."

The transition from in-person learning to distance learning can be hard for kids and parents.

Hambleton continued, "It was very difficult to adjust to distance learning because the Zoom sessions didn't run smoothly and the interaction on the internet isn't real interaction. The kids struggled with it and the teachers struggled

with it. Now I see going from the spring to the next fall that the kids really did miss out on important learning at the end of the school year and are behind."

In order for the school to stay open, they have to take precautionary measures. Hambleton says, "They are doing everything that's required by all of the guidelines to keep everybody safe and we are very happy with how they are handling everything." With their new schedule and all the precautions Clay School is taking, this school will possibly stay open until this pandemic is over.



more normal with each step."

Shifting from in-person learning to online learning could be a hard adjustment. Once they were fully online, 5th grade teacher Stacy Hanson said, "I have been very impressed with how well the students met my expectations. Most of my students attended the daily zooms and were happy to see their classmates and teachers."

To keep the students engaged and having fun, she said, "As a staff we tried to have "guest teachers" appear on our daily Zooms and fun online

Immanuel Defies County COVID Mandates, Returns to In-Person Learning Before County Mandates Allowed

By Abigail Jobe
Staff Reporter

Immanuel School returned back to school in person on August 25, 2020 and they were sued for violating Fresno County Health Department Mandates on August 20, 2020.

Immanuel was first sent emails from Fresno County warning the schools to not open up. The district ignored the court and violated orders by remaining open. The district faced fines of \$1,000 a day. The school protested arguing that computers cannot teach students.

Immanuel has followed the guidelines given by the California State Health Department. Immanuel Freshman Hayley Lack said, "We are sitting six feet apart, faced forward. Teachers are sanitizing after each class. They do daily temperature checks." She also explained that masks are mandatory at all times except while eating.

When asked if he was worried about the students or staff catching COVID-19, Immanuel Principal Ryan Woods responded, "I wouldn't say I am

worried, but we obviously had to consider what would happen if our students caught COVID. We put a lot of time into our Return to School Plan before we opened to help lessen the chance of spreading COVID. We also did a voluntary antibody testing of our students, staff, and parents and we found out that we believe we have achieved herd immunity which would make it harder to have a COVID outbreak."

Woods continued, "Also, we looked at the data regarding students between ages 5-18 and realized the risk was much lower for people of that age. We felt the negative impact on students not being on campus learning far outweighed the chance of getting COVID. Lastly, as a Christian I understand that life has all kinds of risks and the Bible teaches us not to live in fear."

When Woods was asked if he wished other schools followed in his footsteps, he stated, "I would love to see other schools open because we believe it is what is best for students. I also understand each school and community has to make the decision that works best for them."

Parents at Immanuel are excited that their children are back at school. Parent Heather Lack was asked if she thought it was the right choice to open back up. She responded, "Yes, I absolutely think it was the right choice to open back up. Kids are struggling at home."

Many Immanuel parents have full support of the school's decision to open back up. Lack stated, "The teachers are happy to be back and teaching again. They 100% support Immanuel and their decision."

While Immanuel was fighting their way back to in-person schooling, surrounding schools have opened up recently. Kingsburg Elementary Schools returned on Monday October 19, 2020. Other Central Valley schools have opened up too. Clovis Unified, Fowler Unified, Fresno, and many other schools have opened up over the course of a few weeks.

Luckily, the court battle was resolved since Fresno County COVID numbers have fallen to a rate allowing all schools to open.

Kingsburg Welcome Two New Businesses Downtown, Shop Heritage Co. & The Alley

By Trista Fry
Staff Reporter

Kingsburg welcomes two new businesses to its downtown streets. The first, Shop Heritage Co., is located at 1369 Draper Street and is a shopping and retail boutique. The second business, The Alley, is an extension to a pre-existing shop called the Mercantile, and is located at 1513 Draper Street.

