



SBMS NEWS

THE SADDLE BROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

Fall 2020

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Write for the SBMS News

Contact Mrs. Hazley for details

Students Sound Off on COVID-19

By Clara Chahine and Yliany Paez Morel

Everyone knows this year has been very different from the ones in the past. The *SBMS News* took the time to hear what some students had to say about COVID-19 schooling in Saddle Brook.

Aleksandra Lada said the start of the school years has gone relatively smoothly: “I honestly think we’ve been good so far and am looking forward to Phase Two but don’t want to rush anything.”

One of the newest additions this year are the Blue and Gold Cohorts. Here’s what some 7th grade students had to say, “I honestly feel great about it. I like how we can manage our work from home as well, but I wish we could go to school more,” says Dylan Cerciello.

Sofia Flores and Karolina Wojtak agreed that they are “fine with hybrid” learning but “would rather go to school



Temperature checks are a part of Saddle Brook school life in 2020.

every day” like before.

From the responses heard from the different students, it seems like most people wish everything was back to normal, despite the few conveniences.

We also interviewed Arianna Munoz and asked her, “Would you rather be all virtual, all in school, or hybrid?” She explained: “I’d rather be all in school. I feel that the virtual online classes are much harder. I feel that it’s much easier to learn in person. We’ll be able to ask questions right when we need to. I don’t really like the hybrid idea, I’d rather go to school 4 days a week.”

Eighth graders also said they miss the pre-COVID days, but most are grateful to be back with friends, even with limitations.

Nina Barrale had this to say about COVID schooling: “I would definitely want to go back to how school used to be, I miss my friends.” Andrew Casper added that some in-person school is better than none: “It’s a lot of fun to be able to see my friends again at school.”

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America Votes Nov. 3

By Nicola Sikomitellis

The 2020 Presidential election is just as crazy as references of our time in old science fiction movies.

Election Day is Tuesday, November 3, 2020 but the COVID-19 pandemic has affected voters’ options to cast ballots.

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Staying Safe

By Sera Volsky and Alyssa Balbuena

COVID-19 is a challenge that, at first, no one was prepared for. Even the word “pandemic” was estranged from many vocabularies and even realities. Cases spiking, businesses closing, and social distancing added to the challenges facing students ending the school year, and starting a new one, in a pandemic.

However, through it all, schools like ours have still managed to engage students to make this school year an enjoyable one, despite the difficult obstacles.

So far, all students had the option to continue all- virtual



learning or participate in hybrid learning for Phases I and II; there has been hopeful news of a possible vaccine in the near future, and lots of progress has been made on safe, easy ways to reduce the chances of contracting COVID.

Due to the virus, this year all Saddle Brook Middle School students had the option to continue virtual learning like last year, but with mandatory virtual classes in the afternoons, or to try “hybrid learning,” which splits in-person students into two cohorts/groups - Group A and Group B (Group C being all-virtual).

Each group attends school twice a week - while maintaining the proper safety habits such as wearing masks, wiping down desks, etc, - alternating between Tuesdays and Thursdays or Wednesdays and Fridays. While hybrid students do participate in many virtual aspects of the curriculum, in-person schooling creates a more stable, conventional routine for both students and teachers during these hard times.

Due to the fact that COVID-19 is so deadly, scientists across the globe are racing to find a vaccine, and so far many have made steady progress and some are in the last stages of development; it’s even probable that the COVID-19 vaccine will be the fastest vaccine made in history. This fact is impressive but also concerning to many people. Will this vaccine be safe? It's a fair question, while the vaccine must go through many tests before it's available and be approved for human usage. It's not about who does it first, it's about who does it the best and safest.

COVID-19 is something everyone has had to adjust to, from the new safety and health guidelines in place, to the unconventional way school must be run.

This virus and the global pandemic have truly transformed the entire world, from Saddle Brook and beyond.

Sound Off

(Continued from page 1)

Niko Gargurevich agrees and told us: “I wish that we could be here more but I think it’s working good for the captivity with Covid.” Asked if she preferred online school or school in person, Aniyah Corriette said, “I like school in person better because it's easier to learn when the teacher is directly teaching rather than a google meet. It’s a more efficient way of learning for me and I understand the work better.”

It's pretty clear that more people prefer in person school, what do you think?

