

# The Signal

Sunday, February 14, 2021 - Volume LXXI, Issue III

## PLAY ON HAND FOR MUSICAL AVENUE Q: SCHOOL EDITION

BY MOLLY BOYKE  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

*Avenue Q* is coming soon to the Burroughs drama scene! On February 21, the famous Tony-winning musical will be released, performed by Burroughs' best and brightest thespians and puppeteers.

From the JBHS Drama website, "*Avenue Q School Edition* is part flesh, part puppet, and pure heart! The laugh-out-loud musical tells the timeless story of a recent college grad named Princeton, who moves into a shabby New York apartment all the way out on Avenue Q, where he makes new friendships and learns valuable life lessons."

The production stars Senior Jillian Flynn as Kate Monster, Junior Rhett Hemingway as Princeton, Senior Lauren Duncanson as Lucy, Senior Angelee Valdez as Christmas Eve, Senior Jaylen Harvey as Gary Coleman, Junior Ronan Park as Rod, and Junior Lincoln Melcher as Nicky.

Jillian Flynn, a member of Powerhouse, CSF, Link Crew, and the National Honors Society, has been participating in JBHS musicals since her Freshman

year. As a longtime appreciator of *Avenue Q*, she knew Kate Monster very well.

She states, "I play a bubbly kindergarten teaching assistant named Kate Monster. Kate dreams of building a school for monsters where monsters can be included and not feel like outcasts. I admire Kate's character for recognizing people who may feel like an outsider or not important—she strives to celebrate them and create a safe educational environment for all!"

Jillian was also aware that her role would require her to take on an entirely new facet of her acting: puppeteering.

"Puppeteering was definitely a new challenge for me on its own. I would say that I am a pretty good multitasker, but trying to sing/act while focusing your attention on moving your hand at the same time was very different from anything I have ever attempted before!"

Rhett Hemingway, a member of Powerhouse as well as a virtual play reading group, has been in the Drama program for all three years, and has been in every production since his Freshman year,

with eight total productions in his repertoire.

Rhett was also familiar with *Avenue Q*, "I'm a huge musical theater geek and am a big fan of *Avenue Q* in particular," he says, "I got to see it Off-Broadway in New York and laughed so hard I was crying. It's one of the funniest musicals ever written."

To audition for the lead role, he went through a long virtual auditioning process that involved several rounds of callbacks. "I was thrilled when Mr. Myers told me I'd gotten the part."

Since the role of Princeton involves singing a grand total of thirteen songs, Rhett's pre-show routine is a little different than others', "For musicals, I like to rest my voice before warm up, drink lots of tea, and I have this machine for steaming my throat. It kind of looks like a torture device, but...it does the job. I also try to have some time alone to collect my thoughts and focus," he stated.

Lauren Duncanson, a four-year member of Powerhouse, three year member of Vocal Ensemble, and two-year member of Dance Ensemble, is pursuing mu-

sical theatre professionally and describes her role as Lucy as a "very fun and interesting character to play. Lucy is a very sassy, slightly promiscuous woman who runs her life as if she is the queen of the world. By the end of the show, we see the good in her and the care she has for others."

After watching the whole show through for the first time, Lauren saw the similarities between herself and her character. "We are both very outgoing and like to live life to its fullest and not waste any time. We are also both performers and enjoy the spotlight to share our passions."

She also noted how well her fellow cast members played their characters, "I really love the relationship between Rod and Nicky played by Ronan Park and Lincoln Melcher. They are polar opposites, yet compliment each other greatly. Super fun and goofy."

Ronan Park, a member of Powerhouse and co-president of Improv Club, (Fridays at lunch) as well as a member of the Drama program since his Freshman year, thoroughly enjoyed portraying his character as Rod. "His story in the show is about finding himself and coming to terms with his identity, and I think it's actually

pretty touching in a show that doesn't take itself all that seriously. Rod is such an energetic character, so I had a lot to work with when portraying him. Rod as a puppet is super expressive, which made puppeteering him that much more fun."

In order to act as Rod, Ronan, along with his fellow cast members, learned the art of puppeteering over Zoom, "Puppeteering over Zoom was certainly something new for me, and everyone this year. Mr. Myers slowly introduced us to the basics, and our choreographer Jen Stanley, who has experience with puppets, was really able to help us flesh out our skills. She taught us that you always want to close the puppet's mouth at the end of a word, even a word that ends on an open sound, to help accentuate it."

Watch *Avenue Q: School Edition* on February 21st! A ticket link is pending on the JBHS Drama Website, and the date is subject to change.

All of the cast and crew, Mr. Myers and Jen Stanley, all of the sound and video editors, and everyone working on the production has put a lot of time and effort into it to make something really special!

## A VIRTUAL POP SHOW UNPLUGGED

BY HANNAH LEPLLEY  
STAFF WRITER

Every year the choir program puts on Pop Show Unplugged at the Colony Theater. This year due to the global pandemic the show had to be moved to the streaming service, Twitch.

Mr. Jennings, the Choir Director, has done this with all of the choir shows this year.

The hosts for this event were Jen Oundjian and Sarah Lowe.

Since Pop Show Unplugged was a virtual event, students got the opportunity to go crazy with their numbers.

One example of this was the opening number "Stupid Horse" performed by Daniel Coscia, Everett Babcock, Kaylor Toronto, and Ronan Park. This was a very comedic act that was directed and edited in the style of music video by Ronan Park.

After the memorable opening, things started to take on a more traditional feel. The songs were very soft and performed beautifully.

People did, however, still take advantage of the digital aspect.

Angelee Valdez sang "I Knew I Loved You," by Savage Garden.

Part of her number was a little photo montage of her friends and family, to show her appreciation for them. This is something that wouldn't have been possible in a live performance.

Many of the performers took this show as an opportunity to show their love and appreciation for the people they care about.

A lot of the numbers featured

during the show were very music video like, being filmed and edited very professionally.

Some examples of this are Sonya Dadekien and Julia Cronin singing "Jesus in L.A." or Daniel Coscia singing "Dark Red."

Another aspect of Pop Show Unplugged is the collaborations that happen between students, there were a lot of duets, trios, and groups.

Fortunately the performers found ways to still make this happen despite the pandemic.

Whether that be editing videos of themselves together or actually taking the proper precautions to meet up with each other in person.

Scarlett Lastrapes, Dani Solorzano, and Natalie Perez demonstrated how to do a group act while apart with their rendition of "Bulletproof." The trio had stunning vocals that featured some beautiful harmonies.

Thanks to technology some of the students performing in the show were able to have multiple of themselves on screen. This is what Mikaila Huertas did when she sang "Just a Friend to You" as a duet with herself, definitely not something that would be possible live!

This show was created years ago by Jen Oundjian after many of the students who were auditioning for Pop Show were playing their own instruments at their auditions.

This year, Caleb Perez was the perfect example of this when he sang "Time" by Pink Floyd and

accompanied himself on the guitar.

The show's final number featured three very talented seniors, Jillian Flynn, Lauren Duncanson and Maddie Flores. These lovely ladies sang "I Say a Little Prayer" by Aretha Franklin.

Unfortunately there were some technical difficulties and the video and audio started acting up.

The song can be found on the choir programs official instagram account @jhbshvma.

This was one of the most unique Pop Show Unpluggeds due to it being online this year versus in person, but the student's tackled the challenges of a digital show with grace, and in many ways were able to do things that couldn't have been thought possible in the past.

Many of the videos shown throughout the show were edited by students and their families making the show have that much more of a personal feel.

Since this year has been so unique this show reflected that and it will be one people will remember for a long time to come.

This is only one of the many shows the choir program puts on throughout the year. The next show coming up is Pop Show on April 10th. More information can be found on the Choir's website found either through the schools website under the Activities tab titled Vocal Music (VMA) or going straight to the website at jhbshvma.com.

## SAT DURING COVID

BY AMARE COOKE  
STAFF WRITER

During a mostly no-contact school year, it has been said many times that we must keep things as normal as possible, and of course that goes for AP tests as well as other college related tests such as the SAT. While attaching SAT scores is optional for the most part, SAT testing has been canceled, and the AP testing is still available and mandatory in order for college credits to be received.

The SATs have been a very standard and important part of most people's high school life. Many have paid a lot of money for books and classes in order to be better prepared for the testing, but it may have been meaningless. Due to the circumstances over the past eleven months, SAT testing has almost been canceled completely.

For Seniors or students applying to attend college in fall of 2021, the portion of college applications that require SAT scores to be attached have either been removed completely or made optional as SAT testing dates for the first half of this year have been canceled. As for Juniors and other students, the SAT testing dates in 2022 have not been canceled, although that can change very quickly depending on the way the rest of this year turns out.

Meanwhile, AP and college course testing has continued. Al-

though the AP testing is paid for in fall, and the tests are taken during spring. These tests are called the digital contingency exams, and are issued online. For the previous years, there would be a \$40 fee for canceling or not taking an AP exam on the test date named the "unused exam fee," but this year the fee will not be issued if the exam is not taken due to the circumstances.

Additionally, many are worried about the difficulties with coursework completion, as some teachers may struggle with teaching all the required classwork or material that is essential before taking the exams during late spring due to the difficulties of teaching online.

In order to combat this, the College Board released "AP course pacing guides" for classes that are not on track for testing or have completed 25% or less of the required coursework by January. This is in hopes that their pacing guides will be able to aid teachers and students in learning the needed amount of coursework in a short enough time in order to be able to be prepared enough for the AP testing in May.

The College Board plans on releasing more information as needed about pacing guides and testing information, but for the near future things seem to be following the no-contact plans for testing.

# BUSD KEEPS DISTANCE LEARNING FOR SEMESTER

BY LUCA RENDON  
STAFF WRITER

As the school year progresses, many have hoped that we may get to a point where distance learning can end, and we can all head back to school. Unfortunately, this won't be happening, as the school district has decided to revoke their previous hybrid model in favor of keeping our current distance learning model due to California experiencing large rises in the amount of Coronavirus cases.

In November, California experienced a massive rise in Coronavirus cases. According to LAist, the seven day average for new cases of the disease was over 14,000 by the week after Thanksgiving, as opposed to a peak of 9,881 cases per week during the July spikes. Even before Californians were going to see their families for the holidays, cases were already increasing rapidly, causing more and more counties to be added to the state's strictest level of Coronavirus protection. There is even a stay at home order that will be implemented regionally if the available ICU capacity of any of the five regions goes below fifteen percent. As the Coronavirus cases continue to increase steadily throughout all of California, it is clear that the situation is getting worse and not better, which means that more and more businesses and institutions will be forced to shut down or operate remotely to prevent the spreading of the disease.

