

HOOFFPRINTS

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Wooster High School
1331 East Plumb

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Pandemic impacts, teacher, students, curriculum and grades

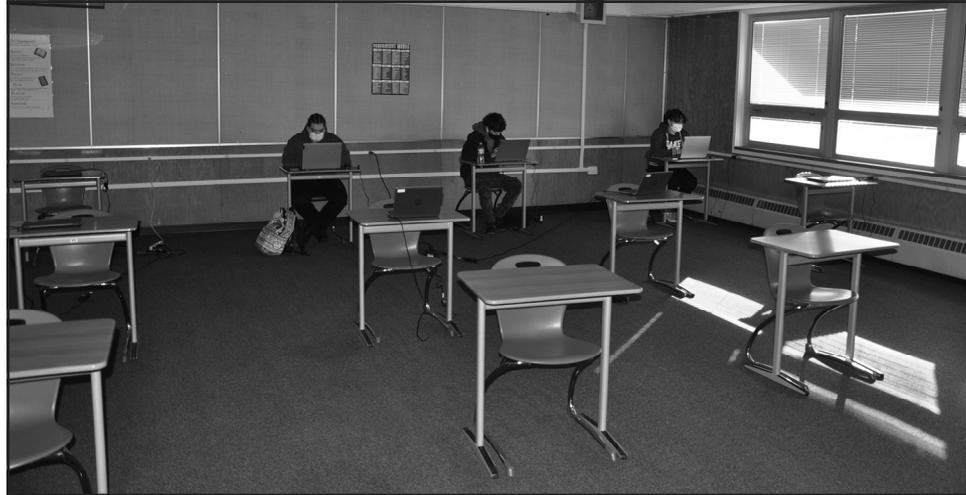
By Mark Pailey

Fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic is still being assessed by schools district officials and school administrators as the school year's first semester draws to a conclusion.

Attendance numbers are at an all-time low as fewer students are physically attending class having opted for distance learning, enrollment numbers are down in many schools throughout the district and academic failure notices have taken a sharp increase.

This trend is reflected in the numbers at Wooster High School.

"This year, our enrollment has reduced to 1,515 – about 100 students down from the year prior," said Wooster principal Leah Keuscher. "We lost a total of three teacher allocations and we began to 'return' those allocations to the district last spring as teachers retired or transferred to



Empty classrooms: Only three 456B-day students make up Mrs. Whitfield's senior English classroom. The pandemic has turned some classes into virtual "ghost towns."

other schools."

Keuscher said the school anticipated the reduction due to the rezoning of high schools and the reconfiguration of elementary schools and middle schools with sixth graders now attending middle school.

She said situation may only last for the current school year.

"Next year, the new rezoning for our area will take place and we will see an increase of enrollment. When this happens, we will be given allocations back to support the increase in enrollment."

"Mrs. Carroll is working with 50 students who are on 'full Edgenuity distance learning'," Keuscher said. Mrs. Carroll reports to school every day and works on campus. She also supports our grade level teams and does several home visits

The school currently has 450 hybrid students on the A/B day schedule and approximately 600 students as full distance learners. However, these numbers are continually changing.

The school only has one full-time distance teacher.

throughout the week to encourage students to log on and keep up with their studies."

One of the question regarding the pandemic and its relation to school was the safety of teachers.

Wooster currently has five teachers on leave this year and three teachers who retired this fall.

"As individual staff members decided to leave, meetings were held with each person, individually, to support their wishes to leave," Keuscher said. "It was sad to see people go, but these are certainly are unprecedented times and their decision to leave was not easy for them to make. We hope, one day soon, they'll be able to return to teaching and hopefully to Wooster."

Keuscher said that despite the number of teachers leaving, it has not affected the school's master schedule.

See Impact. page 2

Home visits tackle problems of non-attendance, participation

By Bill Amhearst

A Wooster task force of administrators, counselors, teachers and staff members have joined together to address the problem of students not attending class during the first quarter of the 2020-21 school year.

Teams of school staff have made and continue to make home visits to enrolled students who have not physically attended schools as a hybrid students or have not logged in as a distance learning students.

