

PawPrints

Fall Edition

Ready? Set? Go?

By Ella Hollaway, Piper Battaglia, and Paige Hill

Is it the right time to start school sports again? Sports gave coaches and athletes the chance to have fun, but due to the spread of the Coronavirus, most athletes and coaches haven't been able to play sports and are questioning whether school sports should start again in the 2020-2021 school year. Some are worried about students and staff not following the safety guidelines. New rules have been made in order to stay safe while playing sports. Coaches at Indian Ridge Middle suggested that people will be wearing masks, checking temperatures, and keeping hands sanitized.

Mr. Lindo, the boys' soccer coach at Indian Ridge Middle School has been coaching for the Indian Ridge Middle School boys' soccer team for four years. Coach Lindo thinks that he would be focusing less on the team and more on COVID-19 issues. He said he would not coach if school sports were to start again because, "It is too uncertain with everything with the virus." He thinks they can have some sports later in the school year like track, cross country, and golf. He says he is very disappointed that he does not get to see or coach the students on the soccer team and hopes that we can start playing later when it is safe.

Mrs. Hill, who is the Girl's volleyball coach, and will be the girls basketball coach this year as well, has her opinions on this new plan for the school year. "I hate sitting at home," she said, "but I don't know if going back right now is the best idea, but maybe couple of weeks would be better." Hill has been coaching at this school for three years. "I have always been an athlete," says Coach Hill "I have also always wanted to be a teacher."

Because Hill hasn't only been coaching for four years, she's been coaching for seventeen years so she has a deeper understanding of the importance of school sports in a student's life. Some people who aren't athletes, or don't play sports, think that playing is all about winning the game, but really it's not. Getting along with your teammates is key to success.

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Last year's IRMS Lady Jags had a winning season. This year, the season is slated to start sometime in April.

Photo by Amy Battaglia

Administration

Principal: Ian Murray

Grade Level Administrators:

6- Mr. Greenfield

7- Mrs. Birke

8- Mrs. Gonzalez

Editorials*

Should school be in person in 2020?

NO

2020 COVID19 Opening Schools Debate By Kaleigh Covard

Broward Schools reopened its doors on Friday, October 9th, and Indian Ridge opened on Tuesday October 13th. Students and families had to choose: go back or stick with e-learning until at least January. I think staying e-learning is the best way to go! It is much safer to stay home to do school then to go back and risk getting the virus. Ryan Stoker (7th grade) has agreed with my claim and plans to continue e-learning until 2021. Ryan states, “We should all go back in January if things clear up, it's too early and risky to be going at this point in time.” As a precocious student, Stoker thinks at max “50 percent of students should be allowed back”. More than that, in his opinion, will be unsafe and unsanitary.

Even if students wear a mask, I think there are irresponsible students out there that will not stay six feet apart. With teachers and student who are at higher risk for COVID19, it is not safe for staff and students when kids are not following coronavirus guidelines. As it is, I know of kids out of school that are not being safe and getting together with groups or other children. With this happening, an outbreak can start. I do not think we are at the right point in time to open schools. I believe e-learning is a better and safer option for students.

*The opinions reflected in editorials are that of the students only. They do not represent the opinions of the staff or administration of IRMS, or the school as an entity.



YES

Back to school YES?!! Or NO??!!!! by Carolina McCullough

Going back to school? We are all talking about it. I know, I know; I am starting to miss school, too and I never thought I would ever say that. When I thought about going back to school, I, of course had lots and lots of questions. We have all talked about going back to school and I feel that we should go back. I think we should go back because kids need interaction with other people/kids. Yes, I know we will all need to wear a mask and stay six feet away but at least we can see other people and other kids besides our siblings. Kids of all ages need to see other people and going back will help with lots of things. Parents have to stay home with their kids and do their work at the same time or they leave their kids home alone. Going back will not only help kids, but parents also! , There will be lots of ups and downs with going back to school and that's ok- this is still NEW for everyone. For me I had the opportunity to interview one of the teachers here at IRMS (one of my teachers) Mrs. Hill. Mrs. Hill had explained to me that she feels going back to school is as safe as it can be right now and that we are all learning in this time. Mrs. Hill also feels that her classroom is as safe as could be and that there will be a lot of NEW changes to school life and to her classroom. Also, she is very happy to have students back in her classroom! She and the other teachers will keep their students and fellow staff members around her safe by taking the right precautions and staying at a six foot distance. In conclusion, going back to school is not a bad idea. As long as we do our part and we follow the NEW rules on going back, we should be safe.