The Shop Heritage Company is owned and operated by Amanda Carrasco. Carrasco has been selling clothing for 5 years, but only recently started up Shop Heritage Company in the last two years. Carrasco recently opened up this business in downtown Kingsburg, and has received a tremendous amount of support from the community.

In her shop, there are a wide variety of different items. They include clothing and retail items, some of which come from other small businesses. One of these small businesses, Refined by Thee, is owned and operated by Maddison O'Canto. O'Canto and Carrasco first connected through a social media platform and have bloomed a friendship and business relationship from then on.

O'Canto sells a variety of items in this store including home signage and doormats. When asked how she would describe Carrasco's business, O'Canto explained, "Community based, faithful, and genuine."

O'Canto elaborated, "The Heritage Co. is highly community-based, they are very proud to be a part of the Kingsburg area! In everything they do they are always quick to value their faith and understanding of the commu-

nities wants and needs. Amanda genuinely cares for all the walks of life that come into her shop and that interact with their platform."

This shop has a variety of clothing items and jewelry. KHS Sophomore Sydney Brock stated, "While visiting the shop I was interested in the wide selection of simple jewelry."

just create a trendy and seasonal clothing store, it has created a supportive and encouraging community environment that helps others to succeed.

The second new business downtown is the Alley by the Mercantile. The Alley is an extension to a preexisting shop called the Mercantile and encompasses stylish clothing, accessories, shoes, and jewelry. The Alley is run by Jill O'Bannon, Michelle Woods, Molly O'Bannon, Chloe O'Bannon and Brynlee Woods.

They decided to open up the Alley because "We have such a love for fashion and wanted to share it with the town!" stated Molly O'Bannon, one of the shop's owners.

They have a wide variety of clothing and try to cover a diverse range of people. During the COVID-19 quarantine, they feel that their shop received more business as people were looking for a reason to get out of their house, and shopping's a great excuse.

The owners of this shop are family and they enjoy working together. They are proud of their hard work and dedication to their store, but are also grateful for everyone that has come in from the community to support their business.

O'Bannon exclaimed, "Kingsburg is so supportive and we are so blessed to live in the town we live in!



The Heritage Company has not only impacted the community, but also the small businesses it has come into contact with. O'Canto elaborated, "It has taken my small business into one that is recognized within the community, she believed in my work and I am forever grateful!"

The opening of this business has done more than

Without this town, we wouldn't have the success we have now!"

These two new shops have a long road ahead of them, but with the support they have already received from the community, Kingsburg can't wait to see where it will take them!

FFA Fundraiser

By Mary Palmer
Page Editor

Kingsburg's FFA group had joined together to help the wildfires and those affected by them. As we all know, California wildfires have burned over 78,790 acres of land.

Wildfire Disaster Relief Project is what this movement has been called. A total of twenty five students gathered together to make this fundraiser happen.

There were two options as to how you could help; Monetary donations and physical donations of livestock supplies. With the monetary donations there were two sites to donate to: CA Fire Foundation- SAVE Program and as well as Red Cross Disaster Relief.

This has been a very rough time for many people who have interacted with the wildfires or people that have loved ones who have. These wildfires destroyed many homes so the FFA group of Kingsburg decided to have a donation.

"The gift cards went directly to a Fire Victim family in Oakhurst via an Ag Teacher from Clovis Ca who lives in the area. We had several students deliver food and feed to animals held at the Fairgrounds and the Clovis Rodeo grounds. We also had students who delivered food/water to Clovis community church," FFA teacher Mrs. Calvert states.

Overall FFA helped as many people that they could and made a huge impact in our community.

Science instructor Leigh-Ann Olsen Wins \$1000 Innovation Grant For PocketLabs

Advanced Placement Science and Biology instructor Leigh-Ann Olsen won a \$1000 Innovation grant awarded by the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools to fund three PocketLab Air devices for use in the Science Department.

When asked about the grant, Olsen explained, "The grant I wrote this year will be used to purchase 3 PocketLab Air devices that collect data on carbon dioxide, particulate matter, and ozone over time. The data can be easily collected using a simple web-based application that students can access on their chromebooks to analyze for future projects in AP and Biology."