"Our grade-level teams meet every week to discuss graduation status, interventions, attendance and grades," said Wooster lead counselor Erin Danielsen. "There is a large percentage of students not engaging and/or attending school. Phone call have been made to students not attending and after several attempts, we felt home visits were needed to re-engage students."

Teachers and staff members are paired with counselors or administrators to do the home visits which have been ongoing since the start of the school year. However, during the week of

October 19-23, home visits drastically increased.

"We did a big push after the grading period ended," Danielsen said. "We conducted over 300 home visits. We continue to do home visits every day and will continue for as long as it takes to reach students who are not coming to school or logging in from home."

Danielsen said the overall response to the visits have been positive.

"We have had great success with our home visits. We have had great conversations with families and students and identified barriers that are keeping them from attending," she said. "We bring that information back to school and trouble shoot each situation to see if we can do more than we are."

Social studies teacher Debra Harris partnered with Nikki Grose on home visits.

"At homes that answered the door, people were always surprised. Most were friendly, if slightly defensive, which is totally understandable," she said. "I believe most families find it (the visits) encouraging." Harris said the reasons for not

attending varied and included technical or Internet problems, lack or shared computers and in some instances students refusing to work.

Spanish teacher Marco Real-Zepeda also participated in the home visits saying they have been a very positive experience.

"When the student welcomes us to his/her home, they listen to our recommendations and express their concerns and challenges regarding school," he said.

"Some of the reasons students are not logging into Teams are not having the appropriate device to do their school work and being confused as far as the expectations for each of their classes," he added.

Real-Zepeda also said that one of the largest challenges distance students face is trying to do their work using a smartphone.

"As a teacher, I have noticed that students' attendance has increased since more students are logging into Teams and attending class regularly either by joining my live session class from home or coming to class.

One of the problems in addition to technology, is students thinking the new school year would be handled

in a similar fashion to last spring.

Students are not logged into TEAMS because they still believe that they do not have to log into every class," said Araceli Ramirez Cruz. "They still believe they only have to sign in once a day, just like we did at the beginning of COVID-19. Once informed of the classes and school expectations, parents and students were very grateful for the home visit."

There is not one common reason why students are not attending classes.

"We found reasons all over the place and there wasn't one commonality," Danielsen said.

Many students have missed up to an entire quarter of classes and face an uphill battle to make up missing work.

"Each student situation is unique and requires personal attention," Danielsen said. "The students' teachers are paramount in their (students) success moving forward and we are hopeful that once the student re-engages, their grades and missed instruction will improve."

The attendance problems facing

Wooster students are not unique to the school. All high school in the Washoe County School District are facing similar problems and are found at each grade level.

The on-going challenges posed by the pandemic are a major contributing factor to school attendance problems and the design of programs to combat them.

"This is a work in progress, day by day, hour by hour," Danielsen said. "The challenges our students, staff and parents are facing right now in the world are like nothing we have seen before. We are working within the parameters that have been set for us and breaking down barriers as much as we can.

"We are trying to remind students every day that school IS important. IT matters, and THEY matter," she said.

Regardless of the challenges facing students and families, education remains an important part of a child's development.

"COVID has impacted each household differently," Danielsen said. "Our home visits are just a small reminder, to those not attending, that we care about them and we miss them."

Wells has left the building

By Ed Murrow

Long-time Wooster physical education teacher and coach, Chris Wells, decided this year was the best time for him to call it a career.

"I've worked for 30 years and it is time to retire and look at doing something new in my life," Wells said. "I have worked with kids my entire adult life."

In addition to teaching physical education and weights, Wells also taught in special education.

"I taught special education at both Wooster and Reno High Schools - Wooster, 1998-99 and Reno 1999-2003," he said.

Wells returned to Wooster in 2003 and was the Colts varsity football coach from 2003 through the 2006 season. He also coached football for the Huskies.

Wells also served as an assistant track coach specializing in coaching shot putters and discus throwers. He spent the last 18 years teaching and coaching at Wooster.