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YES

Should students go back to school? by Colby Hicks

Schools, stores, and restaurants had to close because of the pandemic Covid-19. However, most things are back up and running again because cases are going down. But we should not be opening schools back up because they will be risking everyone's health including students and staff. I think that if school opens back up it will just shut right back down because of Covid – 19.

I think students want to go back to school mainly so they can see their friends and have social interactions. Other kids don't want to come back because they are either just used to their schedules at home, or their parents want them to stay home and take safety precautions.

I have concerns about safety precautions and what they would look like. For example, what would we do in the crowded hallways? Obviously, we always need to wear masks in the hallways because that is the number one thing that will keep us safe during this pandemic. And are the desks six feet apart? From what I hear and see on Teams meetings, the desks are always separated for physical distancing.

In the end, I still think Broward County Public Schools should not be opening back up unless they have responsible and safety precautions for students and staff. But what do you think, do you think schools should be opening back up?



Seventh grade students Carolina McCullough, Dylan Fitzgerald, and Cate Andrews opted to return back to school, and are following the guidelines for physical distancing in the classroom. Their desks remain six feet apart, they wear masks the whole time, and they clean their desks at the end of every class period.

NO

Opening Too Soon? By Brynn Feller

Broward Schools are welcoming students back with open arms sooner than planned. Students will have to decide if they are going to go back to face-to-face learning or stay home with their trusty computers. A student, Addison Kaufman says, "I won't go back to school for at least a few more months." Therefore, Kaufman won't be attending school until the coronavirus has calmed down, and it's safer to be around that many other people. Kaufman also said, "Everyone's schedule will be affected. We will have to wear masks, social distance in classrooms and the cafeteria, and we will do work through the computer, so if you need to go back to school, that's okay, but not everyone should be going back all at once."

Schools around the world are opening too quickly. In certain places, coronavirus numbers can be high and unsafe for people to be around others. Schools should not open for at least a few more months, when numbers of cases are lower and kids can go back to school, but without so many limitations for a good education. So, if schools were to open in a few more months, rather than now, it could ensure that the students, staff, teachers, and administration would all be healthy and safe, learning and teaching from home.

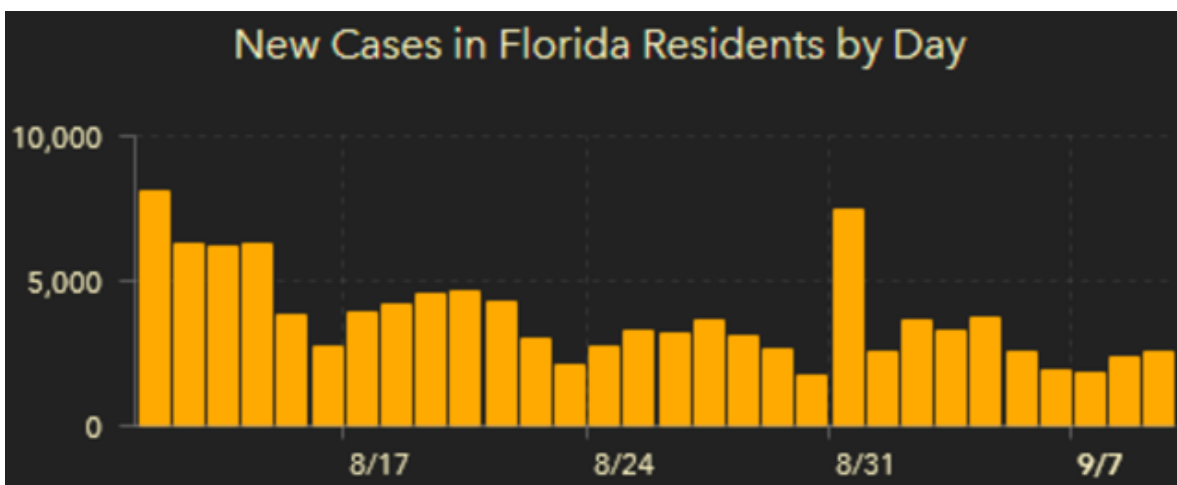


Photo credit: wsws.org



IRMS Dungeons and Dragons Club Receives National Sponsorship

By: Emily Einhorn, Cate Andrews, Mya Sankar, Layla Buchheit, and Yaryna Bednarchyk