Olsen continued, "The subscription for the application is also paid for through the grant's money. Students on campus have been using a Calitoo instrument borrowed from NASA for collecting aerosol measurements for the last three years through the GLOBE (Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment) program, so I'd like to continue that (probably next year) and add this component to it, as well."

In addition, the grant is ensuring that data collection is more streamlined and accessible for students.

"Students used to have to collect weather data on a daily basis, and that took a lot of time, but we recently installed a Davis Weather Station on the roof of the science building, so that frees students up to try out some new ways of gathering data, which is what I hope to do with the PocketLab Airs."



Olsen hopes to put the PocketLabs in use by early next semester with the AP Environmental Science class as they study atmosphere and pollution.

"The Innovation grant is offered by the Fresno County Office of Education to every district, every year for projects with costs up to \$1000. The science department previously won the grant a few years ago to install grow lights in our fume hoods for use for

growing eco-columns for AP Environmental Science, and other Biology projects," commented Science Department Chairman Steve Harness.

The innovation and technology the grant helps ensure that Fresno County students are able to access the same real world tools and devices that modern scientists use to conduct their own research.

ROP Photography Class Adapts to Online Learning Scenario

By Summer Mejia
Page Editor

As students were required to turn to online school due to the widespread Novel Coronavirus, one class took a major hit.

KHS offers a variety of ROP classes to students, and ROP Photography is one of them. The class includes learning techniques for achieving outstanding photos, how to use Adobe Photoshop and working with professional Nikon DSLR cameras.

With students learning photography from home, they were faced with both challenges and benefits. KHS Senior Kalynn Olson stated, “The easiest part about learning photography through distance learning is mainly the way we have been learning the basic rules and concepts of photography. The only difficult part is what exactly the expectations are with every assignment we are given.”

Junior Ebanie Vildosola stated, “The most difficult part is probably the Zooms because I feel like I would learn more if I was in school. Not only that, if I have a question about my photos, I have to email or wait for afternoon Zooms. The easiest thing I learned was probably the angles because there

are so many angles to take a picture of and learning that my phone camera has so many features.”

In his years of teaching the class, teacher John Burroughs has certainly had to adapt to distance learning this year. Teaching photography through online school for Burroughs has been quite different.



Burroughs elaborated, “The thing I miss the most is the feedback I get from my students. That look of understanding in their eyes, or puzzled look that might mean a question or even that look when a concept really opens a student’s eyes to a new creative

idea.”

Students are looking forward to different aspects of in-person learning as they eagerly wait to go back to school.

Olson explained, “The one thing I’m looking most forward to when we get back into the classroom is how to operate the cameras, and how to properly use Photoshop.”

Similarly to Olson, Vildosola stated, “When we go back to school I’m looking forward to the cameras, and learning more ways to take photos, and learning how to edit pictures.”

With students itching to get back to school to get a real feel on photography, Burroughs is in agreement.

If students were to go back to in-person schooling, the environment would have some changes. Burroughs stated, “Class being divided so we can safely socially distance from each other will prove challenging at first and maybe a bit frustrating. However, I believe we

can use our creativity to learn photography and overcome the things we need to thrive!”

While online school has created a twist on the ROP Photography class at KHS, the Vikings stay strong!

Online School vs. In-Person Learning Analyzed

By Zachery Howell
Page Editor

Since our return to school during an international pandemic, the challenges of distance learning have become more prevalent in classrooms. However, just as in-person learning has its difficulties, so does distance learning, just presented in a different fashion.

As our safest option currently, distance learning has given students access to materials that they would otherwise be receiving in-person, and gives teachers one hour time slots to either go over the work assigned or instruct on future assignments.

Since the start of Zoom calls, students have gotten more accustomed to the new environment as well as how to maneuver through online school. When asked about how online classes are going for her, KHS Senior Katharyn Gaytan said, “They’ve been going, not the best, not the worst. I feel like all I’m seeing is an overwhelming amount of due dates.”