Wells said he will miss working with students the most.

"I will miss interacting with the students and helping them to grow as individuals," he said. "They come to us as naive freshmen and leave as young adults. Hopefully, what we have taught them helps to guide them in their future lives."

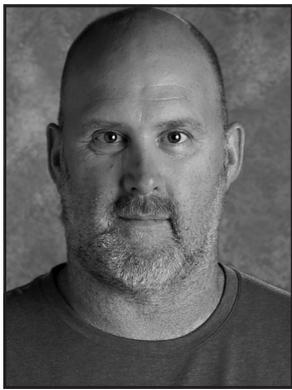
Wells said he will not miss the bureaucracy that takes away from being a teacher.

"Too much paperwork, big brother looking over your shoulder and the lack of support for athletics," he said.

Wells leaves teaching with many favorite memories over his career.

"I will miss coaching football and track - the opportunity of making a difference in my students/athletes lives. I am proud of the fact that I was able to build the current weight room and make it comparable to any other school in Reno."

Wells defines his legacy as lead-



Wells

ing by example, "Teachers should lead by example," he said. "Show up every day prepared to work hard and set the example. Be honest and build trust. Teach our students to be good, responsible individuals. I always referred to my students as ladies and gentlemen and expected them to act as such."

His expectation in the classroom easily transferred to his coaching career.

"As a coach, I believed my job was to help create the best individuals I could. I always told my football players that my goal was not to make them the best football players, but the best men, fathers and husbands that they could be in their futures," Wells said.

After 30 years in the classroom trenches and on the athletic fields, Wells offered some advice for those teachers who are starting out in the profession.

"Be fair, honest and consistent with your students. Keep the standards high for all of them and be patient. Have a sense of humor and don't be afraid to be yourself," he said. "Most of all, don't take it personally if things don't pan out. Teaching is a tough job and it gets tougher every day."

Now that Wells has hung up his whistle, he plans to take his life in another direction.

"I plan to start my own business as a handyman and artist. I have an extensive background in both," he said. "I may, however, continue to coach and someday go back into teaching special education. I will definitely do some traveling and have some fun."

Students face new lunch procedures

By Carolina Guerrero Rubio

One of the major changes that students faced when they returned for the 2020-21 school year was the new lunch schedule.

Like every year, all students from ninth to twelfth grade normally all have lunch at the same time and also have the option to go off campus if eligible to do so.

However, due to the COVID-19 virus, students' lunch is divided

into three, consecutive 35-minute periods and no student is allowed to go off campus during lunch.

"Our main priority was to keep students safe," said Wooster dean of students Susan Schraeder.

"Most people don't keep masks on in their vehicles and it is virtually impossible to keep six feet apart. We closed our campus so that students would not crowd into a vehicle without masks for an extended time period."

District unveils plan for snow days

By Mark Pailey

The Washoe County School District unveiled its plan to handle snow days for the current school year in an e-mail sent to the school district's stakeholders.

As with all things this year, there are specific guidelines that are impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Distance learning will not be implemented on snow days according to a directive from the Nevada Department of Education.

"All education models including in-person, hybrid and full distance learning will pause when a snow day is called. If we

observe a snow day this school year, a contingency day will be used at the end of the school year calendar. Contingency days are held at the end of the school year calendar in case days need to be made up," the e-mail said.

The Governor's Emergency Directive 022 allows for distance learning to be used only to mitigate COVID-19 or other health-related issues.

The e-mail further stated the school district hopes it will be able to implement a two-hour delay starting classes which will allow the snow and ice to thaw,

making it safer for all vehicle transportation.

A cancellation of daily instruction would be used only if the school district determines that poor conditions could negatively impact transportation.

The district said the latest the information would be given to its stakeholders, the media, the school district website and its social media channels would be at 5:15 a.m. the day of the cancellation of instruction due to inclement weather, or if a delayed start is called.

Impact

Continued from page 1

"All classes are important to us to build well-rounded human beings. We have stayed true to our master schedule and have not removed any courses, including electives, from our master schedule."

