

# Unmasking the truth

By Jaden Lepp

The continued usage of mask mandates in many school districts in the United States has been a somewhat controversial issue over the past weeks. Many government officials have opposed them, while other prominent figures have stated that they are an absolute necessity. With no laws in place, the opinions of the students and staff at Roosevelt regarding wearing a mask is something to be investigated.

Contrary to the opinions of the surrounding cities, almost all Roosevelt students and staff support the usage of masks in schools, especially thanks to an increase of cases due to the Delta Variant. Where the real issue lies is whether or not vaccinated individuals should be required to wear masks.

Senior Ezra Turner believes that all students, regardless of vaccination or previous immunity should be required to wear masks. In an email to *The Colonel*, Ezra wrote, “Masks should absolutely be mandatory- if you are vaccinated or otherwise. It is our responsibility to protect both the young and the infirm. Wearing a mask is not a sacrifice of any sort of sacred right, it is doing the bare minimum. If you were immunocompromised, wouldn’t you want someone to do the same for you? By wearing masks now we are removing the need for them to be necessary later.”

Many other students share his opinion, and believe that caring for other unvaccinated students should be the top priority, even if it means having to wear a mask during school hours.

Senior Tara Sefchick wrote, “With so many people crowded together in the school, it makes sense that we wear masks in order to prevent the spread of COVID and another school shutdown. As case numbers begin to rise, I would advise vaccinated people to wear masks too, since there is a slight possibility of getting COVID even if you’re vaccinated, and you can still potentially spread the virus if you’re vaccinated.”

In addition to worries for the young and unvaccinated, there is also a lot of worry about the Delta Variant, a far more infectious variant of COVID-19 that has been sweeping through the US.

Senior clarinet and trumpet players Aron Kooijman and Emma Schweitzer stated, “Even if you’re vaccinated, you can still spread COVID-19. And

vaccinated people have been getting sick with the Delta Variants so everyone should wear masks in school. We can still spread it even if we ourselves are not sick. Especially with the Delta Variant, and the fact that kids under 12 cannot be vaccinated yet.”

But what about the other side of the story? Many students wish that vaccinated individuals were not required to wear a mask. After over a year in lockdown, many people are tired of wearing masks,

stating, “I think that schools should let people who bring their vaccination card or proof of vaccination to school should be able to not wear a mask.”

Senior Paige Thompson also added, “I think vaccinated people do not need to wear a mask, but if that was not enforced, unvaccinated people would most likely choose not to wear one either. Because of the tensions that would be created as a result of masks being optional, I am glad that they are required for the time being in school.”

Some students suggested requiring parents to include the COVID-19 vaccine into their students vaccination records (which the school already is required to review before allowing students into school) is one idea, or issuing students their own school only vaccination cards after they show proof of vaccination is another.

Roosevelt English teacher Pam Harr commented, “Recently, Crestwood had to go virtual. They did not start the year with masks. No one LIKES wearing masks, but it’s important that we keep school as safe as possible until this mess is over.”