When asked the same question, KHS English teacher Michelle Schiller said, “It depends on the period much like it would if we were learning in person. When school is conducted on campus, there are periods that are a little more rambunctious than others. Others may be more

timid and tend to hold back as a whole.”

While now students can elect to display their faces or voices in front of the class, Schiller notices, “Not all students feel as comfortable participating or sharing their videos. For some it is a connectivity issue, while for others it is preference. That is probably the greatest challenge: I don’t know what all of my students look or sound



like.”

As for coming back to school and readjusting to in-person learning, the specific mandatory qualifications that people would like to see applied at KHS are: masks, social distancing both in and out of the classroom, hand sanitizers at the doors of classrooms, and sanitizing wipes for

classroom surfaces.

Gaytan adds, “I would also like for the school to emphasize cleanliness and sanitization of the bathrooms, not that the school shouldn’t have been doing that before, but they should certainly be paying more attention to them now.”

Online school hasn’t been all bad for other students however. Some of the positives of distance learning, as expressed by KHS Sophomore Ethan Garcia, “Since the start of distance learning my grades have greatly improved. My teachers are handling instruction really well for our current situation.”

KHS Vikings are having to work together to produce a conducive learning environment, able to encourage productivity and prosperity.

Schiller comments, “I am trying my best to provide a good education, so I appreciate the efforts students make to receive it in order to improve their knowledge. A positive

mindset shows great promise much more than an angry outlook and refusing to try.”

While we are in unprecedented times, something consistent that KHS students have to look forward to is a consistent effort from both staff and students to make online learning as frictionless as possible.

Choir, Drama Classes Thrive From Return to Campus

By Brittyn Jennings
Staff Reporter

Students, as well as teachers, who are in performing arts, (choir, drama, band, etc.), have had to undergo massive changes from their in-person, to distance learning transition. Students had to go from in-person learning to an at-home computer screen. This, unfortunately, has impacted so many people's lives, jobs, mental health, education and so much more.

During this time of 2020, just about everyone has been affected by COVID-19; especially students. KHS Choir and Drama teacher, Richard Mynderup stated, "The main thing missing from face to face interaction is just that. The inability to work together and learn in the same room and environment."

A freshman, during their first year in drama, who preferred to remain anonymous, also said that "[this] class is challenging online. It's very hard not to be face-to-face.

Sitting behind a screen isn't easy for others, especially when we do our scenes." Scenes are when students perform a random everyday task and the other students guess what they were mimicking.

The transitions from our in-person post-pandemic to at-home online has been very difficult as well, Mynderup stated, "I'm not one that can sit at a computer very well for several hours. I need to be up, moving around, and engaging my students." Everyone can agree it's hard to find routine and motivation through a screen. It's been hard on the students especially.

Safety is a big part of performing arts, KHS drama student Tatiana Gaven, who has never been in a performing arts class before shared, "I expected more of a safe space. I feel judged all the time and it makes me insecure. I feel like if I knew the people in my class I would feel safer."

About everyone has been affected by

COVID, especially students and teachers who need face to face interaction. Drama, band, and choir students are affected significantly. These classes almost require in-person teaching to learn and grow throughout these classes.

During our return to school, teachers, and students have been overcoming the hurdles of the transition. "Being in class has made classes feel so much more safe and comfortable," stated a KHS drama student. Students also feel like it has been so much easier to become engaged, and interested in the material being taught and learned.

Mynderup stated, "I love this. Although the hybrid schedule is not perfect I'll take it over Zoom any day. And, I think the students are feeling more connected with me. My hope is for those students that struggled at home with their homework and lessons that being back together will be of great help."

Mental Health Insights During the Pandemic

By Camille Zavala
Staff Reporter

"During this time everything is uncertain... I feel like in my life knowing what is happening and what should happen is what I strive to figure out - and none of us know what is going to happen," stated a Freshman at KHS.