Indian Ridge Middle School's Dungeons and Dragons club has just got a new sponsorship from Wizards of the Coast . The kids in the club are over the moon about it! Dungeons & Dragons is a fantasy tabletop role-playing game originally designed by Gary Gygax and Dave Arneson. D&D departs from traditional wargaming by allowing each player to create their own character to play instead of a military formation. It shares elements with childhood games of make-believe. Like those games, D&D is driven by imagination. It's about picturing the towering castle beneath the stormy night sky and imagining how a fantasy adventurer might react to the challenges that scene presents. Unlike a game of make-believe, D&D gives structure to the stories, a way of determining the consequences of the adventurers' action. Players roll dice to resolve whether their attacks hit or miss or whether their adventurers can scale a cliff, roll away from the strike of a magical lightning bolt, or pull off some other dangerous task. Anything is possible, but the dice make some outcomes more probable than others.

Ms. Carter, the IRMS teacher responsible for the D&D Club was “really happy and excited because I knew that it meant we could have more students in the club and invite more new players” when she heard the news. Wizards of the Coast, the publishing company that owns Dungeons and Dragons provided \$600 worth of books and memberships for their digital version of the game to the club. The sponsorship will help our schools D&D club have a better and more fun time and enjoyable game. Ms. Carter applied directly to the company after finding out that they started a sponsorship program due to the hardships schools are facing right now. Everyone is very grateful that this company gave Ms. Carter this sponsorship during this hard time for public schools.





Wizards of the
Coast's Logo
(Photo Credit:
en.wikipedia.org)

Many students have decided that they would try D&D out. The club has a lot of students who love the game. Thanks to this sponsorship, even more students may decide to give the club a try. Ms. Carter said she started the club because, "I found out I had several students that liked to play who wanted an after-school activity. There was a previous D&D Club, and at the time some of the 8th graders who were in the old club were still IRMS students." This club is full of students who love the game so getting such helpful resources that improved the game such as the expensive books and memberships helped the club to continue to get better and better.

The first meeting of the D&D Club will probably be in January, though nothing official has been decided yet.



D&D dice



Photo credit-
cleanpng.com

Mrs. Carter sits at her desk with her cat, Leia, who became her assistant during quaranteaching!



TV Time in Quarantine

By Chloe Kegley, Gianna Castro, Sophia Espinoza, Samantha Zimmerman and Geraldin Medrana

Binge, binge, binge. All everyone's been doing these past 6 months is watch and keep pressing play. You are not alone in this time of boredom. In fact, we found that mostly everyone has finished at least one show during quarantine, and we don't blame them. So maybe you'd like to press "No Netflix, I am not still watching", and read this article, it might just surprise you.

The IRMS students we asked all finished at least one show, and one of them even confessed that they had finished seven shows over the past seven months! This should not come as a surprise because since many people are isolated and are bored worldwide, they would of course turn to the screen. Some of the most popular shows streamed by all television lovers are, Avatar: The Last Airbender, Euphoria, The Office, and Riverdale. People buzz and share their thoughts on shows leading to more popularity towards it. Ariana Ruiz said the reason she started the show Euphoria was "because it was a trend so I thought I might try it out!".

This is a good tactic that TV providers have- the more publicity the show has, the more watchers they gain. Especially now when TV is all there is to do. Most people during quarantine this year have taken this as a time of relaxation, a time to binge watch their favorite shows and click the continue watching button. Netflix, Hulu, Amazon and Disney+ have been the overall streaming networks the past six months. Two of the three seventh graders say Netflix was their first choice when looking for a show to watch, but there are those who choose to watch movies during their quarantine instead. Marisol Holloway, a 7th grade student said, "I watch Amazon Prime a lot, but I would say I watched Hulu more." She also implies that, "My favorite movie is Kissing Booth 2. I like the romance and suspense." Hulu also had a wide variety of the vote and so has Disney+. The die-hard Disney fans say that anything you could ever want is on Disney+ and Hulu allows all its subscribers to watch free movies, shows, and Hulu originals.