As the pandemic begins to drag on longer, people have be-

gun to miss going to school. As many people want to return to learning in person, near the end of October, a form was sent out to parents that required them to apply for one of two learning options. At the time planned to be implemented for the rest of the year.

One of the options was to enroll in the ILA, which mainly requires work on Apex Learning, but the other option was the hybrid model. This is the model that would be selected by default if parents did not turn in their forms, and as the name suggests, it was a hybrid between distance and in-person learning. For a part of the day, students would attend class at school with extra safety measures in place, and when they returned home, they would continue to go to other classes online. While this model did take aspects from distance learning, it was clear that many people would choose this for the appeal of returning to school in person. These were the models available to choose at the end of October, but they have since been done away with as BUSD has come to a different decision that does not involve either model.

On November 23, BUSD Superintendent Matt Hill announced that the previous plan for implementing the hybrid learning model had been canceled. Due to the massive spikes in the coronavirus that California was experiencing in November, and other spikes predicted to happen soon, it was announced that we would continue schooling using the distance

learning model that has been in place since the beginning of our school year, rather than the hybrid model that had been planned.

While the current model for distance learning will stay in place for the rest of the school year, Hill also announced that if the coronavirus situation in Burbank at any point improves with-

in the year, the district may offer extra in-person benefits on top of distance learning, such as extracurricular activities, academic intervention, and special education. It is also possible that more in-person activities may be introduced by the district if the spread of the disease decreases greatly.

While it is definitely a disap-

pointment that we cannot yet return to school and start learning in person again, keeping school operating from home is definitely the safest choice for the health and safety of the students and staff as the coronavirus continues to spread and take more lives. At the end of the day, it is clear that safety is what's most important.

## NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTIES BUSTED

BY GEORGIE HALLBACH  
STAFF WRITER

At least five large New Year's Eve parties, being described as "superspreaders," were busted by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. About 900 people were detained and ninety arrested or given citations.

Parties were held in Hawthorne, Downtown LA, Malibu, and Pomona. Even small businesses attempted parties; La Scala restaurant in Beverly Hills sent out invitations to a New Year's Eve Speak-Easy Dinner in take-out bags. The invitation reads: "Welcome Back to the 20's Prohibition. We are considering taking reservations for New Year's Eve dinner...Inside."

The Beverly Hills Police Department was made aware of the clandestine invitations through Twitter and the party planning was stopped in its tracks.

The LA Sheriff's department responded to a party at a Malibu mansion on Moonrise Dr. that had been promoted through Instagram. The people were given a choice to either leave immediate-

ly or stay and be cited. Multiple people were arrested. Two guns were also found and confiscated.

Many could be seen leaving the house with masks on, others stayed and taunted the Sheriff's Department from inside the house. A woman raised up a bottle of champagne and yelled, "coming into the New Year like owwwww!"

The party was promoted from the instagram account @moe\_da\_plugg, who was also illegally selling guns on his account. Days after being arrested and released from jail he threw the party only to be arrested again.

In Downtown LA, a party with hundreds of people in a warehouse was busted. In a video showing people exiting the building, some can be seen wearing masks, others not.

In Pomona, a party was held at a DoubleTree Hotel with approximately 200 people. LASD responded, cleared out the majority of the people, cited some, and arrested a few.

Fox 11 captured some of the disgruntled party-goers reactions.

One woman at the Pomona party yelled at a cop, "Thank you, thank you so much!"

A man from the Pomona bust said to Fox 11, "We really just wanted some fresh air, man, that's what's going on, we wanted some fresh air, they come out with the tanks and all man."

In Pomona, police were less lenient than in LA, Lieutenant John Latterfield told the news, "We're going ahead and writing citations to the people that knowingly placed others in jeopardy by having a large gathering."

News of large superspreader parties is still rolling in. On January 12, 2021, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department busted a gathering of over 200 people in a warehouse in South Central L.A.

Video from the event shows a crowd of people waiting for their citations like takeout food as police wrote them out. Los Angeles Sheriff Department Captain Holly Francisco told the media, "LA County Sheriff's Department was out tonight to enforce public health order and we will continue to do so."

## GETTING KICKED OUT OF COLLEGE BY SOCIAL MEDIA

BY ANGELA INIGUEZ  
STAFF WRITER

Did you know that you can get kicked out of college because of what is on social media? Well, for those of you who didn't know, you can. There's been cases where students have been kicked out of college because of what was posted about them on social media.

One case of this is of a high school cheerleader who got kicked out of the college she

applied to because one student filmed her when she said the N-word. That video caused her to be kicked out of school and she was forced to withdraw out of her year early.

Now because her actions caused her to face a lot of criticism, it will ruin her whenever she tries to apply for other colleges and job interviews. Any person who is applying for college should be very careful with what they post, if it's something

racist, offensive, or aggressive, it can get you kicked out of college or not accepted at all.

Because social media is popular and it's also very easy to get information on people and is such a big part of our lives, people tend to be aggressive online. They often engage in exchanges that they wouldn't otherwise have in real life because they can hide their identities and no one is able to harm them physically unless they create an account with their

name.

We don't support people who are racist or say or do anything offensive to others. Because we know that what they're doing is not right and should be punished and knowing that people who do these kinds of things are getting kicked out because of their actions.

It's nice to know people actually are getting punished for their actions with everything that's going on right now with racism and

police brutality. Though there are many people in the world who are racist and offensive towards others, it's nice knowing that there's still people who see what's right and what's wrong.

Many colleges are being more careful with admittance, and no longer tolerate students who display racism or are offensive to others. This shows that despite the challenges we face, many are working to reach a brighter future without discrimination.

## BUSD REOPENING PLANS FOR FALL 2021

BY JAMES REID  
STAFF WRITER

COVID-19 has changed this school year more than we could have ever imagined. Class is conducted online; teachers and students don't meet in person. But what about next year? Although it may seem a ways off, we will return to physical learning one day. Luckily, Burbank Unified School District (BUSD) is already forming a plan to reintroduce students to physical learning in as safe and effective a manner as possible.

For this plan to be successful, there needs to be a solid model for what the year will look like. "Everyone wants to return, but we want to do it safely," said Dr. Matt Hill, superintendent of Burbank Unified School District. "We must balance the academic, social, emotional, and physical health needs of our students and

staff."

To initiate physical learning, BUSD plans to first reintroduce minority groups of the student body. "When the health department says it is safe, we will bring small groups of Special Education students, English Learners, Foster Youth, Homeless students, and students who need academic interventions. We will also resume athletic conditioning when it is safe. As health conditions improve, we will look to bring students back on to campus for other opportunities to interact with teachers and students and for activities," said Dr. Hill. By bringing in smaller groups first, BUSD will be able to get an idea of how the year will work, before reintroducing the larger student body.

Obviously, though, there are factors that could deny BUSD's

reopening plan. One of these factors is if there was a spike in COVID-19 cases.

Luckily though, Dr. Hill and the Burbank Unified School District Board of Education have prepared for this possibility. "We follow health department guidelines to manage spikes in cases," said Dr. Hill. "This may result in quarantining for students and staff, closures of classrooms, and/or schools." Although many people would be disappointed if we had to close again, it would just be progress towards a permanent reopening.

While a spike in cases would be bad for reopening the schools, there is a way it could be completely avoided. Depending on how effective the vaccines are, many of the safeguards in BUSD's plan would not even be needed. "The vaccine gives us

optimism for 2021," said Dr. Hill. "We are definitely monitoring the vaccine and its effectiveness. This may allow for us to implement our phased-in plan faster for the spring. It also gives us hope for the fall of 2021 to have more in-person options." With a vaccine, BUSD would be able to reopen physical learning in an even quicker and safer manner than previously presumed. There would be even more options for the Fall 2021 semester, and possibly even for the Spring 2021 semester.

For all of this to be properly executed, we need to carry on strong throughout this semester. Having already completed one semester of distance learning, we know what to do, and how to finish this year safely. "I was inspired by the creativity of students, teachers, and parents," said

Dr. Hill. "I have seen so many innovative teaching and learning strategies this year. I hope these will continue when we return to physical school." Using the hard work and dedication we have put into this year, BUSD can prepare for next year to be as safe and successful as possible.

In conclusion, BUSD is working hard to help us return to physical learning. Depending on what developments or setbacks occur during the pandemic, this plan will either be affected in a positive or negative manner. Ultimately though, Dr. Matt Hill and the Board of Education plan to have us back in physical classrooms by the Fall 2021 semester and help us return to the way things used to be.

## PREDICTED FASHION TRENDS FOR 2021

BY JUDI BROWNGARDT  
STAFF WRITER

2020 was a chaotic year for all of us, and we can all admit to wearing sweats and pajamas throughout most of the year. With a new year comes new trends, and as 2020 reached its end we saw many fashion trends start to trickle in, which made me curious about the trends that are going to rise in 2021. I'm certainly looking forward to watching fashion trends go in and out of style. I'm hoping this year many of us will get brave with our style, given the fact we've been wearing our best outfits out to the supermarket. I compiled some of my personal fashion predictions and ideas surrounding what trends will blow up throughout 2021.

One 2020 trend I believe will get bigger this year is statement jewelry pieces. The possibilities

are endless for statement jewelry. Some examples are chunky rings, silver or gold stacked necklaces, and large statement chokers. I think pearls and certain colored gemstone beads will be a rather big trend in 2021 necklaces. A huge component of the necklace trend will be the uniqueness of the necklace. Accessories will play a tremendous role in upcoming trends.

Another trend I predict will go viral is funky and unusual patterns. These patterns will be seen in sweaters, skirts, pants, dresses, shirts, and pretty much any type of clothing item you can think of. These prints will be very artsy and abstract, containing an assortment of bright and eye-catching colors, similar to popular patterns in the 1960s. The patterns you can expect to see consist of blobs, squiggles, spirals, florals,

and various shapes with no particular pattern. I further predict that these patterns will not only be seen in clothing but also nail art and bags.

I predict that patchwork will become a popular fabric pattern and will be seen frequently throughout 2021. In 2020, patchwork jeans were a popular trend in fashion, I believe the patchwork trend will rise out of simply denim. Patchwork is a very classic pattern that has been within the fashion industry for some time. The quilt-looking pattern can be on sweaters, pants, skirts, and even dresses. Patchwork can be a simple craft, made with a sewing machine and scrap fabric.

One shoe trend I believe will thrive this year is the trend of chunky heels, sandals, and boots. Chunky shoes have a bold platform and can be dressed up or

down. We might see the appearance of platform flip flops, which would be a minor trend this year from the early 2000s. Funky sandals have been a rising trend on runways, and I believe that the popularity of these types of sandals will only increase through 2021.

