

The Hyphen

Student Opinions Vary on the COVID-19 Vaccine

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Photo by Rachel Lowe
Design by Leia DeGeorge

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Staff Editorial: Climate Change Coming Home

For many years now, students at Jeff High have only encountered climate change through indirect information. We have read about it in textbooks and seen its effects from watching the news. But climate change is no longer limited to distant coastal cities and extreme weather events like hurricanes and wildfires. The effects of climate change are growing, and something must be done to tackle this threat.

In the past, when climate change was discussed in this newspaper, we primarily relied on non-local stories and scientific predictions, but recent weather events have caused us to wonder about the impact of climate change on students at Jeff High. This is a fact that many athletes know all too well considering the number of canceled practices this fall due to extreme heat.

Although the cost of climate change has only resulted in a few missed practices so far, future heatwaves may have more severe consequences for students playing sports at Jeff High. According to The New York Times, temperatures from June to August across the United States were the hottest on record. If we fail to respond to the climate crisis, then these heatwaves will continue into the unforeseeable future.

While it's hard to attribute any one event to climate change, a recent report published by the Union of Concerned Scientists draws a devastating connection between climate change and an increase in the number of heatwaves across the U.S. Midwest. Unfortunately, these increases are expected to continue as humans pump more greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Even under the best-case scenario, in which fossil fuels are curbed quickly, the report claims that "The average number of days per year over 90 degrees Fahrenheit are projected to increase 2-3 times by end-of-century."

Heat is just one of many changes that we can expect to see until something is done to combat climate change. Although most of our readers are high school students, hoping for a bright future in the face of a global crisis created long before they were born, we can still take action to reverse the effects of climate change in our daily lives by conserving energy, reducing the use of plastics, and recycling, and by reaching out to our leaders, at all levels of government and business, by asking them to do their part to rescue this planet and preserve it for future generations.

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Our Mission

The Jeffersonville High School newspaper, The Hyphen, strives to provide a voice for students and to inform the community through accurate, balanced and trustworthy content.

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Instagram Activism - Student Opinions

Performative activism or genuine political action?

Story and Page Design by Max Fisher

Last year, as protests swept the country, advocating for an end to police brutality and racial equity in America, Instagram was plastered with political content created by young people. Content posted contained everything from informational messages about current events to fiery opinions from both sides of the political spectrum. Now it seems that you can't spend longer than a minute on Instagram without encountering some political content. We all know the posts. Often it's a post with multiple pages, providing facts and commentary about a controversial topic or political issue ranging from defunding the police to abortion rights, all with a perfectly curated aesthetic design.

According to a 2021 Harvard Youth Poll, political participation is up among young Americans compared to past generations. Today 36% of Americans aged 18-29 years old are politically active compared to 24% from 12 years ago. The same poll reports that one-third of respondents said that politics had gotten in the way of a friendship for them. Ultimately, politics is increasingly seeping into the personal lives of young people and social media is one of the most significant ways to track this increase in political participation among young people.

An issue that has arisen following the increase of political content on social media is whether these posts should be considered "performative activism". Performative activism is when a person posts something with the intention of increasing popularity or follower-ship rather than engaging in genuine political action. In other words, many critics have accused Instagram activists of posting political content to appear politically active



Photo Credit - United Nations

rather than actually participating in politics in real life.

Jeff High students have many different opinions on Instagram political activism. Sophomore Elle Marble says she doesn't post political content on her story, and she feels most of the time posting is more about virtue signaling, or superficially displaying moral character, rather than changing minds, "That [posting political information] doesn't lead to people changing their mindsets or views. So the only goal you end up achieving is showing people where you stand."

Senior Justus Bowman says she will post on Instagram whenever something is important and needs to be shared, but she also expressed some criticism about using Instagram for political activism. "It allows people to post and share content but it can

Above: Protesters across the country came out to protest police brutality and racism. This rise in protest was accompanied by a rise in Instagram activism as well.

sometimes lead to activism stopping at the post," Bowman said.