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected us all in different ways. We've had to adapt to a new lifestyle in a short period of time, and as a result of that we're affected in unseen, but very important ways.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) stated, "Mental health is an important part of overall health and wellbeing. It affects how we think, feel, and act. It may also affect how we handle stress, relate to others, and make choices during an emergency."

When asked how the pandemic has affected their mental health, a Senior at KHS explained, "When we got the announcement that school was closed for the year... My mental health tumbled, and it took a while to get out of that slump."

A KHS teacher agreed, "I definitely think I am experiencing more anxiety than normal."

They continued, "I think the hardest part for everyone is that we all constantly feel a state of panic and that our world could be turned upside down any minute."

On campus, many others are focusing on mindfulness to get themselves through this unprecedented time. Hanah Sargent, the on campus psychologist intern says, "Mindfulness is a

breathing, to a guided meditation.

As for in classes, both the students interviewed agreed that their mental health had been impacting their state of work. "I usually strive to do the best that I can and I definitely don't feel that drive as much," said the Freshman. The Senior, however, stated that their mental health - and extra time has contributed

to their consistency in planning their future.

The teacher acknowledged that by saying, "(students) need to realize that communication is a two way street, if you need help, ask for it... The biggest thing is students need to realize how quickly they can get behind."

When the Senior was asked how the pandemic has affected their outlook and motivation in regards to the pursuit of their future goals, they stated, "It has made me realize what I really want to do with my life... I've been able to get creative with how I spend my time and

research different paths I can take to achieve my goals."

"I'm happy where I am right now," continued the Senior. "I can't believe the progress I've made mentally throughout high school."

KHS administration urges students to reach out if they are going through a tough time. KHS administration is here to help!



great way to destress and recenter ourselves." She runs a program called "Feel Good Fridays" for KJUHSD staff, focusing on "declutter(ing) your brain."

For students, Sargent shared a great website called "Mindfulness for Teens" which goes into detail on what mindfulness really looks like - this could be as simple as an awareness of your

KHS Safe Reopening Preferred By Students, Teachers, Administrators

By Brenda Marquez
Staff Reporter

COVID-19 cases continue to increase in California and the debate about whether schools can reinstate in-person learning continues.

Schools are now the most significant places of heated discussion about what life should look like moving forward. Schools are now allowed to open as we've been in the red tier for over 2 weeks.

Local school and health officials may decide to open elementary schools, and for a limited number of students in small cohorts, school officials may decide to perform in-person instruction.

These waivers, passed by the state in the early August, allow public and private schools in restricted counties to give in-person instruction to K-6 grade students if districts show that they will take strict safety measures and demonstrate that they have teacher and family support to reopen. Since the beginning of distance learning, students have established how to operate through online learning.

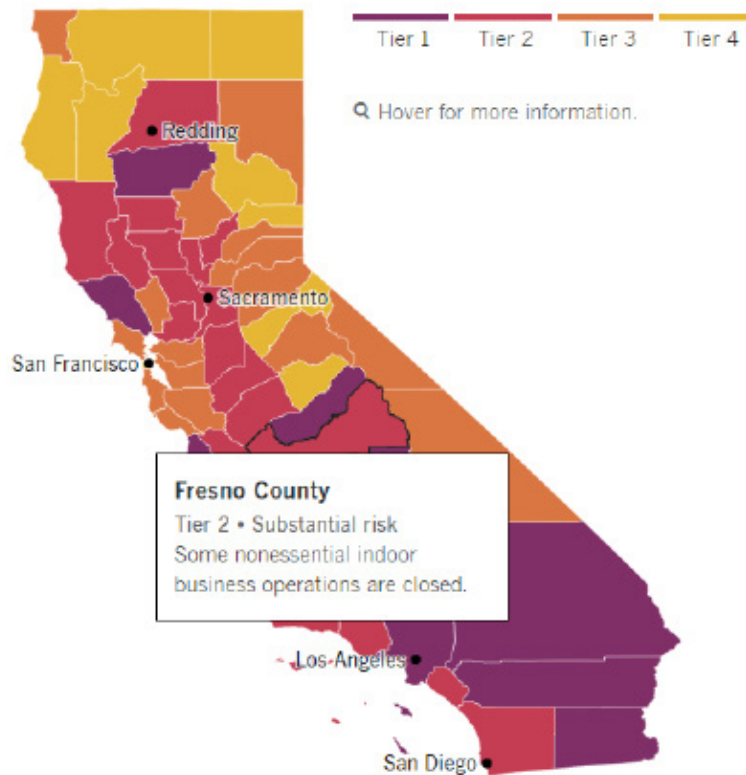
KHS Freshman Audrey Laney said, "The benefits of returning to school would mostly be students' grades starting to go up. It's demotivating for them because they aren't with their friends and they have to be online staring at a screen all day. I think everything will just be easier all around mainly for the teachers."