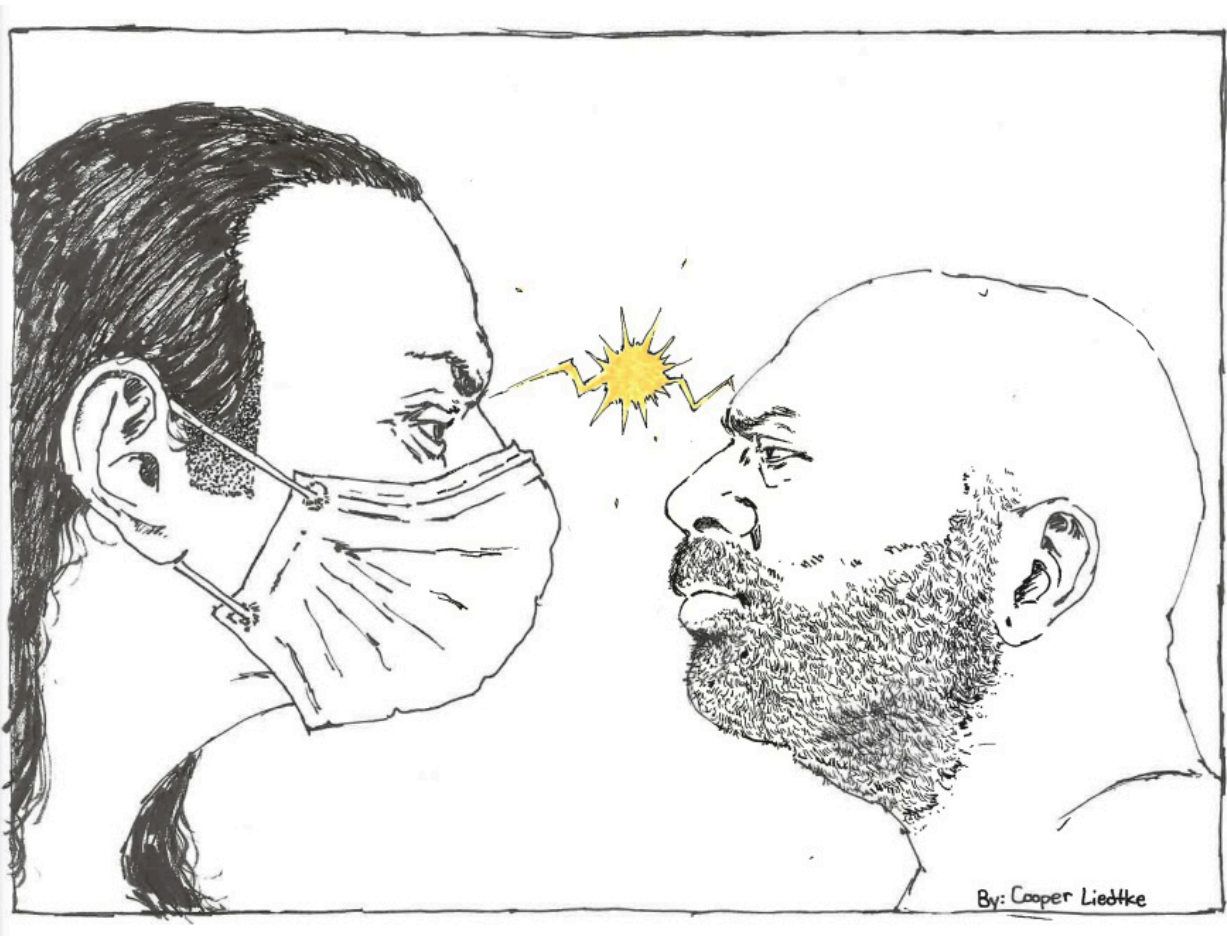
Algebra teacher Matt Hunkele stated, “Other school districts in the area that did not require masks

at the start of the school year have had much more of an impact from Covid infections (directly) and quarantines (indirectly because masking was optional) and have since required masks.”

The question remains for RHS students: is wearing a mask, even if you’re vaccinated, really worth it?

With almost all of Roosevelt staff and the majority of students supporting a mask mandate, chances are Roosevelt will remain an all-masked school for some time. However, as COVID is still a relatively new disease and our understanding of it is limited, new research could come out to completely change the way we look at the virus.

With our understanding changing so quickly, chances are there will never be a definite answer, at least not until the pandemic comes to a complete end.



and are hoping life will be able to return to normal quickly.

Many students feel that for people who aren’t concerned about the virus itself and just want to return to normal, there is little incentive to get vaccinated, since they are expected to go back to wearing masks and social distance after vaccination.

Allowing students with vaccines to go without wearing masks may bring up problems unrelated to COVID-19, such as how to enforce that only vaccinated students can take masks off indoors.

Senior Jake Soyars stated, “At first I was disappointed and suspicious, it made no sense that we all got the shot to not have to wear them and now they’re making us wear them again. But I can’t ignore the stories of other schools who’ve had to close. I don’t like it, I think it sucks, but I much rather it than getting everything shut down. In a perfect world, vaccinated people should not need masks, but you can’t really enforce it for one group only.”