A trend I'm especially looking forward to seeing is the rise of romantic maxi dresses. I'm predicting that a semi-Victorian-styled dress will blow up this year in colors like light pink, cream,

white, and a baby blue. These dresses could be silky, lacy, or flowy. There are no limits on how casual or fancy this dress could be. My best way of describing this trend is by calling it a picnic dress.

Fashion trends come and go and fashion is unpredictable. I'm excited to see if my fashion trend predictions show up at any point in time throughout 2021. I hope we won't have to incorporate masks in our fashion any longer.

## MY 5 TAKEOUT SPOTS

BY NOEL PENNINGTON  
STAFF WRITER

During Covid, one of favorite things to do, is eat. In fact, getting takeout food is one of the few bright spots from this past year. So here are some of my favorite places to pick up food.

One of my go to spots is Guisados, which is a taco place in downtown Burbank. It's on San Fernando street, close to the mall and right next to Urban Outfitters. Personally, I like getting two Steak Picados and a Limon drink. They have lots of different options, from Shrimp, Chicken, Chorizo, and more. I've also tried the sampler plate which is always nice because you get all the tacos on the menu in one plate.

There are lots of options for everybody at Guisados tacos, which is always a plus, if you have someone in the family with dietary restrictions or someone who is vegetarian.

Another place that has Mexican food that I love to eat at is Poquito Mas. The one located in Burbank is off of Olive, and it's relatively close to Burroughs. Typically what I get is either a steak burrito or a chicken quesadilla. My dad always gets mini carnitas tacos, cooked La Planchada style, with guacamole and those are really good. They also have Mexican cokes which are always great. It also has a nice seating setup inside, but sadly for now we're unable to use it.

Moving on from Mexican food, my favorite place to get pizza is at Prime Pizza.

It's a new pizza place in Burbank, they've only been here for a little over a year or so. I always get a cheese pie, which is pretty much just a regular cheese pizza. They also had these sandwiches

there which were really good, but unfortunately they had to stop making them during Covid because the bread supplier is on backorder due to limited supply. My favorite sandwich that they have though is the pesto sandwich and I'm really hoping that they're available on the menu soon!

My favorite place to get sandwiches in Burbank is a place called Giamela's. It's on the corner of Magnolia and Victory. They make subs here. I always like to get the ham with everything on it such as pickles, tomatoes, onions, mayo, and cheese. But they have a ton of different meat choices there like pastrami, tuna, and turkey. My brother usually gets the pastrami there, which always looks good. It's a small little place, but they make great sandwiches.

My last place is further away than all of these places. It's called Burger Lounge. There's one in Sherman Oaks that is relatively close and the one I usually go to. They have two different options, they have a classic burger that doesn't have lettuce, but has mustard, and they have a lounge burger which is just your typical burger with everything on it. I normally just get a lounge burger with everything, and a half and half (which is half fries and half onion rings), and I get a Shirley Temple.

Another thing that's great about Burger Lounge is the drink selection. They don't have regular drinks like Coke or Sprite but instead drinks like Shirley Temples and cherry colas, which I think is pretty cool.

So there are my top five places around Burbank to eat out at during Covid.

## BEST FASHION TRENDS FROM 2020

BY SAVANNAH STOTTS  
STAFF WRITER

Even though we were in quarantine for ten out of the twelve months in 2020, the fashion trends were like no other year. 2020 had a large plain of diverse fashion trends that all could not just fit just one category.

One of the top trends this year were pleated skirts. Pleated skirts really came into the spotlight in Summer time in 2020. They were often worn in white and black when they first became a trend but they grew into an even bigger trend once people started wearing plaid pleated skirts. One of the most popular ways to wear pleated skirts was with crewnecks layered with a collar under or hoodies.

Another one of the top trends of the year that started to become predominantly large at the end of the year, were corsets. Corsets were oftentimes worn with jeans, skirts, integrated into a dress, and layered on top of shirts sold out quickly as they grew on the public.

Accessories were also a large playing factor in 2020's fashion. A trend that lasted from the beginning of 2020 and went strong the whole year were bucket hats. Some bucket hats have animal print on them or were faux fur, while others were just solid colors. Another accessory that flourished in 2020 were mini bags and

tote bags.

Platform shoes also became a big hit in 2020. Some of the most popular ones included Doc Martens, platform Converse, Mary Jane's, and Platform boots. Also in the footwear category knee high socks, tights, and fishnets were worn.

In terms of jewelry vibrant rings became widely popular. Crystal rings and clay rings that were colorful became widespread. Also layered necklaces that vary in colors, although they were mostly silver.

New styles of bottoms became the rage this year as well. Bottoms such as low rise jeans which contributed to the return of 2000s clothing started to be styled. Corduroy pants and Flare pants started being worn very often as well. The best combination that sold out quickly were low rise corduroy flare pants.

Overwear was a huge star in the spotlight this year. Leather jackets, bright color blazers, oversized zip ups, puffer jackets. Puffer jackets and zip ups were especially popular in the color brown and black.

Similarly sweater vests and plaid sweaters worn over clothes were styled in a variety of ways this year. Whether it was a pleated skirt or a pair of baggy jeans, sweaters were styled with everything this year.

Oversized clothes were a ma-

jeor widespread trend this year. Whether you were seeing someone wearing oversized sweaters, oversized jackets, and oversized jeans. Oversized t-shirts, oversized hoodies, and pants of all styles.

Don't forget about the beauty factor of this year. Black nail polish which has always been popular, got even more popular this year. Black eyeliner and different ways of doing eyeliner also became very popular. Whether you wanted your eye makeup to be dramatic or not is up to whomever is wearing it. Also heavy amounts of blush were seen everywhere.

2020s color schemes had no range. Some of the most popular colors were brown, sage green, shades of pink, black, and white.

New styles and trends started mostly around the summertime when lockdown regulations started to not be as harsh. Most things such as oversized pants, pleated skirts, platform shoes, and sweater vests became popular around the summertime while corsets and flare pants became popular towards the end of the year.

2020s fashion themes were like no other year. Even in a global pandemic trends and diversity in fashion were booming. Whether people took on the cottagecore theme or an early 2000s look it was up to them and the pandemic was a great time to become more diverse in one's fashion sense.

## SOME NEW FACEBOOK MESSENGER GAMES

BY ELISE McMILLEN  
STAFF WRITER

In quarantine, younger kids in elementary school have been struggling just like high schoolers, because of isolation and especially not being able to form those foundational friendships which are so important to kids' growth and development as people.

Facebook Messenger Kids games are offering chaperoned interaction between young kids, which allows them to be with their friends, without spreading COVID-19, which is essential to their growth and development as young students and people.

Younger kids can also spread COVID-19. The younger you

are, the more likely you are to be asymptomatic (not showing symptoms of carrying the virus, such as coughing, sneezing, and fever), so it can be hard to tell if kids who are infected are putting others in danger, especially by transmitting droplets and touching surfaces which may lead to a high number of those infected.

Many parents have been allowing their kids to play with small groups of friends unprotected by masks, simply because their kids need friends to play with and have good relationships with, and the cold and distant nature of the way people are interacting with one another now can be so damaging to kids. However, not all

interaction has to be risky.

Facebook has a way for kids to have their own account, with supervision and protective features, that makes it possible for kid to interact with their friends easily: Parents set up and manage their kid's account through their own Facebook and parents supervise friending.

Parents then use their own Messenger account to message and video chat with a child who's using Messenger Kids. Finally adult family and friends who are added as contacts to a Messenger Kids account connect to the account through their own Messenger accounts.

Facebook has been making

huge steps for these younger children's ability to have fun and make the best out of such an isolating situation. And they are very simple to find and play, perfect for younger children.

First, Launch the Messenger app on Facebook. Then select the smiley option. In the bottom menu, scroll to the right and select 'Activities'. Then choose an option to play. And finally, you can play a fun game with your friend.

Facebook has made a wide range of games available to its users, such as Words With Friends, Pac-Man, Space Invaders, 8-Ball Pool, Snake, Batman's Bat Climb, Cooking Mama, Son-

ic The Hedgehog, Tetris, Angry Birds, and Disney Tsum Tsum.

The most important part of being a young kid is having friends and making the most of the memories you can, which requires children to build relationships. If this can't be done in person right now, the next best thing for lonely kids just might be these games.

Game developers make this software so kid-friendly that it's not a struggle for them, and somewhat normal, imaginative, playful interaction can occur in ways that were not possible before, simply through otherwise awkward and quiet video calls, with little interaction.

# THE BEST NETFLIX SHOWS FROM 2020

BY VIVIANNA LATTANZI  
STAFF WRITER

The year 2020 has not been a good one, and has not had much to bring to the table. On the other hand when it comes to the shows that were released in 2020, that's a different story. Due to COVID-19, this year has taken a tragic turn. A hard year for everyone for so many different reasons. At one point everyone was stuck at home, bored and with nothing to do. Majority of people turned to finding new socially distanced activities and hobbies etc. Besides that all anyone else had to do was watch pretty much television. Lucky for us, so many amazing shows were realised, but which one were the huge Netflix fan favorites?

I did some research and asked around to see what people thought were the best shows of 2020. Minna Brasfeild, a current Senior at JBHS said, "Honestly there's too many to count but my personal favorite was *Queen's Gambit*. The show had an amazing storyline and the wardrobe was one of my favorites!" *Queen's Gam-*

*bit* is about a young woman in the 60s who has a huge passion for chess and takes her love for it to another level. This show came out in October 2020, and was not soon to reach Netflix's top ten.

Villana Lattanzi, a current Sophomore at JBHS, tells me, "I would have to go with *Outer Banks*! This show was so amazing and different from others. I love the actors and storyline a lot." *Outer Banks* is a teenage drama series that came out in April of 2020. This show was one of Netflix most popular and went viral on social media. Truly a fan favorite. This show is about a group of teens who live in the outer banks in a separated town by poverty and wealth. They set out on an adventure to find a special treasure and find many obstacles in between. This show was extremely popular and is lucky coming out with a season two in 2021.

Lexi Seale, another Senior at JBHS, told me, "Oh my gosh, definitely *Bridgerton*. This show is so beautiful and the romance in it is like a dream for sure.

The wardrobe and set is so mind blowing, I just love it and cannot get enough. The characters are some of my favorites and honestly there's not one I do not dislike, and that is rare with me." *Bridgerton* came out recently on Christmas of 2020. This show is about the competitive world of Regency London in the 1800s. *Bridgerton* has caught so many people's attention in this past month. This show quickly took Netflix's top ten.

Andrew Amarni, a JBHS alumnus, also said, "I really loved them all but I would probably go with *Outer Banks*, I just loved watching it, and would probably watch it again."