When asked the same question, KHS AVID teacher Satinder Klair responded, "Students will benefit academically, socially, and mentally by returning to school. As a teacher, it is necessary for me to see students' faces to gauge which direction to take my lesson, and where I need to offer more support. With most students' cameras turned off on Zoom, I cannot see students' faces and gauge how much of the

lesson they are understanding."

Klair also noticed, "Many students are feeling isolated at home. Returning to school will offer the social stimulation they need."

KHS Parent Lisa Kliwer similarly stated, "We all learn better when we are interacting more with each other. Teens need to be around other



teens. It's a time in your lives when social interactions are vital. And let's face it, the hiccups caused by slow internet signals and numerous issues with distance learning certainly make learning difficult for students, teachers, and parents."

As confirmed cases of COVID-19 continue

to rise in most states, many parents wonder what it will take for schools to reopen.

KHS Assistant Principal Thom Sembritzki stressed that this is not just a school effort, it's a community effort. Sembritzki elaborated, "Be aware that while you may not worry about this virus, others do! Do your part to keep everyone safe."

In terms of returning to school and adapting to in-person learning, the basic necessary requirements that individuals would like to see applied to KHS are: masks, social distancing both inside and outside the classroom, hand sanitizers readily available, and wipes for classroom use.

KHS Freshman Rosalynn Carpenter added, "Desks should be separated and there should be thermometers in every classroom so teachers can check student's temperatures."

As schools have opened now, this has not been the number one choice for a few, as emphasized by Laney, "The days are just shorter is what I'm saying and I like the fact that you get the option to go to the afternoon lab only if you need assistance. Also, we students get more time to do our own things and also gives us more time to do homework and staying at home is better overall."

KHS Vikings are working together to reopen schools in a safe and healthy manner. Sembritzki asserted, "We are all going to have to do our part to make sure everyone stays safe during these times." He advises, "Do your part to keep everyone safe."

As students are distance learning, staff and administrators are doing their best to follow the county guidelines to go back to school without major problems.

RBG's Death Leaves Supreme Court Unbalanced Before Election

By Zachery Howell

Page Editor

On September 18, 2020, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg passed away. With an upcoming election, the controversial nomination of judge Amy Coney Barrett has been underway. As of October 27, Barrett has been confirmed to the court as the newest Court Justice.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg was the second female justice to ever serve on the United States Supreme Court. Some of the groundbreaking cases that she played part in were: *Roe v. Wade*, establishing that a pregnant person has the right to have an abortion without excessive government restriction, and *Obergefell v. Hodges*, which decided that same-sex couples were guaranteed the fundamental right of marriage.

Since the passing of Justice Ginsburg, President Trump has moved forward with nominating Barrett as her replacement. This decision has garnered a lot of controversy, considering that the same option has been denied to past presidents, in regards to the approaching election.

Senate Majority Leader Addison "Mitch" McConnell stated in 2016 regarding the Obama administration's nomination of Merrick Garland for Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, "One of my proudest moments was when I looked Barack

away a month before the nomination.