Replacing teaching positions was a challenge for the school's administration.

"We were able to replace all open allocations this year with full-time teachers, one-year-only teachers and long-term substitutes," Keuscher said. "English as the most time-consuming subject to fill due to the amount of openings we had and teacher licensure hiccups."

"Currently, we have one long-term substitute (each) in mathematics and science. I'm thankful to our department leaders who were instrumental in keeping those lesson plans going and students supported when we were missing a teacher."

"at the beginning of the semester they were juggling a lot of lesson plans and TEAMS set up in not only the classes they teach, but for the classes in their departments that had vacancies," Keuscher said.

The return to a "normal," every day school schedule in the future is, at this time, uncertain.

"I'm uncertain of all students returning to campus every day, especially since current gubernatorial restrictions require six feet distance indoors and less than 250 gathering outdoors,"

Keuscher said. "We would love to see all students return, but right now we need to focus on everyone's health, safety and success at hybrid and distance learning."

Hoofprints reporter Jesus Garcia Maldonado contributed to this story.

In memoriam

Ulises Amador Felipe

October 6, 2003 – October 8, 2020



The candlelight ceremony for Ulises Amador Felipe.

By Nadia Lopez

Wooster junior Ulises Amador Felipe died on October 8 in an off-roading accident in Reno.

He was a beloved son, cousin, friend, and best friend. There was never a dull moment with him it was always fun to be around him.

He will always be remembered for the way he was with everyone and his smile that lightened up the whole room. He truly showed what it was like to love one another and always be humble.

Ulises had plans. He planned to travel to Texas and Colorado. His goal was to go to a huge truck event in either Texas or Colorado he wanted to meet Statik Leo and On D Gas Racing.

These Youtuber's inspired him and it led to him wanting a truck for the longest time and he planned and planned to get a truck of his dreams.

Later on the thought of a truck was still there but a Jeep or "Jeepeta" was calling his name.

He left a huge heart ache on everyone who truly loved him. The flashbacks of all the memories is what will continue to keep his name alive.

Amador Felipe is survived by his mother and father and his sister Yulissa.

Y por siempre Tirando La H (Forever throwing up the H)

Comments can be sent to #LLU or #PorSiempreLucho.

The school's administration created the safety protocols to keep COVID transmissions to a minimum on campus. These protocols were mostly site-based decisions, so not all high schools have the same protocols as Wooster.

Before school, passing periods, lunch, and after school, students have one-way directions throughout campus. Classes are released slowly and only very

See lunch procedures, page 3

Coaches cautiously optimistic about sports opening in January

By Nadia Lopez Guerra

Sports are scheduled to open up in January with six competitive weeks starting off with winter season sports.

However, with the upswing in COVID-19 cases and the possibility of the Washoe County School District switching to a total distance learning schedule, the prospect of actual sports competition is in doubt.

Winter season sports practice begins Saturday, January 2, 2021, with first contests held on Friday, January 15, and last contest Saturday, February 20.

Fall season sports will follow with six competitive weeks.

Practice begins on Saturday, February 20, 2021, for all sports except football which starts practice on practice Saturday, February 13.

The first football contest may be held Friday, March 5, with the last games played on Saturday, April 10.

The spring season sports will wrap up the year with a six-week season. Practice begins Saturday, April 3, first contest may be held Friday, April 16, with the last contest held on Saturday, May 22.

Coaches have been eager and impatient to start off the season because it's something they enjoy doing while watching their teams succeed.

Beginning with soccer, two of the returning coaches are Rene Flores and Derek Vaughan. It all comes down to how coaches feel about practice sessions as well as their thoughts on the safety of their student athletes.

"The three weeks of scheduled 'conditioning' for fall sports is fine with me," Flores said.

"Instead of conditioning because we are three months out from the start of the season, we planned for two short and simple training sessions. These sessions included plans for getting my athlete's feet on the ball and reigniting our camaraderie while practicing social distancing."

These two short and simple training sessions did not happen due to coaches not being present.