Mirroring the current political climate in America, there is no consensus among users on how to appropriately post political content on social media. However, as political participation continues to trend younger and social media continues to impact politics, the debate over how to use Instagram for political activism will certainly continue to be an issue.

Student Opinions Vary on the COVID-19 Vaccine Despite Proven Effectiveness

Story and Page Design by Raquel Lopez

Like many other issues in the United States, COVID-19 vaccines have become divisive and politicized. Additionally, with the Pfizer vaccine being fully approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the possibility of vaccine mandates in public spaces is increasingly becoming a reality.

Currently, all evidence points to the conclusion that the vaccines are both safe and effective. Studies by the CDC show that all approved vaccines provide strong protection against COVID, including the delta variant of the virus. According to the CDC, unvaccinated people are 29 times more likely to be hospitalized with COVID than their fully vaccinated peers.

At Jeffersonville High School, while vaccines are not required, they are recommended. At the time of this publication, the policy has recently changed. When school initially started, vaccinated students were not required to quarantine if they were asymptomatic and had proof of vaccination on record; on the other hand, unvaccinated students would have to quarantine for 14 days, regardless of whether they tested positive or negative. On Aug. 24, Greater Clark County Schools announced that the quarantine time could be decreased to eight days if the student had proof of a negative test result. On Aug. 31, following the Indiana Department of Health guidelines, schools were no longer required to contact trace if a student were to test positive regardless of vaccination status.

Meanwhile, views on COVID vaccines vary among Jeff High students. While there are students who are clearly for or against vaccination, some students are undecided.

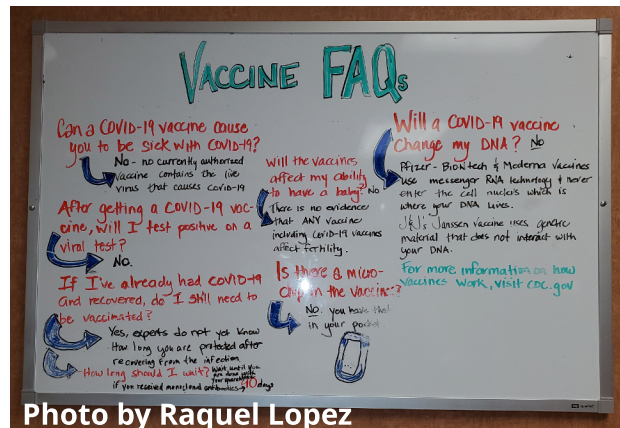


Photo by Raquel Lopez

Above: A whiteboard in Clark Memorial Hospital answers frequently asked questions about the COVID-19 vaccine.

Below: Senior Leonne Ngoyi receives her COVID-19 shot from Jeff High nurse Nola Garrison



Photo by Rachel Lowe

Senior Claire Storz is pro-vaccination. “I always hear or see the numbers of deaths due to COVID and I want people to get vaccinated so we don’t have to lose loved ones. Or so I don’t have to hear people complaining about the mask mandate. I highly encourage it [getting the COVID vaccine], especially if someone they know is immunocompromised. It can help protect them as well.”

On the other hand, Senior Vaughndez Banes is against the COVID-19 vaccine. “I feel like the COVID vaccine was rushed and I personally had COVID and I was sick like a lot of other people but it never got too bad,” Banes said, before adding, “and knowing the COVID vaccine won’t prevent COVID, only ‘help with symptoms’ just isn’t enough to push me over the edge.”

In California, students attending Los Angeles Unified Public Schools are now required to be vaccinated by the end of the calendar year, according to CNN. Banes says that if vaccinations were to be mandated in Greater Clark County schools, he would transfer schools. “The way I see it is, if your mask works so well, why are you worried about mine? Same thing with the vaccine,” Banes explains.

Freshman Savannah Monroe is in the middle of the debate, supporting them in certain circumstances. Monroe explains that she “feels as if maybe they were developed too fast.” However, she also said, “But I definitely think a vaccine was needed due to the rising cases. But overall, I’m for the vaccines but I think they [scientists and the government] should prove the effectiveness and safety to convince the public to get them.”