Streaming show Hulu's logo. (Photo credit: Hulu.com)

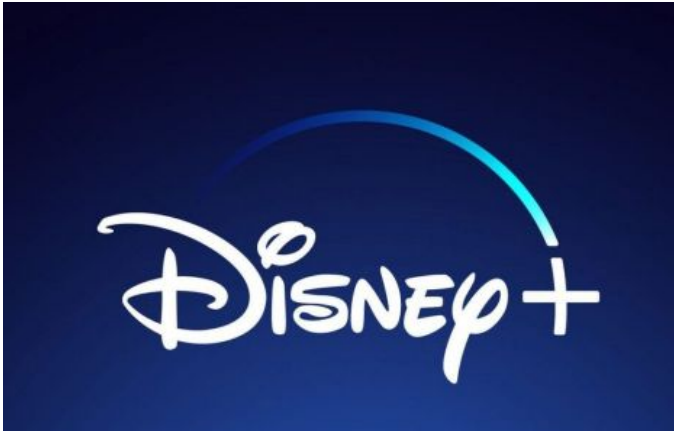


Amazon Prime the streaming service, logo. (Photo credit: primevideo.com)

Streaming services have become one of the many things keeping us preoccupied during quarantine. From finishing two or more shows in a week, or having a movie marathon, everyone is having fun. 80% of people watched more than one show on Netflix these past few months. Binge, binge, binge. It's all anyone's doing.



The logo of the streaming service Netflix. (Photo credit: brand.netflix.com)



The logo of the streaming service Disney Plus. (Photo credit: amaysim.com)



SCHOOL SPORTS CONTINUED...

From Page 1

Coach Regina Lendinara, a boys volleyball coach, P.E. coach, and athletic director at Indian Ridge Middle thinks Covid-19 has ruined the year. She hates being away from her students and coaching young athletes to make them improve their skills in person. She hopes sports can start soon, but right now isn't the right time to go back. "If we go back, I will make sure to put less people in each game and enforce coaches and players on the benches to be wearing mask. Before entering the building, everyone must get their temperature checked and sanitize their hands several times." Volleyball and P.E. usually take place in a gymnasium, hopefully it will stay that way. "I will only go back and coach if it is a safe environment" stated Coach Lendinara. Mrs. Hill states that "we need to keep our hands super clean and cleaning the ball a lot, and that people that aren't playing should wear their masks."

The former boy's flag football coach, Christopher Cochran, puts in his thoughts on this topic as well. "I have been coaching for five to six years and I've had a blast coaching and developing relationships and connecting with the kids on a deeper level," says Cochran. When you think about it, you can make more friends when you play sports and connect with peers. Coach Cochran expresses that "I wanted to impact and teach young adults what I know and impact their lives on and off the field." He says, in order to stay safe while playing sports, all students and staff at Indian Ridge Middle must be very cautious. The school also says that there needs to be less people on each team to lower the risk of getting sick. "I want to think someday (I'll go back to coaching)." he says. Going back is a risk some families are willing to take.

Overall, everyone can grow a connection with their peers. Sports gives us the chance to be ourselves and be happy. It has been a rough year so far, not being able to play sports and interact with other athletes. Once we go back, if we do, we need to make sure to stay safe and follow the guidelines for COVID-19. Even though these times and challenges are going to be hard, everyone will work together to get through this. School sports make staff and students joyful to see themselves and others improve.



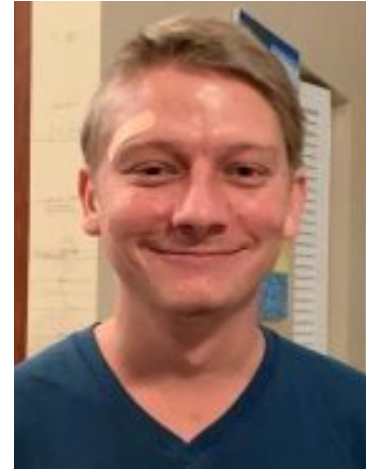
Elections 2020

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PUBLIC OPINION

By Rebecca Hilbert

The election is coming up, and the public has a big impact on what will happen. 7th grader Rebecca Hilbert interviewed her brother Alex Hilbert, and he says he thinks many people will be voting this year, even with the virus. Although people might think the virus is not going to stop others from voting, many are at a high risk. Alex is eligible to vote, and knows who he will vote for, many people do. But to those who don't, you would need to know each candidate's points, before jumping to this big decision. "With Trump, we would be getting back to school and work. Biden has a different view of the economy, and how the economy would be different," said Alex Hilbert. For more information, you could even watch the presidential debate, which are probably available on YouTube.