"The training sessions that our coaching staff had planned, included safety measures that adhered to guidelines to keep us socially distanced," Flores said. "We also had a plan for how we used balls within two or three players. Balls were to be cleaned before and after each use."

"These simple training sessions I believe are safe. Soccer is set



Will the COVID-19 pandemic results in empty stands and bleachers for the Wooster sports season? At this point, seasons are in question.

to begin at the end of February. I believe if each of us follows guidelines set for us, we can be safe playing a sport outdoors," he said.

These training sessions followed the guidelines that all WCSD sports must follow.

"I feel the same as everyone when it comes to having practice sessions," Vaughan said. "I'm excited to be back as a coach and ready to meet all the players. I'm on edge, like a lot of us, in the midst of the pandemic and it will be interesting to see how the season plays out."

"I believe that we will make it as safe as possible for coaches and players," Vaughan said.

All coaching staffs are doing their best to follow the safety measures so students can have their season.

Varsity softball head coach R.A. Hanson was able to have a few days out on the softball field with his softball girls. It all went well and he was able to put in work with the girls.

"Great. It was awesome to see some of our student athletes out on the Softball field in October," Hanson said. "It shows how one sport practices were able to happen and how it's going to be different for everyone else."

Despite the optimism, there are still doubts.

"If the state, county, WCSD, and the NIAA approves then I believe it's safe," Hanson said. "Every coach wants the safety side of everything because they're worried not only for their athlete's health but their health as well."

Football would normally be wrapping up its season in early November, and the Colts first season practice this year was held the week the team was preparing for the playoffs a year ago.

Head coach Bo Sellers was

able to have a few practices in the summer for his football team and that helped him out a lot. He was able to have some type of practice during the pandemic.

"I feel OK because we had decent participation over the summer. We only got one practice in during our pre-season opportunities in November," he said. "Weather and case spikes prevented us from holding those workouts."

Sellers wasn't optimistic about winter season practices.

"I am not sure I can answer that right now. I felt safer this summer because we were outside and the weather was warm. With winter, I don't know if we can get a good practice in because of the cold and short days. It will definitely be interesting if or when we get that opportunity," he said.

"The season might be tough to get around because of all the cases spiking. It is getting way too out of hand with trying to figure out ways with school, Sellers added.

Because of the shortened seasons the questions of playoffs and safety abound.

"Only time will tell if it is safe to play," Flores said. "We will play. I do feel that decisions will be made to be equitable for all three sports seasons to be played. Transportation will play a key roll in having a season, I think."

The point Flores made was well stated as transportation may be something that will have an impact because of the difficulty of disinfecting every bus and maintaining social distancing.

Vaughan said he is cautiously optimistic that the season will happen.

"I remain hopeful we'll have a softball season in 2021," Hanson said.

"I would say with the cases moving back up, I am 50/50," Sellers said. "I hope and pray we do because these kids, not

just ours, all over the country need a sense of normalcy and I believe all sports can give them that. Especially our seniors who missed so much last year because of the pandemic."

It is hope for every coach: they all want a season; they want the world to be back to normal as it has been for them every year.

Every coach is doing their best to prepare their athletes in anticipation that a season will happen.

"Due to the short pre-season, one of our plans is for our athletes to do individual group training virtually. These scheduled trainings will include ball work, conditioning, going over film, and tactics discussions."

This is a creative way to keep his players in contact and help with workouts to be prepared for a season.

"I'll do my best to prepare my athletes by communicating with them, encouraging them, and providing them as many opportunities to succeed," Vaughan said.

Coaches are hoping their athletes are doing some type of work on their own outside of school so that they can be ready

for the season.

"Hopefully, most of our student-athletes are doing their best to stay active and in shape on their own during these difficult times," Hanson said.

"It's not hard to do easy-at-home workouts can help the students."

Football is a little more complicated.

"We are going to try and prepare like we always have," Sellers said. "We are lifting right now, but with distant learning for some and schedules for others I don't feel that is going as well as we like. So, we are sending out workouts and communicating with everyone to get those workouts in."

In order to put a team out on the field and be safe, our players are required to lift and be in weights in the off season as much as possible. Everything else comes second and I hope we can make this work as it gets closer," Sellers said.