To Be or Not To Be Online

What is the issue of not having an online learning option?

Story and Page Design by Anna Hardin



Photo by Makala Hibbard

The 2021-2022 school year has brought many changes for Greater Clark County Schools (GCCS). The largest change has been the elimination of the My School Online virtual learning option and the creation of an alternative online option referred to as the Virtual Academy. Unlike last year, parents were required to enroll students in the new online option during the summer break. Also, this year, in-person students are no longer permitted to switch over to the virtual learning option as they were last year with the My School Online.

Senior Shay Graziano, a My School Online student last year who returned to in-person school this year, states “Honestly I switched back to normal school [this year] because I found that I was unmotivated to do work and procrastinated a lot. Literally almost failed my art class because of it. Something about me being at school instead of at home makes me work differently.”

Last year, the online option created many challenges for teachers and students

alike. My School Online required teachers to design and teach lessons simultaneously for both in-person students and online only students, and online only students were often required to attend virtual Google Meets to interact with teachers. Although there were some students and families who benefited from My School Online last year because of concerns over COVID-19, some online only students struggled and fell behind in their learning.

Whereas the elimination of My School Online has helped some students who struggled with virtual learning last year return to in-person school, some students who actually did better with virtual learning have been forced to return to in-person school without any available online option. The elimination of My School Online for in-person students has also created some confusion for students who have been quarantined during the school year due to Covid and forced to work from home without a virtual learning option to connect them to their classes.

Additionally, students who have enrolled in the Virtual Academy option for this school year are not allowed to participate in sports or extracurricular activities unlike students enrolled in My School Online last year. For some students, being able to play sports and participate in extracurricular activities was the primary reason that they chose to return to in-person school. “The reason I’m not going online is because I play volleyball, and if I go online, I can’t do sports anymore,” says Junior Bella Hall.

The return to in-person school has been a shock to many students who spent last year online only. For many returning students, the hallways have never seemed so jammed packed with people and it’s been hard to adjust. “The hardest thing about being back at school is probably the fact that you are around so many different people at once and our school does not have the capacity to distance everyone. It is not their fault, but you never know who is sick and who isn’t until it’s too late and you’re already exposed,” says Hall.

Afghanistan - What Happened?

In the past month, you have probably seen Instagram posts and news stories about Afghanistan. Here is your look at the history, the events, and the results.

Story and Page Design by Max Fisher

History

For many years, the country of Afghanistan has been engulfed in internal conflict and subject to the influence of foreign powers. In 1995, after years of civil war, the Taliban—an Islamist military group—rose to power, promising peace. Since the Taliban follows an extremely conservative interpretation of Islam, the Islamist group's control of Afghanistan resulted in the oppression of women and public executions. In 2001, following the Sept. 11 attacks, the US determined that Afghanistan was offering safe harbor to members of Al-Qaeda, a terrorist organization, and their leader, Osama bin Laden. In the aftermath of 9/11, the Taliban refused to hand over the terrorists, and the US invaded, beginning the longest US war since the conflict in Vietnam.

Within two months of invading Afghanistan in 2001, the US toppled the Taliban's government and began the process of forming a stable and functioning Afghan democracy. However, despite some success, the government was weakened by corruption and ineffectiveness. Following his election in 2008, President Obama recommitted to the war in Afghanistan and sent thousands of soldiers to the country hoping to end the conflict, but the move only increased the deaths of US soldiers. In 2011, US forces completed a longstanding goal of killing the key architect of the 9/11 attacks - Osama bin Laden. Near the middle of the 2010s, the Taliban began to resurge, using tactics like suicide bombings.

In 2014, Obama announced a timetable for US troop withdrawal from Afghanistan,

but in the initial days of the Trump Administration, the effort was halted. Eventually, Trump began negotiating a deal with the Taliban in which the US would end its troop deployment in exchange for the promise that the Taliban wouldn't harbor terrorists.