I thought I would ask a different age group to see what they thought. Joyce Rubin, a family

friend, told me, "*Tiger King*! That was an amazing show and definitely the best one of 2020." *Tiger King* aired in March of 2020, for many right in the beginning of quarantine. Due to this so many people got into the show and it soon became extremely popular.

Tammy Estrada, another family friend also agreed, and told me "*Tiger King* was something else for sure! Loved it." *Tiger King* was a documentary series about a man named Joe Exotic who runs a tiger zoo and has had a passion for tigers his whole life. The show soon turns into a cool murder mystery to drag the audience in.

All these shows have really impressed everyone, Netflix was back at it again. They always know how to drag all age groups in, and make great content for ev-

eryone.

All the shows have made amazing money and have wowed the audiences. Some really made history.

2020 was a rough year but with things like TV shows and movies really got us all through it, and as hard as that is to admit, that is just how it worked out.

We all know that Netflix has so many more surprises for us, and tricks up their sleeves. I know everyone is looking forward to what is to come in this new year. We all hope it is at least a little better than 2020. These shows will definitely continue gaining popularity.

Now we wait for what Netflix is bringing up in the new year 2021. I just know it will be great!

## SOME MOVIES FROM 2020

BY ELIZABETH SURRATT  
STAFF WRITER

Even though 2020 was a crazy year, it didn't stop directors from releasing amazing movies. From horror to comedy there were movies from every genre. Due to the pandemic, many movies have either been delayed from their original release date or have just been added to streaming sites.

One of the most anticipated movies of the year was *Wonder Woman 1984*, directed by Patty Jenkins, starring Gal Gadot as Wonder Woman, Kristen Wiig as Cheetah, and Pedro Pascal from the *Mandalorian* as Maxwell Lord. The action/adventure movie has already made \$132.1 million at the box office.

The pandemic caused the movie to air on 12/25/2020 despite the initial release slated for 8/14/2020.

*Harley Quinn : Birds of Prey* was a huge movie. Directed by Cathy Yan, is an action/superhero film starring Margot Robbie as the crazy ex-girlfriend of none other than the Joker. It was released the 2/7/2020 The movie would end up receiving \$201.8 million dollars at the box office.

Another movie that came out the same day as *Wonder Woman 1984*, was *Soul*. The movie had actors Daveed Diggs from the hit musical *Hamilton* as Paul. Including other actors like Jamie Foxx and Tina Fey.

The *Sonic the Hedgehog* movie already faced troubles with its original animation that the public had furiously rejected. The family/comedy movie ended up making a comeback with its new and improved animation that the public much preferred. *Sonic* was released the 21st of August 2020 and received \$306.8 million at the box office. It was directed by Jeff Fowler and had an awesome cast which included Jim Carrey as Doctor Eggman, James Marsden as Tom Wachowski, and Ben Schwartz as the famous Sonic the Hedgehog.

Disney had a good year not only releasing *Soul*, but another movie, *Onward*. *Onward*, direct-

ed by Dan Scanton released on the 3,6,2020 and grossed \$141.9 million at the box office.

The movie includes many actors like Tom Holland from the *Spiderman* movies as Ian Lightfoot, Chris Pratt from the *Guardians of the Galaxy* as Barley lightfoot, Octavia Spencer from *Hidden Figures*, *The Help*, *Ma*, etc., as the Manticore, and Julia Louis Dreyfus from *Seinfeld* as Laurel Lightfoot.

One movie that people have been really waiting for was the action/sci-fi movie *Tenet*. The movie directed by the famous Christopher Nolan grossed

\$363.1 million at the box office in the U.S. alone and finally made its release on streaming platforms on the 8/12/2020

*Tenet* had stars like Robert Pattinson from the *Twilight* movies and the soon to be *Batman* as Neil, as well as Michael Caine from the Christopher Nolan *Batman* movies as Michael Crosby.

A highly watched horror movie that earned \$143.3 million at the box office was *The Invisible Man*. The movie was released before the quarantine on 2/24/2020. It was directed by Leigh Whannell and had Elisabeth Moss as the main character Cecilia.

## "GOOD DAY" BY SZA

BY KARLA SAUCEDO  
STAFF WRITER

SZA, also known as Solana Imani Rowe, released her song "Good Days" on December 25th, 2020. Fans of SZA had been waiting for quite some time for her to release this song and new music in general.

Prior to releasing this song she had released another single, "Hit Different," which was a surprise release. Many fans were expecting an album but it turned out to be one song. At one point SZA stopped releasing music, after her debut album "CTRL" released in June 2017.

SZA had said that she would quit making music in 2016, but of course later released the album "CTRL." Her reasons being that she had anxiety and had many things going on in her life at the time. She had also said that she might do something in film or something related to it.

After the album dropped in 2017 she actually stopped releasing music, until 2020 of course. She has been featured in some artists' songs like DJ Khaled and in the *Troll's* movie soundtrack with Justin Timberlake, but never on her own.

Because of the amount of time that fans had been waiting for this specific song, and a snippet of the song was released, there were high expectations for it. When she

first released the song many fans actually complained that it didn't sound the same as the leaked version.

SZA then revealed that she was going to change the mix of the song after hearing so much criticism. Although other fans felt that it wasn't what they wanted, many SZA fans enjoyed the song and were saying that nothing needed to be changed and that other people needed to stop complaining. The song was actually changed due to the amount of people wanting the release, so it was being rushed.

Personally, I thought "Good Days" was a very great song and I believe that it met the expectations I had. The genre of the song is Alternative R&B, which is one of SZA's main genres as well as neo soul. SZA has put out great music and this song was successful, despite a few bumps when first released.

The meaning behind the song was SZA moving on from the past and the negative days in her life, and looking forward to better days. She explains in the track that she had wasted her time on someone in the past. And then as soon as things started looking better for her, everything became bad again. She then proceeds to learning to heal in order to clear up her mind and look forward to good days.

## BEST MUSIC OF 2020

BY BELLA SANTILLANO  
STAFF WRITER

While millions of Americans were quarantined in 2020 Singers, Songwriters, and Rappers dropped new Pop, Hip Hop, R&B, Country, and Rock albums giving Americans something to look forward to while being cooped up in the house.

While Harry Styles may have released his album, "Fine Line" at the end of 2019, yet his album managed to rank as the most successful pop album of 2020. As he remains one of the most talked about artists in the music industry, he chooses to not follow the typical rules and stereotypes. Harry Styles reflected on his journey of creating his album, "Through the two years of making the record I went through a lot of personal changes --I just had the conversations with myself that you don't always have. And I just feel more comfortable with myself."

Hip Hop has come a long way and has gained popularity in recent years. As the years move forward, more women are getting into the hip hop game releasing music relating to body positivity and confidence. Male rappers have dropped albums and hit singles that speak upon personal upbringings and fitting into the music industry.

In 2020 deceased rapper Pop Smoke team released the album, "Shoot for the Stars, Aim for the Moon" that would gain much of the world's popularity only after his death. While he was gaining speedy momentum in the hip hop industry, he died in the Hollywood Hills in late February at the young age of twenty.

Lil Baby who was born and raised in Atlanta Georgia dropped his studio album, "My Turn" in February of 2020. His song "The Bigger Picture" touches on the

Black Lives Matter movement and has nominated him for two Grammys. Lil Baby takes pride in standing alone and away from the crowds.

Hands down Megan Thee Stallion was one of the most talked about female rappers in 2020 when she dropped her album, "Good News." Her top three popular songs on the album are "Body." "Savage" featuring the one and only Beyonce, and her other hit song featuring Cardi B. Megan Thee Stallion has had multiple hit singles in 2020 alone, and the drop of her album was a cherry on top to her successes of the year

Brandy Clark is a successful American Country Singer/Songwriter who released "Your Life is a Record" that was nominated for six Grammys. She released her first album in 1994 and has since had her music recorded by other country artists like Darius Rucker, Miranda Lambert, and Billy Currington.

During the early 1970s there was a surge in rock music throughout the country. However in 2020 the Burning Witches have made another appearance with the release of their album "Dance With the Devil." The group of four woman belong to a hardcore heavy metal rock band that make their presence known when they walk into a room.

While 2020 may not have been the most adventurous year outside of the house and not the best year for most people, there were definitely artists in the music industry who were able to gain more popularity in their number of listeners. Music artists hoped that they could bring some type of excitement to listeners with new music or discovering a new genre of music.

# CADENCE BAKER AND HUDSON BARTRAM

BY GEORGIE HALLBACH  
STAFF WRITER

Cadence Baker and Hudson Bartram really are made for each other, it seems their relationship was written in the stars. Cadence would know, she's quite the astrologer. The two have been together for about one year and are going strong.

Hudson graduated last year from JBHS and Cadence is finishing up her Senior year. They were both on the Student Mental Health board and Cadence is a member of Sound Sensations and the all female a capella group, Muses.

Cadence describes herself as a writer, musician, and nature enthusiast. Hudson is a student at

Los Angeles Valley College.

The two met at improv club last year. Hudson says he "thought she was cute and that she would be good to be around." Cadence was impressed with his writing skills and taken aback by "how bright, blue his eyes were."

She first thought Hudson to be "very edgy and mysterious," but after getting to know him for a few days she says she "saw how sweet he was!"

After a few days of getting to know each other they made it official, with Hudson asking Cadence to be his girlfriend on New Year's Eve. They like to celebrate their anniversary every New Moon because it was a New Moon when they got together.

Their first date was spent dying Hudson's hair, Cadence says it "didn't go very well." But despite the difficulty with the hair dye they spent the rest of their day playing music, walking around, and enjoying each other's company.

Cadence says their favorite thing to do together is go on adventures, maybe enjoy nature, but just being in each other's company, eating some food, is perfect. Hudson, always the health nut, says they love to make smoothies, eat salads, and high five.

When asked what their favorite things are about each other Hudson says, "Cadence helps me feel my feelings," and Cadence says, "Hudson's genuine kind-

ness and how he loves me exactly as I am."

They share similar interests too; they both love *Adventure Time*, and Cadence says, their "outlooks on the world are similar and that [they] try to find hope in something together." Their song is "Everything Stays" from *Adventure Time*.

Their families are close too, they both gushed about how kind their respective parents are, "I like Cadence's family a lot! It was good meeting them," says Hudson.

Cadence says Hudson and her cat share a "weirdly strong bond," and, "Hudson's family was so welcoming to me! They're incredibly kind. My mom loves

him."

Through their relationship they've become friends with each other's friends and had so many amazing adventures.

Cadence will be graduating from Burroughs this May and she hopes to move to the Pacific Northwest for a while and then to the East Coast to study music production.