Sophomore Jeremiah Lepp proposed a solution

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# The Leadership Retreat takes on a new look

By Charlotte Crowe

The lack of experience with the Leadership Retreat’s traditional style for only a handful of current seniors leaves a window of opportunity for this year. The question now, with the potential for so much change, is what will the retreat look like this year?

Heidi Jurgung, Activities Coordinator, carefully planned the retreat for October 29th and 30th, to make it accessible to as many students as possible. The retreat will not be an overnighter, like years before COVID. The 36th Annual Retreat will be day time only, busing the students to and from the camp.

The theme this year will be, The Recipe for Leadership, what do you bring to the table?

Any student can apply to the retreat and their name will go in a bank. Jurgung explains, “we can only take 110 students; therefore, we will pick 110 names from a lottery system.” Applicants must be a sophomore, junior, or a senior, due to the freshmen having their own retreat in November. The application process will be online in a Google form.

Jurgung also says, “in an effort to provide an equal opportunity for all students to apply, we’re not doing it through clubs anymore, we’re doing it through the whole student body.”

The 2019 delegate retreat selection process used students sponsored by club advisors to attend the retreat. This new look will promote a more inclusive and equitable experience for Roosevelt students.

The Leadership Retreat planning committee is composed of nine seniors who went through an application and interview process their junior year. Claire Fried, senior planning committee member says, “I’m looking forward to the family group sessions and getting to bond with new future leaders.” Her goals for the retreat are to “create new leaders in the school and make sure the retreat is a fun experience for everyone, so the delegates want to come back for future retreats.”

# Seniors stress about admissions

By Ben Pazderak

College admissions season is upon us, and TRHS seniors are scrambling to get their applications done. Ms. Evanson, the counselor for the class of 2022, has started going around the English classes to present about getting ready to apply for college.

In her presentation, she talked about the basics of applying to college; including getting all credits done, getting letters of recommendation from teachers, as well as starting the Common Application, which is a tool that can be used to apply to hundreds of different universities.

Some students have been apprehensive about getting this process started, while others see this as just another stressor.

Heading back to school five days a week has been anxiety-inducing for most students, and has made getting work done an even bigger task. Combined with extracurricular activities, some seniors have almost no time to even start their Common App essays, let alone finish them.

On the other hand, some seniors have worked hard to stay on top of things. As a captain of the cheer team, NHS president, and member of the marching band, senior Paige Thompson is constantly busy.

When asked how she balances her extracurriculars with applying to competitive universities, Thompson stated that the stress is “not that bad. The type of person I am, I can naturally handle that.” She added more about what made it easier for her, saying, “definitely a lot of prioritizing and organizing.” Thompson also argued that getting an early start is key, quoted saying, “in the summer I think I prepared pretty well.”

In typical years, seniors are stressed about applications anyway, but thanks to COVID, this year might be even more difficult.

Learning during COVID times has been difficult for many seniors. Senior Jeremy Schuch was interviewed about his learning the past few years. “Sophomore year when COVID hit, I remember it being that much more difficult to learn new material, especially” stated Schuch. “I, like everyone else, was kind of having a hard time not even staying motivated but just staying disciplined.”

Schuch continued that he feels the learning environment with COVID led to worse academic results, with the addition that he “didn’t do as well on the AP tests” as he hoped. With these scores sometimes being used to determine admission for students, some might feel like COVID has negatively impacted their chances of getting into more competitive schools, or receiving college credit for those courses.

In an effort to level the playing field for students affected by COVID, many institutions have implemented “test-optional” policies, which don’t require applicants to submit ACT or SAT scores. The “test-optional” policy may seem like a good compromise for those affected by the pandemic, but there are lots of downsides to it as well.

Without a test requirement, competitive schools will be swamped with applications, making the admission rate much lower. Furthermore, applications without scores will depend more heavily on extracurricular involvement and class rank, something that may negatively impact some students.

Students also need to think about visiting colleges. While a lot of schools come to TRHS to present their university, this is not an option for a lot of out-of-state schools. In addition, a presentation does not always do justice to what the vibe of the university is on campus.