Biden's Plan

In 2020, both Joe Biden and Donald Trump campaigned on the promise of getting US troops out of Afghanistan. Once in office, Biden announced his intention to fulfill this campaign promise by withdrawing troops by the 20th anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001. However, as the date approached, the Taliban began rapidly seizing provinces much faster than US intelligence had expected.

Evacuation

On Aug. 14, 2021, Kabul —the capital of Afghanistan —fell and the Taliban took power back from the local governments. This put Biden's plan in more uncertainty, and he sent 6000 troops to Afghanistan to facilitate the evacuation of US citizens and Afghans from the US. As the Taliban took control, chaos erupted at the Kabul Airport, with thousands attempting to flee the country. Despite this, Biden was steadfast in defense of his decision to withdraw American troops. On Aug. 26, the situation grew worse after ISIS

Korasont, a terrorist militia group, carried out a suicide bombing in the Kabul Airport, killing 13 US Service members. On Aug. 31, the last US military plane left Afghanistan, ending America's longest conflict.

Result

The Taliban is back in power, promising to rule more moderately than they did in the past, but their initial governing actions have raised some serious questions. While Biden's decision to withdraw troops from Afghanistan was popular with 54% of Americans supporting the decision, according to Pew Research, the execution of the evacuation has left many Americans disapproving of the Biden Administration. According to NPR, 61% of Americans disapprove of Biden's handling of the withdrawal. Time will test the wisdom of Biden's decision. But for today, America has ended its longest war, and for the first time in 50 years, Afghanistan's destiny is in their own hands.

Right: President Joe Biden delivers a speech from the White House, as he did many time during the Afghanistan evacuation.

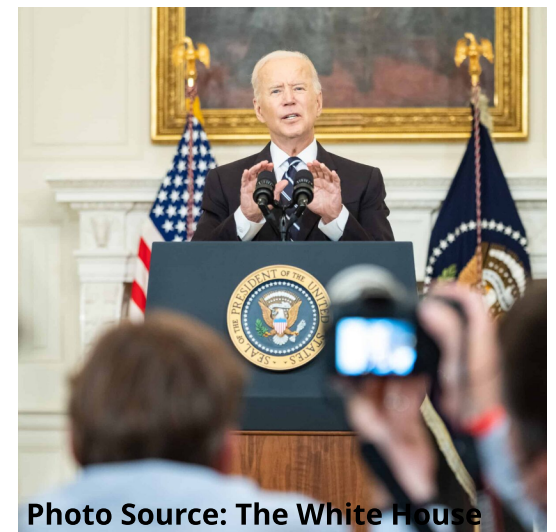


Photo Source: The White House

9/11

Remembering the Attacks After 20 Years

Story by Yousaf Quereshi

Page Design by Max Fisher

My mother was a 15 year old Sophomore attending New Albany High School on September 11, 2001. I don't think that she was ever really worried about anything in the world, especially on that day, except for maybe passing math class so that she could eventually graduate high school. That was the story of most American teenagers living in the early 2000s, absorbed in their immediate surroundings and worried only about their own lives. However, September 11 would awaken everyone, including my mother, to the reality of being an American in the 21st century.

At 8:46 in the morning, the first hijacked plane flew into the World Trade Center's North Tower. It was apparent that a terrible accident had happened in New York City. Then, 17 minutes later, the second hijacked plane flew into the World Trade Center's South Tower. This wasn't an accident: this was deliberate. America was under attack. The Pentagon was attacked not long after, and a fourth plane crashed into a field in Pennsylvania. Nearly three thousand people died immediately as a result of the attacks...and thousands more died as a result of it. But September 11 had consequences for those who lived as well. For many Americans, the attacks on September 11 awoke the sleeping dragon of fear. Fear about an attack on America. An attack unlike anything since the attacks on Pearl Harbor when President Franklin D. Roosevelt had told us that the only thing we had to fear was "fear itself".