Many Senators at that time had made it a rule-of-thumb that the current president will not fill a spot on the Supreme Court in their last year as president. However, nowhere in the Constitution does it state that there is to be an inhibitor of when and under what conditions a judge can be nominated to fill a spot on the Supreme Court.

The controversy enlies in that the Obama administration was denied the ability to nominate a Justice within the last 8 months of their term, while our current president is permitted to within 1 month of his potential reelection/ replacement.

As of now Supreme Court Justice Amy Coney Barrett has been sworn in and is set to serve a full term as a Justice until her death or her retirement. Throughout her hearings to be confirmed as the next Supreme Court Justice, she was unwilling to share her personal political views on any topic without first being present with a non-hypothetical case; This meaning that only time will truly reveal what her stances are on important topics such as aforementioned same sex marriage and abortion.



Obama in the eye and I said 'Mr. President you will not fill the Supreme Court vacancy.'"

This nomination was proposed 8 months before the 2016 election in response to the death of Supreme Court Judge Antonin Scalia, who had passed

Pandemic Postpones Athletic Seasons, CIF, Athletes Adjust

By Kristen Pacheco
Staff Reporter

Due to COVID-19, The California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) has postponed fall and winter sports. The CIF has moved back its fall sports seasons to start in January and winter sports to start in March. The CIF will now allow KHS to start their fall and winter sports practices.

Practices will be modified to fit the new CIF restrictions that are being implemented by Fresno County. Currently, KHS' sports program is operating under the Summer Guidelines for CIF athletics. This will continue through the winter season.

These Summer Guidelines have put a stop to all games. Workouts should be in groups of no more than 10 people. The guidelines also encourage coaches to take participants' temperatures before starting practice. Types of training will be prohibited if it counteracts with the county's COVID-19 restrictions.

Before COVID-19, the sports at KHS were split into two seasons (fall and winter). Fall sports included football, volleyball, water polo, golf, cross country, cheer and tennis. Winter sports included soccer, wrestling and basketball.

When asked about how the new regulations would affect the KHS sports program, KHS Athletic Director Scott Hodges commented, "The restrictions for our athletic programs follow the Fresno County restrictions for schools and businesses. These restrictions have impacted our use of indoor facilities, as well as the types of training that we are allowed to implement."

In order to keep KHS student athletes safe, KHS will follow the COVID-19 Fresno County restrictions that the CIF follows. Currently, with practices beginning for the upcoming season, coaches are adapting their practices to en-

sure the safety of all participants.

When asked how she adapted practices to ensure player and coach safety, Volleyball Head Coach, Britney Henderson responded, "We have adapted our practices in multiple ways. First, each player must fill out an online COVID questionnaire to confirm they do not have any COVID symptoms upon arrival to the gym. We also are lim-



iting the amount of players we have per practice session. We also have a sanitizing station set up along with mandatory sanitizing of equipment before and after all practices."

Henderson's players have now been allowed to practice indoors. KHS Volleyball is being cautious and protecting players from COVID-19. They will continue with these precautions as long as necessary.

Henderson also commented, KHS' sports program is completely dictated by what the County of Fresno is allowing us to do. Once we reach a point where we are fully practicing indoors and participating in scrimmages and games, we adhere to the CIF's 'Return To Play' Guidelines as close as we can."

KHS Senior Madeline Perkins explained the changes made to sports practices. She stated, "Under the CIF, both my basketball and volleyball teams have been able to practice. In order to have the CIF's approval, we were split into cohorts and had to take temperature checks before practice, while focusing on mainly individual work. For basketball, everyone has their own hoop, ball, etc. and we focused mainly on individual skills such as ball handling or shooting."

Nonetheless, adapting to COVID-19 and its guidelines for sports is something that takes both strength and patience. This season will be a big change for fall sports.