It is clear Cadence and Hudson are so cute together and compliment each other perfectly. They share similar interests and values, and improve each other's lives. Everyone here at *The Signal* wishes them the best.

# DIANA NAVA AND SAM BERNARDY

BY MAYA MERINO  
STAFF WRITER

Samuel Bernardy who goes by Sam and Diana Nava who goes by "D" have been together for a year and ten months, almost two years in January. Sam's Zodiac sign is a Leo, his birthday is August 21, 2003. He is 17 years old and plays on Varsity Tennis. His future plan is to "live it up" and enjoy life. Diana's Zodiac sign is a Sagittarius, her birthday is December 13th, 2002. She is 17 years old, and her future plan is to either be a makeup artist or start modeling.

Sam and Diana met at John Burroughs High School through mutual friends in December of 2018. Sam's first impression of Diana was when they first met he thought she was really pretty. Sam

started talking to her and thought she was genuinely a sweet person. He liked how she carried herself, she seemed independent and confident. Diana's first impression of Sam was that he was a really sweet guy and seemed cool and confident. To Diana he was an easy person to talk to and they instantly clicked. She also thought he was really cute and eventually developed a crush on him.

Sam asked Diana out in a very cute way and sarcastically during lunch at school on January 10th, 2019. When they hung out they would go to the movies and eat after. But their first real date was at Disneyland. They said that their trip to Disneyland was magical and amazing. It was before school started in their Junior year and it was their anniversary.

They both got park passes and just spent the day eating, going on rides, hugging and taking pictures. It was the most fun they had so early on in their relationship. When they are together some of their favorite things they like to do is watch new shows and movies. They also play video games, they mostly play Call of Duty War Zone. They also cook and bake together sometimes.

Sam first liked Diana because she was really easy to talk to and it was easy to have a conversation with. She was gorgeous and just different from the rest of the girls in Burbank. Diana loved the way he was confident talking to her and how smart he seemed. She loved his voice and just seemed like the type of person she would get along with. Sam's favorite

thing about Diana was her resilience. Diana's favorite thing about Sam was his voice and his hugs, they both make her feel safe.

Some things they have in common would be the way they talk like their slang. They both have similar fashion sense and the same sense of humor making them have a really good laugh together. One other thing they have in common is they like the same food, like sushi and Italian food. Diana's favorite song is "Sativa" by Jhene Aiko and Sam's favorite song is "Calling my Spirit" by Kodak Black. Their favorite song together is called "Juke Jam" by Chance the Rapper.

Sam was really nervous to meet Diana's parents but by the end of it he felt confident and it

turned out pretty good by the end of the night. Diana was really excited to meet Sam's family but she had a little bit of anxiety just because she wanted to make a great impression on his parents. Diana really likes Sam's friends, she thinks they are funny and his best friend Mario is her absolute favorite. Sam likes Diana's cousins Sofia and Allison and he also thinks that overall her friends are very cool.

They are best friends not just boyfriend and girlfriend. For Diana he is the person she trusts the most and knows her for her. When no one else was there for each of them they found each other. It was a crazy experience for them and a blessing. They are grateful for each other everyday.

# VIVIANNA LATTANZI AND KOBE ESTRADA

BY HANNAH LEPLEY  
STAFF WRITER

Vivianna Lattanzi, Vivi for short, and Kobe Estrada are one of the school's newest couples. They started dating on September 21, 2020.

Vivi is currently seventeen years old and a senior while Kobe is eighteen years old and has already graduated. The pair met at a mutual friend's house in 2019. They both thought the other stood out from the others. Kobe said, "I thought she was cute and her personality was funny and pretty much stood out to me, unlike the other girls there."

Things were made official while the two of them went on a camping trip with friends. "Kobe asked me out on a camping trip with all our friends, we went on a little night time walk and it was super cute," Vivi explains.

Before they got together they talked on and off for about a year. Sometimes they would go for a while without talking to each other. This was what happened before their first date. They went to

a Tokyo Cube, a sushi restaurant, and spent a while just talking to one another because this was their first time hanging out since quarantine.

In the year that they have known each other, they have discovered some of their favorite things about one another. Kobe says, "My favorite thing about Vivi is that I think she is so pretty." Vivi's favorite thing about Kobe is how happy she is when she's with him, "My favorite thing is how happy and safe he makes me feel, and how when I'm with him I forget about all my other problems and I just feel so relieved."

Having a relationship right now definitely has its challenges, but Vivi and Kobe have figured how to overcome them. Both of them like to go out and have fun at parties, but since that is not an option right now they have found other things to do together. One of their favorites is just chilling together and watching TV or movies. Occasionally they go on little adventures together.

When looking back on what first made her like Kobe, Vivi said, "His smile... and how confident he was." On the other hand, Kobe shares, "What attracted me most to her was that I felt like I could talk to her about anything and she was just really talkative with me and I liked the way we connected with each other."

One of the couple's favorite songs to listen to together is "Beautiful Nightmare" by Lil Tracy. This came to be their song because Kobe was going through a Lil Tracy phase. "He would play it 24/7 when we were together so it kinda just happened like that and now we always listen to it together," shares Vivi.

Kobe and Vivi also like to joke around with each other. They both agree that they have a sense of humor in common among other things. According to Vivi, they are both also very stubborn, but that just helps them grow as people. Another thing Kobe shared that they have in common is that they like to party and they think alike most of the time.

When it came time to meet each other's parents, Kobe and Vivi were both a little scared. Thankfully things went well with both sets of parents. "At first I was scared, not gonna lie, but in the end it was super good! His mom is like my second mom now and I love her so much. His dad has always been super cool and welcoming to me," Vivi shared.

Unlike when it came time to meet each other's parents, meeting each other's friends was not a

problem because they share a lot of the same friends. But even the friends they didn't share things seemed to go pretty well. Both sets of friends were very nice and welcoming to each other.

So far everything has been going pretty well for this new couple. No matter how hard things get in the world around us, we know they will take it all in stride and be happy together. We wish Vivianna and Kobe the best!

## UPCOMING DATES

Sunday February 14th	Valentine's Day!
Tuesday, February 16th	Periods 1, 2, and 3 Meet
Thursday, February 18th	Cheer Spring Cleaning Fundraiser Clothing Drive
Friday, March 5th	PTA Scholarships Due
Wednesday, March 31st	Last Day to Register for Woodbury Summer School
April 10th	Pop Show
Friday, April 30th	Last Day to Apply for Media City Credit Union Scholarship

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## BELLA SANTILLANO AND MICHAEL JARAMILLO

BY BELLA SANTILLANO  
STAFF WRITER

Senior Bella Santillano and former Burroughs students, Michael Jaramillo, have a yin and yang relationship and agree that they “balance” each other out. The couple live in the present moment and are grateful to be dating for approximately seven months.

Michael graduated from Burroughs in May 2020. He currently attends Los Angeles Valley College and plans to either become a future detective for LAPD or chef. He has three dogs and a gecko named, “Rango.” To help himself through college, he is a seasonal employee at Starbucks. He works as a barista, and describes his job as “exhausting” during the hectic holiday season. The best part, he hates coffee, unlike his girlfriend Bella, who is a caffeine addict.

Bella Santillano is currently a Senior at Burroughs. She is a Yearbook staff member, and has two jobs outside of school. She works at a gym called, “Fitness 19” and helps run her mom’s thrift shop eBay business. She plans to be a successful business

owner and hopes to move to New York. She loves reading her daily Zodiac sign unlike her boyfriend Michael. She believes she is a firm, outgoing Sagittarius, meanwhile Michael says, “Zodiacs signs aren’t real. I don’t even act like a Pisces.” Bella disagrees.

Bella and Michael met on March 14th 2020. Yes, the day that Burbank schools closed down. The worst part? They met at a party. No masks. No social distancing. Bella walked into the party and noticed a tall slim person standing in the corner of the room. Lo and behold, Michael Jaramillo was standing there with his two friends. Bella approached him and asked, “Hey. I’m Bella. What is your name?” Michael told her his name where she shook his hand. The two had never seen each other before and realized that they’d never seen each other on campus.

Michael’s first thought when Bella approached him was, “My eyes deceived me because of the lights in the room and I saw a small dark shadow. She had a pretty interesting voice that

caught my attention, the one thing I remembered was that I kept trying to remember who she was because she seemed familiar. She walked up to me and started talking to me like she knew me.”

Bella says her first impression of Michael was, “He was very tall and good looking. He looked like the type of boy who would be classified as a ‘player.’ When I was talking to him I did not think he wanted to talk to me, but I made him anyway. I viewed him as a “football jock.”

Later that evening when Bella and her friends left the party, Michael asked his friend for her Instagram. It wasn’t until the summer that they decided to become an official couple. Bella explained that she is a very independent person who hates feeling tied down or committed. However, she knew she had feelings for Michael when she decided to sit down and evaluate her situation, “I love making fun of myself and I don’t take things too seriously. I feel like I can be myself around him without being judged and he is a great listener. He is a sweet-

heart and knows how to be a gentleman, but he is very funny and has a sense of humor and can take a joke. He’s also a great conversationalist.” Michael’s interest peaked when, “I decided to go all in and deliver a dark humor joke and Bella gave ‘good feedback’ by laughing and saying an even darker joke. The first time we hung out with our other friends she was fun to be around (face-time and in person).” Together they love watching movies, playing video games (Bella always wins somehow), and exchanging music. Michael defeats Bella when they wrestle, but Bella says she loves debating and arguing with Michael on political topics because, “it’s funny watching ourselves get worked up about topics then laughing together afterwards.”

Physically, Michael loves Bella’s smile. Personality wise he described her as, “energetic, lively, active, and pretty positive.” For Bella, “He’s like a giant compared to me. He’s 6’3 and I’m only 5’1.” Personality wise she said, “He’s so mellow and calm.

I love getting him mad or teasing him. It’s funny.” Together they’re both very blunt, realistic, self functioning, and independent.

One of Bella’s favorite artists is the singer/rapper Doja Cat. The song, “In Your Eyes” by The Weeknd featuring Doja Cat reminds Bella of Michael because he hates Doja Cat with a passion. Michael says that the song, “Dirty Laundry” reminds him of Bella because he used to listen to that song on repeat when he first met her. Every time he hears it, he thinks of her. Together, they both laugh listening to the song “WAP” by Cardi B. and Megan Thee Stallion.

Bella and Michael both believe they will be together for a while, however they’re both realistic and acknowledge that there is a chance they will not get married or be together forever. They both choose to live in the present moment and enjoy their time together and are thankful to be in each other’s lives.