Each coach has a plan on how they are going to prepare their athletes whether it's through film, explaining workouts, communication, or videos, they hope to see their athletes come back in shape if there's a season.

Lunch procedures

Continued from page 2
controlled activities after school.

There is a maximum of 50 students in any area any time and mask-wearing is mandatory at all times.

Staff has recently been given tape measures to remind students what six feet apart looks like around campus.

During lunch there are three areas that each have an inside and outside lunch serving spot. Each area has a meal distribution cart so that the cafeteria isn't overwhelmed with students.

In order to keep each area 50 students or less we have three different lunches throughout the school day.

Compared to last year, this year fewer lunch's are being served due to there being fewer students on campus. All lunches are free to everyone this year, which helps feed students, and lunches are also

distributed as free meals from the West Parking lot every Wednesday between 9 and 10 a.m.

One thing that hasn't changed this year is that students still have free periods. Seniors can have off-campus classes that are scheduled.

Almost all those off-campus classes are scheduled the last period of the day. Those students must leave campus during those classes.

"There are not many students with an off-campus class," Schraeder said. The administration was relatively certain that those few students would not be packing into one vehicle and chance a transmission of COVID."

Staff will still be enforcing social distancing and off campus regulations during further notice to prevent the spread of COVID around our school campus this year.

Senior Deadlines/Yearbook Specials

- Senior Portraits due 12/1/2020
- Senior Ads Deadline: 12/17/2020
- 2020-21 Yearbook: \$65; \$85 Second Semester
- 2019-20 Yearbook: \$50
- 2018-19 and 2017-2018 Yearbooks: \$40

In the Stream

Adviser's note: With the closure of most movie theaters due to COVID 19 restrictions, our regular feature *At the Flicks* has now been replaced by *In the Stream*

By Alicia Rodriguez

Recently Netflix, Hulu and Disney Plus have added new things along with more coming soon. Netflix has been releasing many interesting documentaries such as American Murder Next Door.

They have also come out with some really funny Halloween movies like "Hubie Halloween." This movie is about a guy who's name is Hubie and there's a murderer on the loose and he has to try and solve it.

There's a lot of other movies and shows that are being put out this month.

Hulu has been putting out a lot of old block buster movies, horror movies and they have released new seasons of shows such as season 9 of American Horror Stories. Also they have put out new episodes of Bob's Burgers.

Hulu does have some really good, old blockbuster movies such as "The Tooth Fairy" with Dwayne Johnson, and "Bumblebee."

Hulu has also recently added a Huluween section with horror movies such as "The Purge," "Sandman" and "Scream 4" and many other scary shows and movies.

Disney Plus has add to their Halloween section that has movies such as "Hocus Pocus," and "Halloween Town 1,2 and 3." They also have your classics Halloween Disney movies as well as Halloween episode of their shows.

They also just put out the new "Mulan" but it's not free to the public yet and is set up like a pay per view or subscription service movie.

Disney Plus has recently put on there older movies such as "Narnia," "Toy Story" and many others. Disney Plus has been adding a lot of animal shows such as Animal Kingdom and Meet the Chimps. The service has also expanded its National Geographic offerings and expanded its Star Wars selections.

Since movie theaters have been shuttered due to pandemic restrictions, entertainment is now In the Stream and is flowing daily into your homes. So, sit back, relax and jump into your favorite movies and series.

Question of the Month

Compiled by staff

What has been your biggest challenge to date regarding this school year?