A part of the college decision process for some people is an overnight visit to get a feel of what it is like to live at the university. With COVID as an ever-present issue however, not many schools offer this overnight visit as an option anymore.

As stresses build, there is also the constant reminder of Early Decision applications. While applying early decision can increase admissions chances, these applications are due a lot sooner.

Furthermore, applying to a university Early Decision is contractually bind-

ing. This combined with these applications being due a month or two before regular decision applications has led to most seniors avoiding them. When asked about her application plans, Thompson stated that she “plan[s] to apply



**Planning Committee Members:** Standing: Sami Baron, Nicholai Barak, Takera Worley, Jermey Schuch, Charlotte Crowe, and Blake Green; Sitting: Sydnie Leavery, Claire Fried, and Paige Thompson

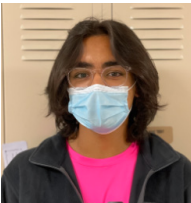


Senior Jeremy Schuch stresses over his applications, states that it has been “hard to stay disciplined”.

early to Northwestern University.” When asked why she made this choice, Thompson asserted “I want to be ahead of the game and up my chances of getting in . . . I know for sure if I got in it is my number 1 choice.”

Some seniors offered some advice for underclassmen to keep in mind when it is their turn to apply. Thompson declared, “Live in your high school years, but also think about your future and what you want for yourself and be a little bit selfish . . . prepare more than you think and work hard even when you don’t need to.” She continued by stating, “you can never regret working hard but you will regret not working hard.”

Senior, Ikram Naqash, advised to “first figure out whether you want to stay in-state or out-of-state. You also should figure out what you want to do”. He continued by stating, “Start looking at colleges around junior year, focus on classes your first two years”. Naqash also advised to start work early. “The summer before senior year is ideal,” he said, when commenting on when to start working on the application essay.



Senior Ikram Naqash

Fortunately for seniors, while the process is hard now, it will be over soon. With regular decision applications due on the first of January for most schools, there are only a few more months of craziness. At the end of the day, there is light at the end of the tunnel.



Senior Paige Thompson visits Northwestern in the summer ahead of her application decision.



# Teens take toiletries for TikTok trend

By Tyson Maynhart

New social media trends pop up every day, and most are just harmless fun like a new trendy fashion style or a new dance. The most recent TikTok trend has hit Roosevelt and has had a distructive impact in the school bathrooms. The “devious lick” challenge is a popular social media trend taking place mostly on the video entertainment platform TikTok. Students film themselves flaunting items they removed or destroyed from school facilities, primarily bathrooms. These videos are usually accompanied by a caption reading “only a month in school and already hit the most ‘devious lick” or something along those lines.

These incidents are not isolated to TikTok videos or Youtube compilations; within the past few weeks, numerous cases of students taking part in this trend of vandalism have occurred at Roosevelt. Students have stolen soap dispensers, toilet paper holders, paper towels, and mirrors.

“[This trend] is absurd,” said Assistant Principal Mrs. Stuckey, “while now that I know it is a TikTok thing, the thing that makes me the most upset about it is that one of our largest mitigation strategies in this building is washing our hands, and having access to sanitizers, those sorts of things so that we can stay open...” Stuckey also elaborated upon how damaging this trend is when it comes to the pandemic, “ [During the pandemic] kids lost 16 months of education, and when we steal these things out of the bathroom it puts added stress on not only our custodial staff, who we have one custodian all morning long, and he has to wash all those tables, all those chairs, then he is running around closing bath-rooms.”

Mr. Love also commented about the janitorial staff saying, “I just wish they had more empathy for our custodians who clean the restrooms.”

Stuckey said, “[Something] that seems trivial and funny is having some pretty negative consequences on real people who are working really really hard.”

Many of these issues usually track back to social media, more specifically students and teens, making impulsive decisions so that they can get the approval of their peers and others through internet ratings. The school student activities coordinator, Mrs. Jurgung commented, “I think it’s unfortunate that people have such a need to be known or liked on TikTok, or any social media for that matter, so much so that they do any damage to anybody’s property to achieve that

‘fame.”