## JAMI CALIMLIM AND ANDREW LY

BY AMARE COOKE  
STAFF WRITER

Jami and Andrew are a wonderful couple that have been dating since August of 2018, and both are great members of the Fitness Club, CSF, and Marching Band. The two have a lot in common, including their friend group, religion, sense of humor, and classes, as well as being fans of the same shows and games.

The couple met during the 2018 band workshops in the summer. Andrew played the French horn and trumpet.

While Jami initially perceived Andrew to be “cute and dorky”

but also noticed that he is “very effervescent and outgoing.”

On the other hand, Andrew immediately noticed Jami’s smile and laugh that he found her very cute, as well as the fact that she was very fun to be around and a very good person. As they started to develop their friendship, they started to realize the fact that they had a lot in common, and also realized they had the same energy as each other.

One day, Andrew decided to ask Jami’s parents to date her, and they accepted that idea. From there, Andrew asked Jami out on August 26th, 2018 in a very calm

matter, casually bringing it up. Though, this casual approach had incredible feelings hidden behind it and was the start of a great relationship.

On their first date, they decided to go bowling for a while at Pickwick before watching *Frozen 2* together, then later hanging out and walking around Downtown Burbank.

Spending more and more time together, they realized that they are more similar than they initially thought. Jami said, “We are almost the same person.”

They play volleyball together often, as well as playing games

such as Apex Legends.

Andrew and Jami care for each other a lot as well, therefore they often share their food together as more of an act of consideration as either of them can have unbelievably busy days and may skip meals.

Jami stated, “I don’t really eat lunch and I never have time to eat breakfast in the morning. So to clarify, it’s not just an act of sharing, but being considerate, sometimes giving me more than half of his share.”

They eventually met each other’s parents. The idea was “very nerve wracking,” to them at first,

they were worried but in the end it worked out.

Jami said, “We are both Asians, which I thought would help, but there were still a lot of cultural differences.” They both love and enjoy each other’s parents.

As well as all of their other similarities, they also share almost the same friend group with people in the band, therefore they did not have to worry about meeting each other’s friends. Further similarities include, they have both of their birthdays in December, and their song is “Love Scenario” by iCON.

## VALENTINA ARELLANO AND CARLOS ANGUIANO

BY ANGELA INIGUEZ  
STAFF WRITER

Valentina and Carlos are such a cute couple and since Valentine’s day is coming up I just had to interview them. I asked Valentina and Carlos some questions regarding their relationship. What kind of names or pet names do you call each other? Valentina’s response was “Carlos, Baby, my love, Buddy, Squishy”, Carlos’s response was “Val, Princes, Baby, Beautiful, Buddy”.

The second question I asked them was about their background. Valentina’s response was “I am 17. I used to be in choir. But I am now in the dance program and will be joining Dance pro 3 in spring semester. I plan to go to Animal Behavior college to study dog obedience. And hopefully in the future make my own business.” I asked Carlos the same question and his response was “I am 17, my future plans are to work at Porsche and then own a car shop.”

Third question I asked both of them was where they meet? Valentina’s response was “We met on the 8th grade Europe trip but didn’t keep in touch until the 10th grade when we became friends

during English.” Carlos’ response was “We met on the Europe trip, but didn’t talk for a year and then in sophomore year we got super close again.”

Fourth question I asked them was what their first impressions of each other were. Valentina’s response was “At first I thought he was funny but annoying because he kept taking my tic tacs on the plane ride home. And when I met him again in 10th grade I thought he would be mean because he didn’t really talk to me but he would talk to others in my group. But in his defense I was very quiet.” was her response. Carlos’ response was “My first impression was annoying and quiet.”

Fifth question I asked them was how did Carlos ask out Valentina. Valentina’s response was “The week of spring break we were constantly Facetimeing and texting and one very late night I had texted him telling him that I had feelings for him and I couldn’t keep it in anymore. After about 5 minutes of talking about it he had asked me if I would be his girlfriend.” Carlos’ response was “I asked Val out over text, but she told me that she had feelings

first.”

My sixth question was how long they’ve been together and when their anniversary date was. Valentina’s response was “We had started dating on March 23, 2019. So it has been a year and 8 months.” Carlos’ response was “one year and 8 months.” Seventh question I asked them was when their first date was. Valentina’s response was “Our first date was at the movies. We had gone to go see Avengers Endgame. We had met up at the Burbank mall and watched the Endgame, after we walked to steak and shake and we ate. My mom then picked us up and we took him home.” Carlos’ response was “We watched Avengers Endgame.”

Eighth question I asked them was what made them know they first liked each other. Valentina’s response was “We were best friends before we had become a couple. I was already so comfortable with him. I had always kind of liked him because he was so sweet and funny but the week of spring break, when we would Facetime everyday until 4 am made me realize how much I had actually

liked him.” Carlos’ response was “She is super sweet and so warm with me.”

Ninth question I asked them was what they liked to do together. Valentina’s response was “We like to watch movies mostly on Disney+ and tv shows. We also like to bake, most of the time it’s cookies. And we play video games sometimes.” Carlos’ response was “We like to play video games, cuddle, and watch movies or tv shows.”

Tenth question I asked them was what were their favorite thing about each other. Valentina’s response was “My favorite thing about Carlos is his personality. He is sweet, kind, and funny. He always tries to help and I know I can always count on him to cheer me up.” Carlos’ response was “Her personality and her eyes.” Eleventh question I asked them was what things do they have in common. Valentina’s response was “We both like Marvel, we love going to Target. We have similar taste in foods, we are both hispanic, and we like old music.” Carlos’ response was “We like Marvel, Target, and Olive Garden.”

Twelfth question I asked both of them was what their song was. Valentina’s response was “Bohemian Rhapsody”.

Thirteenth question I asked them was what it was to meet each other’s parents. Valentina’s response was “I was very scared to meet his family but they were all so sweet and I am so glad they let me in with open arms. I feel like I’m a part of their family.” Carlos’ response was “I love spending time with Val’s family, they are super sweet and fun.”

Fourteenth question I asked them was what they thought of each other’s friends. Valentina’s response was “Before dating we were in the same friend group and we still are, so we have the same friends and I love them.” Carlos’ response was “We are both in the same friend group, but they are... something else.”

Both of them are very sweet and the cutest couple I’ve ever seen. I’m so happy for them and I wish them the best of luck and a great year.

## DIANA CARMIOL AND DIEGO CASTELLON

By **KIMBERLY GOMEZ**  
STAFF WRITER

As difficult as it may be to spend time with family and friends, couples at John Burroughs High School are staying strong. Senior couple Diana Carmiol and Diego Castellon have been together since their freshman year!

The couple are both 17 years old and they have been together for three years. Diana enjoys making art and she loves animals.

Diego enjoys playing sports and he also loves doing outdoor activities like running and hiking. The couple are both very social and they love spending time with one another.

The couple met their Freshman year, at the John Burroughs High School football field. Diana's first impression of Diego was, "I thought he was handsome, had a nice smile and was athletic." They both hit it off and Diego also said, "I thought she

was athletic and an amazing person inside and outside."

After Diego took Diana out for dinner, he asked her out. Diana and Diego's first date was initially going to consist of going to the movie theater, however, Diego decided that they should walk around the city and get to know one another. They ended their night by eating some ice cream.

After being together for a while they met each other's families and friends. Diego said, "It

was nerve wracking but overall they were very funny and welcoming people." Diana was surprised when meeting them and said, "It was a lot to take in at once but they're the most amazing and lovely people." Over the years of knowing each other's family and friend's they consider them as second family.

Due to the pandemic it's harder for couples to see each other as often and go on dates. Despite this hardship, Diana and Diego

enjoy dancing and listening to music together while eating junk food. Overall they just love being in each other's company.

The couple both have similar music taste, humor, and movie taste. Diana and Diego are also very creative and outgoing. Their song is "Me and You" by Brenton Wood.

After high school, they plan on staying together. Diana loves animals and is planning on becoming a veterinarian in the future.

## ANDREA DIAZ AND STEPHEN COVA

By **SAVANNAH STOTTS**  
STAFF WRITER

Andrea and Stephen met in Ms. Mayes class in their Sophomore year. Andrea is eighteen and currently a College Peer Mentor, the Secretary for Latinos Unidos, and a Link Crew leader. Stephen is eighteen years old, loves to play baseball and soccer, and he wants to become a firefighter.

At the beginning of their friendship Andrea thought that Stephen was annoying and he thought that she hated him. He always thought that she gave him

a death stare for no notable reason and that she was super quiet. They started dating on December 1st 2018 and have been together for about two years.

Their relationship started at a soccer game when he told her how he felt while they were walking together. He was super nervous when he told her and didn't think he had a chance with her even though she ended up feeling the same about him. He asked her out after they got Starbucks together.

Andrea started to like Stephen

after she really got to know him and she started looking forward to seeing him everyday. Stephen says that she was super easy to talk to and that he felt like he could talk to her so easily because he wouldn't judge him. They became close quickly.

Their first date was the day that he had asked her out. They went to an arcade and Starbucks together. Now they like to watch movies and go on garden dates together.

Andrea's favorite thing about Stephen is everything about him.

Stephen's favorite thing about Andrea is her childish behavior. Something they have in common is that they both like to annoy each other as a joke. A song that reminds them both of each other is "Another Day Gone" by A Boogie Wit Da Hoodie.

Andrea said that she was very scared, nervous, and awkward when she met his parents, although she was mostly afraid for him to meet her parents. Stephen's response to meeting Andrea's mom was to approach it as though he was being interviewed

when they were just friends. Her dad was in an interview situation for them to date, he says that her parents were kind though.

Andrea also likes his friends because she thinks they are very nice and funny people. She mentioned that she knew his friends before she met him as well. Stephen likes Andrea's friends and thinks that they are nice. He says that although they do not talk often, they get along well.

## CAITLYN CHAPMAN AND NICK BULLOCK

By **ELIZABETH SURRETT**  
STAFF WRITER

Watch out, because JBHS Seniors Caitlyn Chapman and Nick Bullock are in, and are the cutest couple in school.

The couple met in their Freshman year in Ms. Freeman's health class but were already acquainted with each other. "I was high key crushing on Caitlyn by then, too," adds Nick.

First impressions are always important and Caitlyn adds, "He was really nice but also strange in a good way. He was pretty weird,

but so was I, so he was always interesting to talk to."

Nick says, "she's always been hilarious, but it's a unique type of humor that I thought everybody would get, but that makes it all the more special."

"I made the first step towards becoming more than friends," states Nick. "We agreed to meet during lunch on February 5th and Wednesday in building one outside of Mr. Lee's room to see each other."