When asked how his team was able to practice under the Summer Guidelines and adapt to the new fall sports season, KHS Head Football Coach David Wilson replied, "We are currently in school, so at practice we are currently observing the same protocol that we are doing on campus. That's making sure we are cleaning and wiping all equipment down. As well as socially distancing when possible and wearing a mask when we can't. We also have wash stations so that coaches and players can clean whenever needed."

Coach Wilson also stated that the idea of his seniors not playing this year is very disappointing. Therefore, he and his team are following the rules and praying for the best.

And for now, KHS student athletes will excitedly await the day for their first games next year, in 2021.

KHS Sports Team Practice In Anticipation Of Modified Seasons

By Trista Fry
Staff Reporter

KHS sport seasons have been condensed and postponed due to the COVID-19 global pandemic. Even with all of these setbacks, KHS has not been defeated. All of the sports offered at KHS are continuing to practice in order to have a competitive edge on the competition.

Many of the sports seasons that student athletes look forward to and enjoy, have had to change, during this unprecedented year.

The new sports seasons are as follows: Football, Volleyball, Water Polo, and Cross Country, traditionally Fall sports, will all begin at the end of December.

Basketball, Soccer, and Wrestling are all traditionally winter sports, but will now begin on March 8. Baseball, Softball, Track, Swimming/Diving, Boys/Girls Tennis, and Boys/Girls Golf will begin on March 22.

All of the sports teams are excited and ready to begin playing games, but all of their success first comes

from the hardwork and dedication they put in at practice.

In anticipation for this challenge, all of the sports teams mentioned above have begun practicing

make the best out of the situation.

KHS athletic director Scott Hodges said, "Our Coaching Staff and Student-Athletes have used this time wisely and will be well-prepared for competition."

This year has been challenging, but KHS athletics are taking it one step at a time, and paving the road to success.

"We have assembled the best coaching staff in the entire Central Section and our athletic programs are diligently working to provide a safe, healthy and fun high school experience for our student athletes," wrote Athletic Director Scott Hodges.

He continued, "Our athletic page on the Kingsburg High School website includes valuable information such as our BSN store, athletic game schedules, and student-athlete clearance

instructions. We look forward to seeing you in the stands and hearing you cheer for our student-athletes very soon. Go Vikings!"



A Series of Unfortunate Events...



Mar. 13, 2020
Schools close across California to in-person learning.

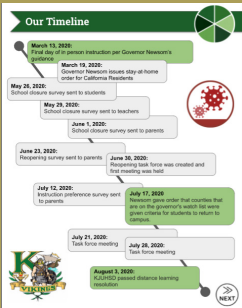
Coronavirus hits California and sends schools into a tizzy, here's how KHS has been handling it: A Timeline.

Mar. 16, 2020
KHS begins distance learning for students with unknown restart date.



May 24, 2020
KHS community holds Socially Distanced Prom in Memorial Park.

June 4, 2020
KHS host a Drive-thru Graduation for the Class of 2020 which was streamed live online.



Aug. 3, 2020
KHS releases timeline of events related to the end of school last year, to plans for returning to in-person learning for the new school year.

Aug. 17, 2020
First day of distance learning through Zoom for 2020-21 school year.



Sept. 14-18, 2020
Distance learning Spirit Week. Bring your pet to Zoom day.

Oct. 13, 2020
Fresno County is confirmed to have been in the "Red" Zone for two weeks despite a slip-up in numbers the previous Thursday.

County Risk Level	Daily New Cases Per 100K	Positive Test Percentage
High	More than 7	More than 6%
Substantial	4-7	5-6%
Moderate	1-3.5	2-4.9%
Minimal	Less than 1	Less than 2%

Number of Cases in Fresno County
Last updated: October 25, 2020 at 3:10 PM

- Total Cases: 31,296 (+1,271)
- Total Deaths: 459
- Currently Hospitalized: 56 (-11)
- Recovered: 29,335
- Test Results Received and Processed: 352,820



Oct. 15, 2020
First day back to school.

You Are Here...