But as it usually tends to go with things of this sort on the internet, the students filming these are starting to face consequences as the vid-eos are tracked back to the creators. While yes, getting your TikTok account banned is possible, much more important is that the school is now considering legal action. Stuckey said that “unfortunately, I’m afraid the impact that’s going to happen is [us having] to make it a criminal action, and get kids tied up in court...” She elaborated, “now you’re talking felony theft, and the whole part that makes it alluring is to post this video, and social media has a way of finding its way back to the authorities. It’s a problem in all the schools around here so all the principals and superinten-dents are talking pretty seriously about making it a pretty harsh consequence.”

Despite the school and TikTok’s recent action against these crimes, accord-ing to Stuckey, the incidents have not completely stopped but there has been a decent slow in occurrence. “It appears [that it has slowed], at least in the bath-rooms. In the last three weeks from when it first started occurring, it was at a rate that was almost every bathroom, but it is slowing down. Even then what concerns me is the moving to bigger items that we might not even realize are missing yet.”

The school faculty and administration have been working extremely hard for the past few weeks following anything they can to catch the thieves and vandals who are contributing to this trend, and they all encourage anyone with any in-formation or leads to please speak up and help by contributing this information. If you can give any information of use to the school administration, they would greatly appreciate it and it would help a lot.



# Treasure at last: Homecoming is back

By Ryan Barkley

This year Kent Roosevelt hosted a modified version of their homecoming dance to try and make a safe yet enjoyable event for Roosevelt students.

One of the changes they decided to make this year was that the dance was limited to 350 students, with seniors being able to get their tickets first, juniors just a few days after, and sophomores and freshman having to wait until the week of homecoming before they were able to get theirs. All students were also required to wear masks at all times unless actively eating or drinking.

The homecoming court was announced just a few days before with the winners being Theo Bednar and Madeline Booher for the freshmen, Emily Derry and Matt Macann for the sophomores, and Jackson Fankhauser and Sammy Gallagher for the juniors. The 10 people who were selected for the aeniors were Ethan Jenkins, Luke Jenkins, Ezra Turner, Jermey Schuch, and Brendan Cramer for the boys, and Rachel Booher, Sami Baron, Paige Thompson, Skylar Benedik, and Theoren Brown for the girls. The homecoming king and queen, Ethan Jen-kins and Rachel Booher, were announced during halftime of the football game against Highland on Friday.

In the build up to the final vote for homecoming king, candidates campaigned all week. Whether it was stickers, posters, or even t-shirts, almost every room had something advertising the candidates. Lots of people posted on social media in an attempt to persuade people to vote for their favorite candidate. The main campaign was “Vote for Cramer.” The leader of this campaign, Blake Hafemeis-ter, said, “It started as a joke, but once we realized there was a chance that he could actually win we decided to go all out.”

Another event that took place before the dance was the 2nd Annual Home-coming Parade. After being canceled last year because of COVID, the parade took place at 4:30 on Friday just before the football game. People crowded around as the homecoming court along with Roosevelt’s different groups and teams walked up the road to the middle school.

The students and staff of Roosevelt also participated in spirit week in the build up to the dance. Some of the themes included, “Hall of Fame” where you

dress up as your favorite celebrity or music artist, “Let’s go to the beach, beach!” where you wear your tropical clothes, and “Mr. Brightside” where you wear all of your neon clothing and bright colors.

After all of the week’s festivities, the dance finally took place last Saturday. The Treasure Island themed night opened its doors to 350 students at 7:30 pm and ended at 10:00 pm. Once students walked in they were met by a few teach-ers that were there to take tickets. Right next to that in the cafeteria there were refreshments and some cookies, along with a couple spots where people could take pictures. The inside of the gym felt a bit empty. Only about half the gym was filled since there was a stage in the middle that kept most people on one side. A factor that likely played into the empty feeling was the limited attendance this year due to COVID. But with all the hoops that they needed to jump through to put on the dance at all, they put on a pretty enjoyable night for the people who were able to get in.



Dr. Roebke captures all 16 nominees of this year’s homecoming court, in the Roosevelt cafeteria during the dance.

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# How much do we win?