"Caitlin is the most beautiful girl as it is, but it feels so special

to have fallen in love with who she is, not what she is."

"I honestly was freaking out, I know he liked me and I knew I liked him, so when he told me, I straight-up said 'I don't know,' I had it all planned out in my head." Caitlyn replies. "I told him how I felt the same day, just later over FaceTime. We decided we would hang out more in person for a month to get more comfortable, and then a month-and-a-half later we started dating."

The adorable couple has been together since March 25th of

2020 and their first date was at the Americana in Glendale, where they celebrated their 6-month anniversary. "We danced the 'Time Warp' in the Barnes & Noble magazine section, shared ghost pepper spicy wings for dinner, took a walk through the mall when it got dark and all the lights came on, set and laughed together in the grass by the fountain," says Nick. "That evening was truly the best time I've had."

When they're together the couple enjoys going to the park, and just talking about music phi-

losophy and movies.

Nick says, "my favorite thing about Caitlyn is her empathy, especially for animals, is actually the sweetest and cutest thing ever! She makes me smile and laugh, she's weird and I freaking love it! Nothing about her could never get old. That's more than one thing, but I didn't pick her for just one reason after all."

Caitlyn adds on by saying, "there are so many things I like about him, I don't think I could actually pick one."

## ARIANA ALLEN AND MICHAEL PENTLAND

By **KARLA SAUCEDO**  
STAFF WRITER

Seniors Arianna Allen and Michael Pentland, both seventeen, are a couple here at John Burroughs. Their first anniversary was on November 10th, and they have been together for a year and three months.

Arianna plays club soccer and plans to go to college to get a doctorate degree. Her favorite song is "Make it to me" by Sam Smith. Michael plays for the Varsity Football team and plans on being an electrician. His favorite song is

"Martial Law" by Caskey.

Arianna and Michael met through her best friend who had asked her if she wanted to wear his football jersey to the games, which they then met in the quad and became friends from that point.

When Michael first saw Arianna he thought she was attractive but also very shy and very sweet. Arianna was nervous to meet him at first and thought that he was super cute and friendly, but also very tall.

Michael asked out Arianna at the beach while they were watch-

ing the sunset in San Diego, which he knew that she loved watching. Their first date was at the AMC Theater where they watched the movie *Countdown*, which was a scary movie that they didn't think was good. After the movie they went to get some pizza and didn't like the pizza either. But afterwards, they walked around and talked for a while and said it was nice just getting to talk.

Michael was attracted to Arianna from the moment he saw her. His favorite thing about Arianna is how she always finds a

way to make him smile.

Arianna liked that he was super sweet and was easy to talk to after a while. She felt that they had known each other longer than in actuality. Her favorite thing about Michael is that he is super funny and he always knows how to make a bad day better.

Both of them are simple and easy going people as well as foodies. Although Arianna can be a picky eater they both like to try new food places. They also love animals, especially dogs and baby cows, and visiting new places.

When meeting Arianna's parents Michael said "It was really easy her family was accepting of me and were really sweet."

Arianna said "I thought his family was fun to be around and easy to get to know, they're hilarious and have the best energy."

When asked what they thought about each other's friends Michael thought that they were great friends that would drop anything in order to help her. Arianna thought they were cool and wonderful, although she has not met a lot of his friends.

## CHARLOTTE RICHARDSON AND GENI MCGHEE

By **TIARA STEWART**  
STAFF WRITER

Geni McGhee and Charlotte Richardson are both seventeen years old and bonded over wanting to travel to Italy together.

Geni and Charlotte met in math class all the way back in the seventh grade. They had been friends since they first met in that class, up until Sophomore year when Charlotte expressed her true romantic feelings towards Geni which Geni reciprocated. They had the same first impression of each other, which was that

they both found each other to be very funny and easy to get along with.

From the very beginning they knew that they had the same sense of humor and there was never a dull moment in their relationship. Charlotte asked Geni out by bringing Geni a basket of her favorite fruit snacks and candies to school and inviting her over to her house.

They will be together for two years on October 5th this year.

Geni and Charlotte's first date was at Halloween Horror Nights.

They spent the day together at Charlotte's house first, and then they had a great time together at Horror Nights.

Charlotte and Geni were both always drawn to each other by their similar sense of humor and ability to make each other laugh at any time. Their feelings for each other grew romantic over time as a result of spending so much time together and growing up together. When they're together, they love to go to Venice beach and people watch. They love making new friends together and having

a good time. They're both spontaneous people who don't need to have a plan to have fun when they hang out.

Charlotte's favorite thing about Geni is her optimism and ability to make anyone laugh. She loves that Geni makes everyone feel welcomed and comfortable and can make the best out of any situation. Geni loves that Charlotte is so strong and has been through so much yet continues to see the bright side of things, even in the darkest times.

They love a lot of the same

music and movies. They share a mutual love for Beyonce, which is made perfectly clear since their song is "XO" by Beyonce. They've known each other's families since middle school, so they've always felt as extremely welcomed by them and almost as if they had a second home with each other's families. They were both accepting about the relationship. Not only were their families accepting, but all of their friends were too. Geni and Charlotte are in the same friend group, and love all of them.

## BROOKLIN BOSCO AND LUKE ROGERS

BY VIVIANNA LATTANZI  
STAFF WRITER

There are many couples at JBHS, such as Brooklin Bosco, and Luke Rogers. These two love birds have been together for about a year and a half now. The two met on the Burroughs campus in their history class. They both had Mr. Riley fourth period their Sophomore year.

When Brooklin first saw him she said, "We shared a small conversation on the first day of school and thought he was super cute."

Luke said, "I thought she was super cute and cool, but once we had an actual conversation I realized there was so much more to

her, and she was actually super smart."

After a bit of time Luke and Brooklin started to spend more time together in class, and would hangout at lunch and nutrition, but nothing crazy serious yet. After a couple weeks of that the two started to realize they liked each other a lot. "Luke asked me on our first date over text, I was super nervous but also excited because I was already really comfortable with him, and that made me like him even more."

They two went to midnight roller rink for their first date. Brooklin stated, "I could tell rollerskating was not for him, but I thought it was super cute how

hard it was for him."

Luke responded, "I just kept falling the whole time. Basically I spent the whole date falling and she just laughed. I was pretty embarrassed but in the end it made a great memory and it was overall super fun."

Luke finally asked Brooklin out on May 25, 2019. This being a very important date for them.

Some things Brooklin loves about Luke is his personality, kind heart, his perfect lips, and amazing energy. "He makes me feel safe, and special," she says.

Luke states, "My favorite thing about Brooklin is how she treats me, no matter what she's been through that day or how rude I've

been, If I ever need some support or love, I know all I need to do is ask and she'll always be there for me."

Some things the two have in common is that they both are the baby of the family, they love sports, movies, and just relaxing together. Brooklin and Luke's song is "Annie's Song" by John Denver.

Every relationship comes with meeting parents. Luke says "Meeting her mom was very scary, and if you've ever met her you'd understand. Her dad was very easy going and meeting him was fun."

For Brooklin meeting Luke's parents was super fun. "I like

them a lot, they're like my second family," she says.

The majority of Luke's friends are also Brooklin's friends. They all get along well and all their friends love them together.

Brooklin and Luke are so excited to make so many memories together. They can't wait for the future, and are excited to see where it takes them. "I love him so much, I don't know what I'd do without him."

Brooklin says. The two can't wait to celebrate yet another Valentine's Day, and hope to spend many more together. "I love spending Valentine's Day with her, she is so special to me," Luke ends.

## EMILY LUQUE AND JACOB CARDENAS

BY ALYSIA MARTINEZ  
STAFF WRITER

Although we are currently going through a pandemic, couples are still finding a way to make things work through these difficult times. Jacob Cardenas, who his girlfriend Emily Luque calls "J" or "Stud," calls her "Em, Slatt, or Queen."

According to Emily, "We met in P.E class in 9th grade. We started dating in Sophomore year and we've been together since then. A little rocky but we always find a

way back."

About this first meeting, Jacob said Emily was a "very nice sweet person, funny, and gorgeous." Emily said he was "nice, really caring, and hot."

Their first date was at the movies on October 5th of 2018.

Jacob asked Emily to be his girlfriend while on a date at the Cheesecake Factory at the Americana later that year.

Emily knew she was into Jacob because of "the way he was with others and with me I realized

he was super caring, sweet, and someone that no one really saw him as. We instantly clicked and we were just super comfortable with each other."

Jacob said he knew he was into her because of "how sweet she was to everyone and how real she was. She cares about the real things not things that don't matter and how loving she is to me and that she actually cared about me. Once I knew how much she cared for me, that's when I knew everything just made sense when

we are together."

Jacob's favorite thing about Emily is her kindness, and Emily's favorite thing about Jacob is how much he cares about his family.

Speaking of family, Emily love his family because "they're super super nice and caring."

And Jacob likes Emily's family too, saying they're, "amazing great people, loud and funny."

They have a lot in common, such as liking to watch movies, their love of animals, baking all

the time, and going to eat dinner from time to time.

Though they don't really hang out with each other's friends, they think they're cool.

Emily's and Jacob's favorite thing to do is watching movies and cuddling at home.

Their song is "Kiss me thru the phone."

Their future plans are to see where life takes them together.

## MIA GRIJALVA AND WILL NICHOLSON PENN

BY ELISE McMILLEN  
STAFF WRITER

Quarantine aside, Mia Grijalva and Will Nicholson Penn have been together for quite some time. They met on Instagram after Will replied to one of Mia's Instagram stories. Mia is 17, and Will is 18 and in college. They both love watching Netflix together, specifically the show *Supernatural*.

Mia's first impression of Will was "that he was so funny. [She] fell in love with his personality so fast." Mia asked him out because she wanted to make it official. She asked him in an Instagram DM, even though she suspected he was planning something bigger, like a date at a restaurant when he would ask her. The relationship blossomed from there, on May 3, their anniversary. They have been together for almost 8

months, coming up on December 3.

Their first date was "Technically driving around in [Will's] car because there was really nothing else [they] could do..."

But the one Mia counts is when Will took her to Pinocchio's, which started a tradition. Whenever they go together they order a pineapple and pepperoni pizza and a side of spaghetti. The thing Mia mentioned that she loved the most about Will repeatedly was his humor. That was the thing that "Immediately attracted [her] to him."

Will appreciated how much Mia cared about her family and how much they meant to her. Will made a big effort to be close with her whole family and now all of their family members are friends. Their favorite things to do togeth-

er involve watching Netflix (they pretend to be movie critics), take naps, and go out to eat.

Their favorite things about each other include each other's personalities, the fact that they both like to surprise one another with little gifts, each other's smiles, and that they are each other's best friends.