Faculty/Staff:

"Keeping students moving and engaged with so many limitations on what we can do in physical education classes. It has been difficult to find way to get some exercise in while being safe." – Charlene Skelton



"Balancing everything since it feels as if I'm doing three different job all at once. There just isn't enough time to do everything and keep up with the number of spinning plates." – Robert Munson

Seniors:

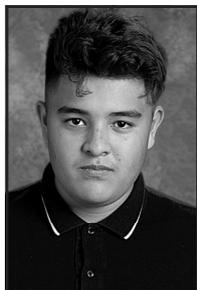
"Staying motivated has been pretty difficult, especially virtual days. Keeping that focused mentally can be hard to achieve when there's other influences on your environment." – Isabella Barraza



"Getting motivated to do on-line classes and work." – Colin Miller

Juniors:

"The biggest challenge I have faced this year is remembering to do my work." – Henna Frankie Massey



"The biggest challenge would be we can't walk around the school during lunch. We also can't go off campus for lunch." – Eli Marquez

Sophomores:

"The mess-ups with the grade books/attendance. Teachers at both schools that I've been at keep putting in things wrong and that causes difficulties with my personal life." – Ciarra Foakes



"Having Teams, Notebook and One Note not working during distance days. One Note deletes work I do, Teams not posting meetings and assignments and trying to work through all those hoops." – Nik Gersh

Freshmen:

"Keeping up with my school work. It's been harder to finish work with the hybrid learning and some classes are harder than I thought they would be." – Brianna Romero-Franco



"The biggest challenge for me is focusing on class while I'm at home distance learning. I'm still in the mind set of 'it's a day off when I'm at home,' and that's not the case." – Ella DuMond

From the "What If" Department

What students want back

By Alicia Buchanan De Rodriguez

With all the cancellation of school activities and events due to the pandemic, *Hoofprints* asked students if they could bring one missing event what would it be?

"If I could bring back a school event, I would bring back assemblies because they were something to look forward to at the end of the week and the dress up days that led up to them were always a fun way to support the school and to show school spirit," said junior Arely Salazar.

Charlotte Paschall wanted to see the return of prom.

"It would probably be prom because it would be my first prom and because this year is the se-

niors last chance to have a prom."

Junior Kacy Alexander Encarnacion comments were aimed more at the pandemic problem.

"There is not anything I would bring back due to the regulations and social distancing (caused by the pandemic)," he said.

Sports would be a top priority for junior Rebecca Salazar Martinez.

"I would bring back sports because it's amusing to watch Wooster to play against other schools and as a player, it help me keep mu grades up along with helping me to stay in shape.

Junior Juan Chagolla said, "It would be 'Trunk of Treat,' because it is a fun Halloween event and we did not get to do it this year, so to bring it back would be nice."

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Calinog takes on the challenge of battalion command

By Danie Seeley

Wooster's new JROTC battalion commander is Terrell Calinog. In an interview with Hoofprints, Calinog discusses his role as the program's leader and the challenges he faces.

HP: What made you want to come to Wooster?

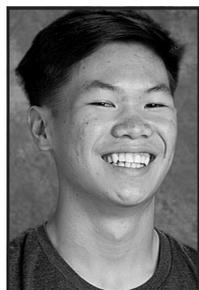
TC: "I never really questioned which high school I was going to. I always attended the same school that my brother did, and he just happened to attend Wooster. Vaughn also fed directly into Wooster and they are close to each other, so it just made sense to go there."

HP: Do you have any experience's with JROTC? If so, what are they?

TC: "This is currently my fourth year of JROTC, so I would say that I have a lot of experience within it. I have participated in most of the events that we have hosted.

This includes the Cadet of the Year Program, Drill Team, Raider Team, Color and Honor Guard, Cadet Olympics, JROTC Field Day, Battalion Car Wash, Food Drive, JROTC Participation Accreditation, Veteran's Day Parade, and volunteering for the Italian Festival."

HP: How long have you been a commander?



Calinog

TC: "I was formally appointed the position of Battalion Commander in June of 2020. I was also the Color and Honor Guard and Raider Team Commander during my junior year of high school."

HP: What made you want to be a commander?

TC: "I care a lot about the JROTC program here at Wooster. Having participated in it for every year during high school, I became integrated within a unique family here on campus of which I have made some of my best friends in and created some of my best high school memories.

I want to ensure that other cadets who eventually join the program get to experience the same feelings I did during their experiences through JROTC.

It is less about being the commander itself and the rank it holds, but the power and influence it allows me to exert to hopefully make changes for the better to ensure that JROTC family at Wooster stays as connected as it seems to always

have been."