Alex Hilbert a citizen in the United States , knows exactly who he is voting for.

Photo Credit:
Rebecca Hilbert



Former Vice President Joe Biden and a candidate in this years presidential elections, has chosen Kamela Harris as his running mate. Photo Credit: The Boston Globe.



President Donald Trump is the republican a candidate in this years presidential election.

Photo Credit: The Guardian.



Election 2020

TEACHERS

By: Aisha Naveo & Dylan Fitzgerald

Many adults, including our own teachers, have taken part in the election. Mrs. Manriquez, a civics teacher at IRMS, is one of the many people voting, but other friends and family have postponed their voting due to COVID-19. Out of both candidates Manriquez agrees with certain things for each. For example, Donald Trump wants to improve the economy and Joe Biden believes in dealing with climate change and improving race relations in America. But she disagrees with the way they were interrupting each other in the first debate. Although they are following safety protocols she stated, “They need to be more respectful of each other and their ideas”. Mrs. Manriquez says she will vote in person to not only support who she believes should be rightfully president, but to, “Get my sticker!” She is not sure whether COVID-19 will prevent people from voting but hopes that they will continue their civic duty.

Ms. Nortmann is voting in-person, but her family is voting via mail. She thinks both candidates have good points. She laid out the major election topics, which include, fast tracking a vaccine for COVID-19, the possibility of withdrawing from the World Health Organization, and tax issues. Nortmann mentioned, “Affordable Care Act is also a point that the candidates disagree. Trump wants to get rid of and replace the ACA and Biden want to keep it. Both candidates are against de-funding the police. Major differences come up when looking at foreign policy, climate, and the environment.” She thinks they are holding the voting process decently, “I like the fact that more states are allowing more people the opportunity to vote by mail, especially in these uncertain times.” She does not like how the candidates are handling the election, especially the debate, “I was discouraged watching the debate. I did not like how both candidates were interrupting and name-calling. She thinks despite COVID-19, lots will still vote, “Yes, people will want to vote. It is a civic responsibility. Remember that voting tells our leaders what we like and what we don’t like. While voting for president is of the utmost importance, there are many other ballot measures and races from the national level down to the local level that needs the attention of Florida voters.”



Election 2020

By Mia Aima & Ella Brennan

Although students at Indian Ridge are too young to vote in the election, they still have many opinions about it. Landyn Spellberg, a seventh grade student at Indian Ridge, realizes how important voting is and would vote now if he could. Due to COVID-19 he knows many people who are mailing in votes and people who are still going in person. According to the article, *How does vote-by-mail work and does it increase election fraud?*, “There are two kinds of mail balloting systems. Some states have what are called universal ‘vote by mail’ in which states mail ballots to all voters. In most states, however, vote by mail is through absentee balloting in which the voter must request an absentee ballot.” Spellberg believes not everyone will be pleased with the way they are holding the elections. He explains, “There is going to be controversy, there is going to be problems, people are going to say that it went wrong”. He says, “I would change it by promoting people to send their ballots in early and promoting people to follow the advice of the election officials”. He thinks the candidates are handling the elections in different ways. Biden is encouraging people to stay safe, stay at home and promoting people to go vote. While President Trump is telling people that they can vote in person and that mail in voting will not work because it will be rigged, according to Spellberg

Rachel Kessler, also 7th grade, also has important opinion on the upcoming election. Rachel feels that the election is

STUDENTS

being held unfairly. “Some people do not have the technology to mail-in ballots and the mail-in ballots might not all arrive at the same time.” Rachel also states that she would change the election. She would do this by delaying the election for a little bit longer or until it is safe enough to have more people doing participating in person. She would also make it more equal. “It is also not fair because Trump said mail in voting will be rigged. I think that it is going to be a mess. Less people are going to be voting,” Rachel believes. “Sometimes someone’s mail might get lost in the mail. I think that is one of the main reasons why the election should be delayed until we can have in person ballots. There will be less people that are voting because some of the people that usually vote in person will not end up voting at all, even though they can mail in their ballot.” Kessler knows that her parents are going to mail in their votes because of COVID-19, instead of in person voting.



Student at Indian Ridge, Landyn Spellberg, has valid opinions about the election.