"It's kinda funny because the whole saying is that opposites attract is kinda true with us. In the beginning of our relationship we really didn't have anything in common, but as our relationship has progressed we took on little pieces of each other. My sense of humor has changed as well as his. We watch all the same things together. Our personalities have kind of meshed together... in a good way!" The two seem to be very close.

Their relationship is full of little traditions and moments they share together, especially while listening to music. Though they don't share a single "song" together they are always listening to music together in the car. They love the song "Dazed and Confused" by Led Zeppelin and always put on a little show with air guitars and microphones whenever it comes on.

Mia says They have the best relationship with each other's parents. When it comes to relationships, meeting the parents is a big step. Mia met Will's parents first and they immediately knew they liked one another. Their families' opinions were extremely essential to them when it came to their relationship, and so when they instantly hit it off it was great for both of them. Sometimes Mia

gets more excited to talk to Will's dad than him! And when Will met Mia's parents they absolutely adored him. Will hangs out with Mia's family "Like every day." Another thing Will and Mia share is a best friend. "He is so nice and we have hung out with him and his girlfriend before and it was so fun!"

Mia also said when it came to her friends "Will is the only person I have seen during quarantine so all six months of dating he has not met my friends other than a 'hi' over FaceTime."

Quarantine has been an uphill battle for everyone, but especially for people maintaining relationships, but Mia and Will are going strong.

## SOPHIA MOORE AND JAKE NANFRIA

BY MARTY COHA  
STAFF WRITER

Jake Nanfria and Sophia Moore are John Burroughs High School's ideal couple. They met in their AP LANG class. Sophia writes, "We met during our Junior year in our AP Lang Class! He sat diagonally across from me and we were both in the same discussion group for English, so I got to talk to him academically before I got to know him."

These two also got closer because of Yearbook. Jake states, "I got the chance to talk to her even more through Yearbook."

Their first impressions of one another are quite adorable. "My first impression of Jake was definitely that he was tall. I have a distinct memory of talking to

him on the first or second day of school during Lang, and thinking that he was just so much taller than I was," says Sophia. Jake first noticed her undeniable smarts, "My first impression of her was just that she was a really smart person who I would want to be friendly with in case I ever had to work with her on a project in either of our shared classes." He noticed her brain and she noticed his height.

Jake asked out Sophia on November 27, 2019 over Thanksgiving break. They were texting everyday about hobbies, interest, and movies. They both enjoyed a band called Gorillaz and there was a one-night-only showing of their documentary. This was the perfect time for Jake to ask So-

phia out on a date. They went to the movie on December 16, 2020, but held December 1, 2020 as their official anniversary date.

When asked what drew Sophia to Jake she simply puts, "It's funny, because thinking back on it I can't really pinpoint one reason I knew I liked him." She elaborates on this idea, "It felt inevitable, I knew that every time I was talking to him there was a compatibility there that I was hoping we were both feeling. I think I knew I really liked him when I scoured the Internet for a digital copy of this German movie called *Pestalozzi's Berg*. We were in the middle of writing the big Emerson rhetorical analysis in Mr. Kuglen's class, and Pestalozzi was this obscure Swiss pedagog-

ical theorist mentioned in one line of the Emerson piece. Anyways, Jake and I had joked about Pestalozzi during class because he was characterized as "melancholic" but we weren't sure why. Later that day during Yearbook, he brought it back up because he had done research on the guy, and then during class we found out there was a movie made about him too."

Jake's pet names for Sophia are Bab, J Snoozybug, Stinky, Smoore, Sofaloaf. Sophia refers to her significant other with names like, Bab, Stinky, Jakeybug, McSnooze.

When these two are together, according to Jake, they enjoy "... doing just about everything." He says that just being with Sophia

makes everything more enjoyable. "We could even just lounge around for hours and it would be enjoyable simply to be in her presence."

The two can both agree that they can't think of one favorite thing about the other. Jake started his answer with, "This question is impossible to answer. There are so many amazing qualities she has that I don't think I could pick a favorite." Whilst Sophia stated, "There are an infinite number of things I love about him."

Their official song is "La Vie en Rose" by Louis Armstrong, but their insider song is the *How I Met Your Mother* cover by Cristin Milioti. If you ask Jake he'll also throw in "You! Me! Dancing!" by Los Campesinos.



## QUARANTINE DATE IDEAS

BY ATHENA VOURNAS  
STAFF WRITER

As we continue to remain in the midst of a pandemic, it can be extremely hard to plan date night. Looking for some fun activities for you and your significant other? Well you're in luck. These activities can be done with your boo or even best friends!

**Cooking and Baking:** This is your chance to finally channel your inner Gordon Ramsey. If you follow a video on YouTube, trust me, the possibilities are endless. Work together to make a nice dinner or even a fun dessert. You can even turn it into a little bake-off or cooking competition. If you want to keep it remote, you can also make the same dish on FaceTime and then compare on camera.

**Picnic:** All you need is a blanket, a basket, food, a speaker for music and you're good to go. Bring all your favorite treats to share! Extra points if you make a charcuterie board. If you don't want to set up at a park, you can definitely have a picnic in your backyard.

**Painting:** A must for all you

artists out there. From watercolors to acrylic paint, with an empty canvas, the possibilities are endless. You can sit together to paint and vibe or even just follow a Bob Ross video tutorial online. Coloring books work too!

**Movie Marathon:** Being in quarantine is the perfect time for binge watching. Get your popcorn and snacks to make it the perfect night. Some movie series include *Star Wars*, *Marvel Cinematic Universe*, *The Hunger Games*, *Pirates of the Caribbean*, *Spiderman* (the one with Tobey Maguire) and *Harry Potter*.

**Outdoor or Drive-In Movie:** You can create your own outdoor movie theatre with a white sheet, a projector and speakers. If you want to go out, they have socially distanced Drive-In theatres as well. Definitely checkout Paramount's Drive-In Theatres. Bring your own popcorn!

**Spa night:** Get ready for a night filled with Rom-Coms, face masks, mani-pedis, essential oil filled diffusers, candles and under eye masks. It's also the perfect opportunity for a movie marathon. Only one rule; pajamas

only!

**Board game night:** It's time to make use of all your dusty board and card games for a good old fashioned game night. Play monopoly, Scrabble, or even Pictionary. Each person can supply their own game and teach the other how to play.

**Sunset:** No matter where you are, you'll be able to see the sunset, so why not make it a date. You can set up seats in your backyard, put blankets on your roof, go hiking or even take a drive down to the beach.

**Photoshoot:** There's nothing more fun than an at-home photoshoot! You can use colored sheets for your background or even look for places around your house to take pictures. Make sure to be creative.

**Make a dream board:** Making dream boards is the perfect activity for right before the new year. Print out or even draw pictures of all the goals you have for 2021. The board can be filled with inspirational quotes and anything that represents something you strive for. Above all make sure to have fun!

## MAKING THE PERFECT PLAYLIST

BY JUDI BROWNGARDT  
STAFF WRITER

Playlists can make an excellent gift for friends and loved ones. This Valentine's Day, physical gifts can be difficult to give so playlists make a great alternative present. Creating a personalized playlist for someone is a simple and fabulous way of showing them you care on this special day. If you are wondering what virtual present to give this Valentine's Day, a playlist would be a perfect choice.

The first step in constructing a Valentine's Day playlist is to choose a theme. Choosing a theme allows all the songs to flow

together without any confusion. Some examples of themes for your playlist are a soft and slow or an upbeat and fast playlist. If you want to be bold you can choose more than one theme for your playlist but make sure the songs flow together and connect.

The next step in creating a Valentine's Day playlist for a significant other or friend is to make sure you know your audience. You need to recognize their favored genres, artists, and bands and be sure to include them in some way. If you know they dislike anything in particular, avoid adding it to the playlist. Make them feel like you genuinely took

your time choosing and picking out songs.

Remember not all the songs in the playlist have to be considered love songs. If you're having trouble finding songs try to pick out songs that the two of you both enjoy or have a special memory with. Adding memorable songs to the playlist is a great way to make the playlist unique. Listen carefully to the lyrics and the meaning of the songs you're including to be positive you're getting the exact message across.

The last and final step to making your Valentine's Day playlist is adding a title. There are endless options to title your playlist. A

## NON BASIC GIFTS

BY KRystal LE  
STAFF WRITER

Valentine's day is just around the corner and this year I'm going to give you a few fun and non-basic gifts for your loved ones. Although it's traditional to get a bouquet, a teddy bear and a box of chocolates for your special person, gifts like that don't have a very personal feel to it and it might seem like it was a last minute gift.

For Valentine's Day you want to get your special person whether it be your girlfriend, boyfriend, or even a family member like your mom or dad, a special well thought out gift. It should mean something or at least show that you put some thoughts into it.

First gift idea would be a touch bracelet. They are a long distance touch bracelet that would be the perfect gift for the couples who live far away from each other, or for the ones who's planning on moving somewhere away for college. The bracelet would send a buzz through to the other person's bracelet when one of the wearers tapped on it. This gift is absolutely adorable and it's a way

to let your significant other know that you are thinking about them even when you aren't with them.

The next gift would be the Lovebox Spinning Heart Messenger. This box is perfect for your girlfriend or your mom. It's a wooden box with a pixelated heart on the front of it. The heart would spin when a message comes through the box.

All you would need to do is download an app on your phone and whenever you feel like it you can send a message through to the other person and it would appear on the box. It's a modern take on a simple love letter or kind message.

This is such a great gift to get for your loved ones because who wouldn't love to receive a special message like that! It is such a cute way to stay connected with your special person or family member and it makes them feel special to receive a message from their Lovebox.

Finally the last gift idea would be letting your person decide what you guys would do for that whole day! This is such a fun idea and it'll definitely be interesting for the both of you. This gift idea is so spontaneous because you don't know what you're getting yourself into! Imagine how great it would be to be able to make your significant other do whatever you want for the whole day. The whole day would be an adventure for the both of you and you'll create some amazing memories.

Those are some of my non-basic gift ideas to help you decide on what you should give your special person for Valentine's Day. Gifts these days are so plain and simple and it just seems like not a lot of thought was put into them. I hope these ideas help you decide on what to get your special person for Valentines Day!

title can be anywhere from simply their name to a funny inside joke. You can title your playlist anything you want, make it as funny or as cheesy as you desire. If you're creating your playlist on Spotify you can add a cover photo, which is optional but highly recommended. A cover photo of the two of you together would be the cherry on top of your playlist sundae.

In these times physical gifts can be difficult or even impossible to give. This Valentine's Day, consider giving a playlist as a gift. A unique and personalized playlist can make someone feel special and loved.