HP: How do you feel about your position?

TC: "I am happy that I get to be the battalion commander, but there is this feeling that something is missing. Every year, I got to witness the Change of Command ceremony at our Awards Night which brings closer to the outgoing commander and a sense of new responsibility to the

incoming commander.

Sure, I gave a speech, but I never got to experience the true transfer of authority from last year's battalion to me.

It feels empty and undeserved. And without the new cadets, it is hard to be the example when my achievements are merely hearsay to all who were not there to see them."

HP: How do feel about your classes?

TC: "The classes are truly

a grind to get through; I, along with many of my other classmates, lack the motivation to get through the classes and complete all the assignments.

All the memorable activities that take place at school – dances, assemblies, sport games, club, music- having either entirely been stripped away or are a shell of their formal selves.

I try to make the best of what we have, but it just really sucks when our classes are compared to the ones that have come before."

HP: What are your duties and how have they changed due to the pandemic restrictions?

TC: "Generally, I am responsible for everything that goes on in the battalion. To accomplish this, I delegate responsibility to other cadets.

The cadets who have proven themselves in the past are given higher leadership positions, and thus more responsibility.

Unfortunately, a lot of the events that we usually conduct are against the guidelines Wooster has to abide by due to the Covid-19 guidelines.

Once again there is this feeling of being inferior to the battalion commanders that have come in the past. I am worried as to how this year will affect the JROTC in the future here at Wooster."



Color Guard Commander: From left to right: Alex Chagolla Felipe, Terrell Calinog, Jose Pacheco and Emmanuelle Pelayo. (Pegasus file photo)

COVID changes on-campus parking

By Carolina Guerrero Rubio

The Corona virus has had a drastic impact on students, teachers, and staffs life's on campus this year. Many changes have been made around school in order to keep students and teachers safe and prevent the spread of the corona virus around campus.

A big change made this year is the restriction of parking cars with illegal licensed drivers on campus and a change in where students and staff park.

Wooster Dean of Students Susan Schraeder said in order to park on campus, students must provide a valid drivers license, make a model of there vehicle, and a parking space number in order to receive a parking pass.

All vehicles on campus must have a parking pass, she said. "This rule has been put in place due to the multiple vehicle accidents last year that involved unlicensed drivers on our school campus." Schraeder said. "We made it a priority this year to make sure all of our vehicles are driven with licensed drivers." "A driving permit only allows

a person to drive with an adult in the vehicle. It does not allow a student to drive by themselves, park and go to school, she added."

Driving without a license can also impact a student's ability to drive in the future.

"If a student drives unlicensed, school police can cite the student as soon as the student drives the vehicle," Schraeder said. "Student can lose their ability to get a driver's license until the age of 18 if caught driving without a license."

This year was also important to enforce this rule because most students don't wear masks while in close quarters of their vehicle.

"There are no rules or regulations regarding students driving others to school, but we don't allow students to hangout in their vehicles before or during lunch this year," Schraeder said. "School campus remains closed so we don't have students packed into a vehicle to go to lunch."

If a student is caught parking on campus after being asked not to due to not having a driver's license, the student will either have

their car keys taken away and a parent must retrieve the vehicle.

The school administration routinely checks the parking lots for parking passes throughout the school day. All student cars must have a parking pass on there car window in order to be visible to staff.

Another big change is the parking lots are designated separately for students and staff this year to easily differentiate students and staff as well as their vehicles. Students are required to park in the east parking lot with numbered slots and staff members are assigned to the west lot.

District considers full distance

From staff reports

The Washoe County School District Board of Trustees will consider moving all instruction to distance learning on the recommendation of the superintendent and the local health department at its November 24 meeting.

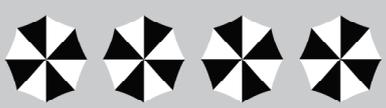
If approved, the change is scheduled for December 7. Details in the next issue.



The east parking lot, where students are designated to park on campus, appears almost deserted due to the pandemic and the new school "A and B day" schedule.



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