But now, it's been twenty years since 9/11, so why should we still remember? Why should high school students who weren't alive



Photo Source: US State Department

Above and Bottom Right: Memorials memorial mark the spot where the twin towers were before they were attacked on 9/11.

during 9/11, like my mother had been on 9/11, continue to remember this event?

We should remember to honor the men and women who died in the World Trade Center Towers and on the hijacked planes. We should remember to honor the first responders to the attacks. We should remember to honor the survivors of the attacks and the families of the fallen.

We must continue to remember 9/11 to honor the loss, the rescue, the fear, and the

hope of that tragic day. You didn't have to be alive for 9/11 to remember the horror and the heroes. We must remember so that we will never forget what happened on that day, and how we overcame it as Americans.

Now, twenty years after 9/11, America is under attack again. The terror of the COVID pandemic has killed and continues to kill innocent Americans and first responders everyday, leaving behind survivors and grieving families. Although Americans may not always agree on politics, when our homeland is under attack and innocent American lives are lost, I have hope that we will be able to put aside our differences, and come together as we did during 9/11 to overcome any existential threat, including a global virus.

We must remember 9/11 for the good, for the bad, and for the very ugly. I will always remember and be moved by the fact that this nation could come together on that day, forget differences and pray for each other, remove hate from our hearts and build compassion within our souls.

We must remember 9/11 because remembering 9/11 elevates the belief that we can exist as a unified American people who care about the common good.

Why can't we be that country again?

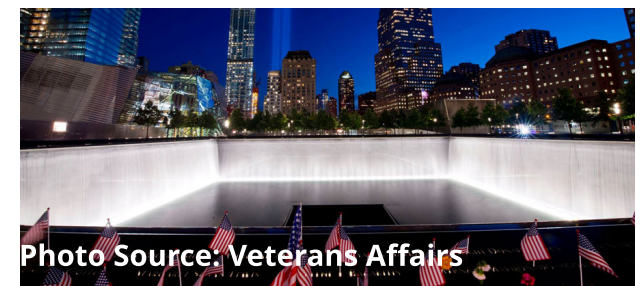


Photo Source: Veterans Affairs

Waterfront Botanical Gardens Photo Gallery

Louisville's newest attraction

Pictures and Page Design by Amber Walker



To see the full Photo Gallery, check out the our website - TheHyphenNews.com

How to Walk in the Hallways

Tips to avoid hatred from peers

Story by Max Fisher

Page Design by Lydia Church

After a year of quarantines and online learning, the Jeff High hallway crowds are back again, and students have taken notice. “The hallways are so crowded it makes no sense,” said Miles Harper, a Jeff High student. While others like Toby Kauchak echoed similar concerns, saying, “They’re very crowded and loud.” Year after year, students clustering together in crowds during passing and blocking movement in the hallways and stairwells have become a hallmark of the Jeff High experience. While some congestion is inevitable, here are a few tips to make your hallway experience and that of your peers much easier.

- There is never a reason to talk in a circle. There is nothing worse than walking down the hallway and being stopped by a group of people talking in a circle. If it is that serious —and it probably isn’t—please at least try to find a more spacious area such as the commons. And if you can’t do that, feel free to discuss in a more compatible shape such as a line or a condensed oval.

- No Public Displays of Affection. The love of your life will still be there after the hour and a half class, and, no matter what you think, people do not want to see that. Your friends definitely mock you for this behind your back.

- Walk on the right side of the hallway. There is no reason to walk on the left unless you are heading to a locker or a class. Please stick to the right.