America Votes

(Continued from page 1)

Mail-in ballots are the initial and only option for most people, although some poll locations are open for people with disabilities.

The candidates are Joseph R. Biden, Jr., the former U.S. Vice President, and Donald J. Trump, the current President.

The two candidates have debated twice hoping to get any undecided voters to their side. The voting age in the United States is 18. Have you decided who you would vote for? Like most people, you probably decided a long time ago.

This year every outlet is urging everyone to get out there and vote! Friends are judging friends and families are straining relationships as we constantly put siblings, parents, aunts and uncles on the spot to voice their opinions.

Who do we believe is the better fit to run this country. Will it be Trump or Biden?

SBMS NEWS STAFF

Editors-in-Chief: Alyssa Balbuena & Sera Volsky

Staff Advisor: Mrs. Hazley

Staff Writers: Olivia Lim, Victoria Billack, Yilany Paez, Clara Chahine, Alex Tanaka

Nicola Sikomitellis, Shelby Wright, Sonila Huli

Six Questions for Ms. Coffey

By Victoria Billack

Do you believe that the Stage One reopening was a success?

I do. I truly believe our students are happy to be back. We have been fortunate.

Is there a chance that we could go back to full person instruction in the 2020-2021 school year?

If we stay COVID-free for a few more months, I think it is a good possibility.

Would some protocols be lifted if stage two reopening is a success? If so which ones?

That is a hard question to answer. We have to base everything on the data we collect each phase to make those recommendations.

If there were to be a fall surge in November / December, is the MS/HS ready and what protocols would be put into place?

I really cannot answer that question. The committee would meet and Ms. Shanley, the Board of Education and the committee would determine the necessary measures.

Is there a chance that students would receive lockers for the 2020-2021 school year?

I don't think so to be safe, but you never know.

What are you proud of this year?

I am proud of all of the students, staff and faculty for being so resilient and working so diligently. Everyone has done and is doing an amazing job.

What are your expectations for the 2020-2021 school year?

We want everyone to stay safe and well, both emotionally and physically. It is of the utmost importance that our students receive the best education possible.



 <p>Trick or Treating for the Troops</p> <p>Want to give a token of our appreciation to US troops? Well, this year you can! Bring sealed candy in a ziplock bag to school. All the candy brought in will be given to US troops serving around the world.</p> <p>Sponsored by the Middle School Student Council</p>	<p>SMILES IN THE SNOW</p> <p>We are looking for new toys to help put smiles on children's faces during this holiday season We are donating to the SB food pantry/First Reform church</p> <p>Find information about this drive in November outside of room 228 and room 204</p>  <p>ORGANIZED BY THE STUDENT COUNCIL</p>
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S.B. Sports Soldier On Through the Fall Season

By Clara Chahine & Sonila Huli

With everything taking place in the world, such as the global pandemic, 2020 election, and virtual learning, we are very lucky to have such an amazing sports program in Saddle Brook.

So far, the middle school soccer and football teams have been able to get through quite a few games this season. As of now, the boys soccer players in u13 are undefeated with a total of 3 victories! They hope to make their way into the playoffs.

Currently our MS football team has only had one game, a loss, but we know they can clap back!

We are also proud to announce that the MS rec basketball teams will continue going as planned, though the difficulty of coronavirus means we need to be extra careful and take precautions like social distancing, wearing a mask, sanitizing hands, and following all the guidelines at any sporting event you are attending.

The Saddle Brook girls travel soccer team had their last game on Monday, October 19. Unfortunately, they lost but we know they will turn things around next fall.

We encourage all students to try a sport. Our program is amazing and we hope you are encouraged to try it out.



HOLIDAY GAMING GUIDE By Alex Tanaka

As the holiday season draws near, and companies hurry to show off their newest equipment, it can be a struggle to pick out what's trending for your gaming friends and family. As such, we've picked out some trending items that you may consider.

Systems

Sony recently announced the launch of the PS5, on November 12. The PS5 promises ray tracing, 4K-TV gaming, 8K output, HDR technology, backwards compatibility, and up to 120fps with 120Hz output.

The digital version of the console offers a lower price (\$399) but can only play digital games; the ultra PS5 (\$499) offers a disc drive allowing for physical versions of games.