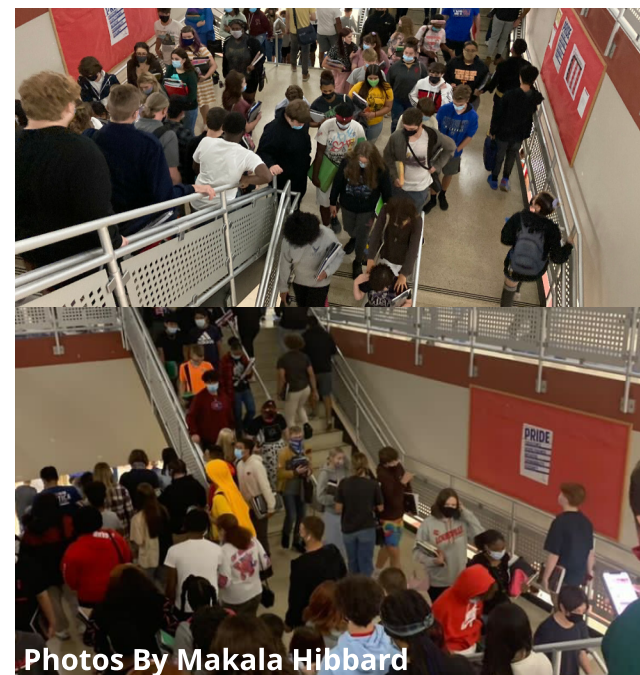
- The main stairs are actually not the best place to have a meaningful conversation. Despite what you might think, your conversation is most likely to be heard by the 50 people who walk by you. If you

really need to talk, just know that literally anywhere else in the school is a better spot.

- Don’t run. You are at school, it’s not worth running. However, an exception can be made for light jogs to the lunch line —especially if heading to the sandwich line —to avoid waiting for food for over half your lunch.

Hopefully, these tips will help create a better hallway experience, and if not, it’s at least nice to complain about this perennial problem.

Right: The stairs crowd as students go from to and from class during passing period.



Photos By Makala Hibbard

Just Dance: Top 10

Story by Cameron Allen

THE EXCLAMATION POINT

“Just Dance” has been developing games since 2009. However, there is always disagreement among fans about what should be considered the best Just Dance song. Here are the Top 10 “Just Dance” songs of all time based on Cameron Allen’s “Just Dance” expertise:



Photo By Max Fisher

10. “We no speak Americano”- Yolanda be cool and DCUP
- 9.”Hey Ya”- Outkast
- 8.”Toxic”- Britney Spears
- 7.”Everybody”- Backstreet Boys
- 6.”Don’t Stop Me Now” - Queen
- 5.”Umbrella” -Rihanna
- 4.”It’s raining Men”- Weather Girls
- 3.”Wild Wild West” - Will smith
- 2.”Livin La vida Loca”- Ricky Martin
- 1.”Rasputin” - B Money

Purrfect Day Café

A local cat café that has helped 5,000 cats get adopted

Story by Marni Scholl

Page Design by Lydia Church

Look no further than the Purrfect Day Café for the perfect place to spend a free day. You get the opportunity to play with adorable kittens and sometimes even adult cats. Even if you are not looking to adopt, visiting the cats is still a beneficial activity. It helps the cats become socialized and friendly to people of any age. 11 a.m. to four p.m. is when children are allowed in with an adult supervisor. Four p.m. to eight p.m. is for anyone over 18.

All of the kitties are from the Kentucky Humane Society. For the first time, the Kentucky Humane Society has had more cat adoptions than dog adoptions. Usually, cats only make up a third of their adoptions, according to Spectrum News. When you enter the café, you can find a scrapbook of all the different types of cats they have been cared for and have been adopted. Their diversity ranges from senior cats to blind cats, all of whom need a loving home. You get an hour in the playroom to bond with a cat, and it is advised that you spend 30 minutes before deciding on the cat you want to adopt.

Lots of small businesses had to close during the pandemic but not Purrfect Day Café. Their adoption rate went up because people wanted a furry friend to keep them company while they were at home. “The community made sure we were not going anywhere,” said the manager, who is also known as Top Cat, Robert Mason. The business has been going strong since 2018,

and it continues to thrive. On Wednesday, the 18th of August, they reached their goal of 5,000 cat adoptions.