Microsoft recently unveiled the Xbox series X and S consoles. The Xbox series X (\$499) offers True 4k gaming, up to 120 fps, Increased inventory, 8K HDR, compatibility with Xbox One accessories

The Xbox Series S is a cheaper alternative (\$299), serving as a smaller, all-digital version with 1440p resolution and less storage.

Both will be released Nov. 10.

Games

Demon's Souls: Experience the 2009 classic fully remade and enhanced on the PS5. Venture to Boletaria, face formidable challenges, and uncover dark truths.

Spider-Man Miles Morales: For both PS5 and PS4, it puts the player

into the shoes of a new web-slinger with new abilities, gadgets, and characters.

Assassins Creed Valhalla: For both Playstation, Xbox, and PC on Nov. 10, it puts the player into the shoes of Eivor, a Viking raider leading his clan from the harsh shores of Norway to ninth-century England.

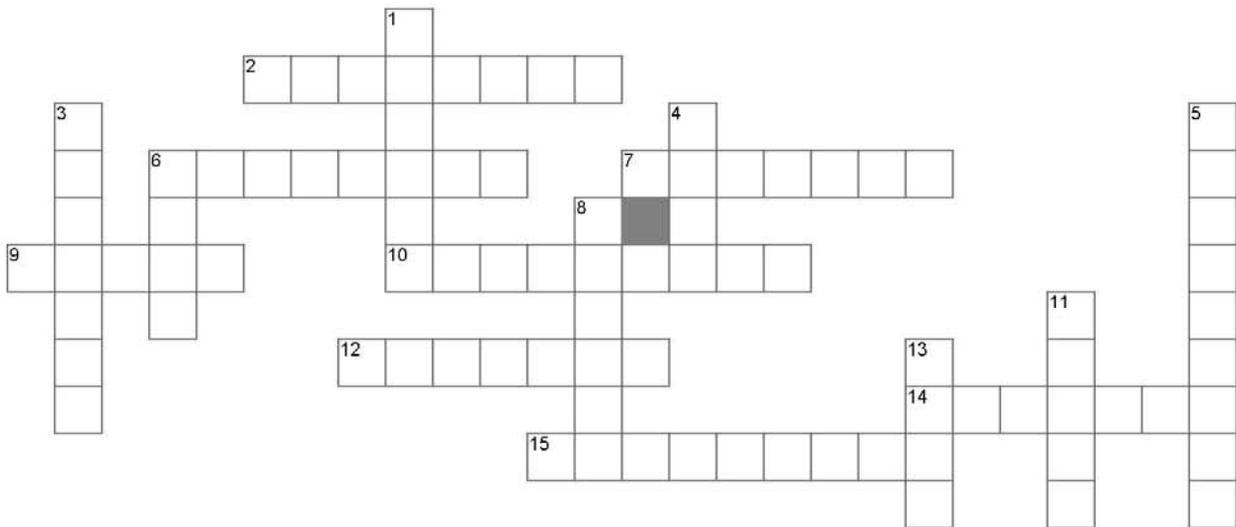
Cyberpunk 2077: For both Playstation, Xbox, and PC, you play as V, a mercenary outlaw going after a rare implant that is the key to immortality.

Call Of Duty Black Ops Cold War: Out Nov. 13 for PS, Xbox, and PC. Set during the early 1980s Cold War, the story follows CIA officer Russel Adler against the USSR.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Autumn Crossword



ACROSS

2. Last month of Autumn
6. An organized day or period of celebration.
7. The process or period of gathering in crops.
9. A variety of this fruit is marketed as "Autumn Glory"
10. Likes to store and eat nuts
12. Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter are the four
14. Another Autumn month
15. First month of Autumn

DOWN

1. What falls from a tree in Autumn.
3. You can use it to make a pie or for carving
4. You can gather fallen leaves with this
5. Used to scare the crows from fields
6. Another name for Autumn
8. Autumn leaves color
11. Fruit of the oak tree
13. Vegetable that grows in stalks

SEASONS
OCTOBER
SCARECROW
ORANGE

CORN
PUMPKIN
FALL
RAKE

LEAVES
SEPTEMBER
FESTIVAL
ACORN

SQUIRRELS
NOVEMBER
HARVEST
APPLE