This place isn’t just a hang-out space to play with cats, though. It truly is a café with a variety of drinks and treats to enjoy. There is even wine and beer to purchase for an older audience and an outdoor patio called the “catio” where you can enjoy your beverage. Drinks are allowed in with the cats but not snacks. Upstairs you will find a party room where you can celebrate a birthday or other celebration. You can even purchase fun t-shirts, sequin cat ears, and colorful stickers to decorate with and support the business. Some of their merchandise promotes their LGBTQ+ friendly stance.

Often after a good play, the cats will fall asleep in your lap. It’s a great place to bring a friend or to make a friend, human or feline. So what are you waiting for? Head to 1741 Bardstown Road in Louisville, Kentucky, for a day of fun!

How to Properly Eat Oreos

So you don't have a crisis

Story and Page Design by Lydia Church

Everyone eats food differently. Some of us eat the conventional way, then there are those of us with questionable methods for eating various foods that the rest of us judge...but never discuss. What if you were asked how you eat a certain food? Would you believe this is how everyone should eat it? Today, one of the hottest debates in food consumption will be put to rest: What is the proper way to eat Oreos?

When given the question—“How do you eat your Oreos?”—there were many like-minded people with similar responses. Most people responded: “with milk.” Yet many were not very detailed in their

responses other than Senior Nick Goss who replied, “I drown it in milk with a fork until all of the bubbles in the milk are done.”

Along with the milk, there were a lot of “like a normal cookie” responses. Nothing special, just like a cookie. “I eat them the way they come because I’m not a psychopath.” says Abby Napper, also a senior.

Although there were many repeat responses, there were also a few unique responses too. Kirati Kiviniemi on Instagram says, “I enjoy scraping off the middle and only eating the cookies if I’m not feeling lazy.” Taking a sixth grade dissection project approach in this case, his form closely relates to the also common separation technique in which you separate the cookie down the middle, creating one cookie that is plain and one with all the cream.

The most intense debate was deciding whether the cookies should be eaten as a whole or separated into halves. Separate being eating one side before the other. 65% of those who answered said whole, while the other 35%

replied separately. For those who chose to eat separately, another question was posed. Should you eat the cream side first or the cookie side? 52% said they would go for the cookie side first, the other 48% said they would chow down on the cream. And for the final question there was a decisive winner. When asked whether to eat Oreos with or without milk, 82% sided with milk, while 18% thought the glass of milk should be left out of the equation.

After interviewing the students at Jeff High, including indecisive students, the proper way to eat an Oreo was finally determined: You should eat an Oreo as a whole cookie with a cool glass of milk. Though on days when you feel that you should take that risk of separation, eating the plain cookie side before the cream cookie side is recommended in order to save the best for last. This is unless you are Evan Cawthorn, a senior, who had strong opinions when asked about eating Oreos saying, “I don’t. I hate them.”

Fall Sports Pictures

Story by Rachel Lowe
Photos by Topic Staff
Page Design by Max Fisher

Welcome back Fall Sports! For this season, boys' and girls' soccer, boys' and girls' cross country, boys' tennis, girls' golf, football and volleyball are all in action! But a new school year brings new questions: What are the goals for this year? How are the players feeling? And the biggest question for this year, how are things being handled to follow health guidelines while still allowing students to play the sports they love?

This year, the effect of COVID-19 is still seen around the athletic complex. Although all sports are allowed to practice and play games without wearing a mask, masks are still a requirement for spectators while watching indoor sports. A mask is not required while spectating outdoor sports. All students and coaches are also required to wear a mask while traveling back and forth on the bus.

This season has also had difficulties due to the extreme heat. The heat index has forced many sports, specifically tennis and cross country, to either move practice inside or cancel them all together. Senior Cross Country runner Emma Blacklock says, "Practice has been really difficult with the heat index. Running 4 miles a day in 90 degree weather was very dreadful, but we got through it. When practices were canceled we had to take it upon ourselves to run at home."

Despite the adversity, fall sports are continuing to run smoothly. Here are some of our favorite photos of athletes this fall.





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