By Luke Jenkins

Since moving to the Suburban League in 2015, Roosevelt and it’s sports teams have had their fair share of ups and downs, as shown in the bar chart below.

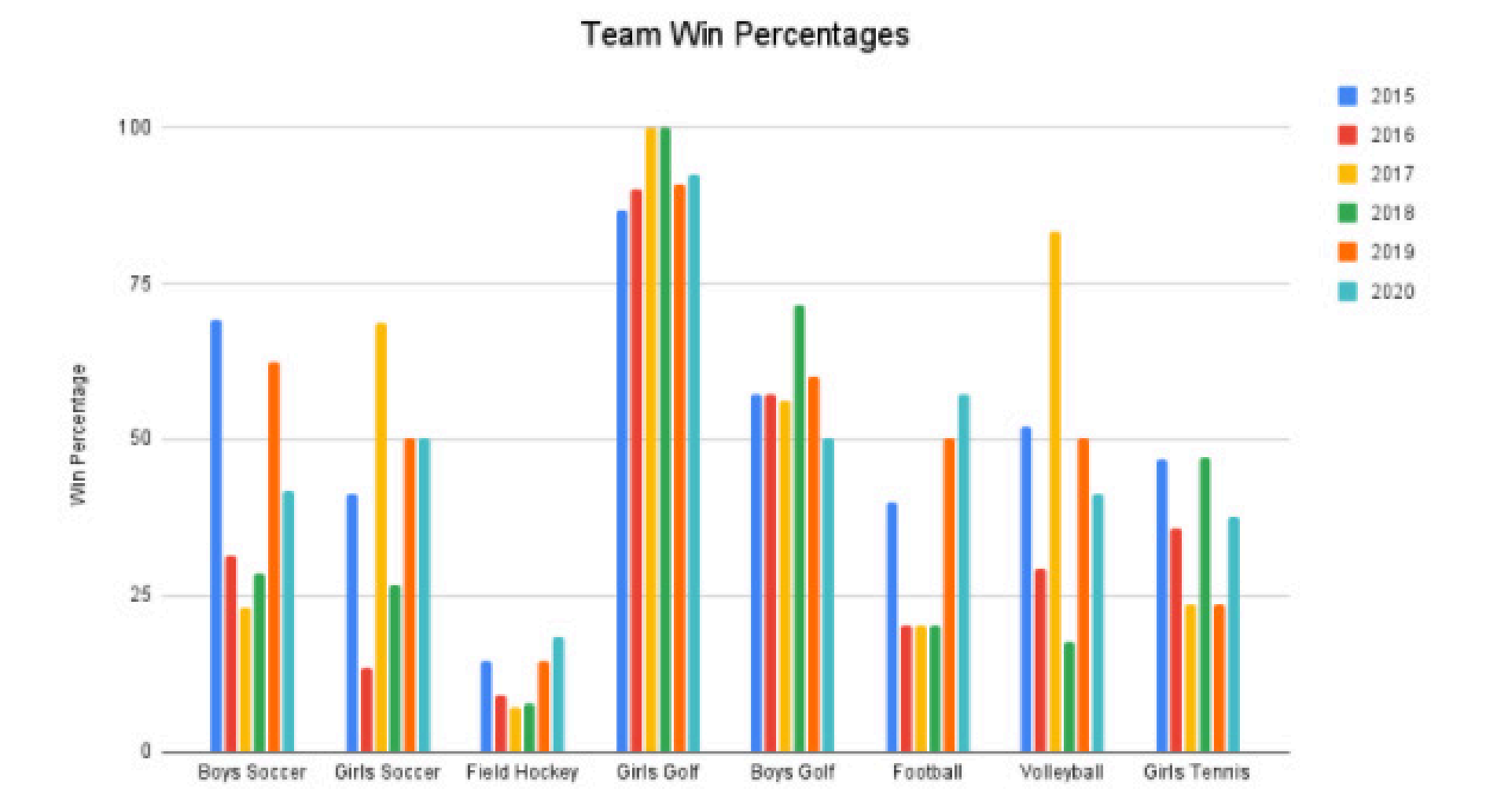
The results showcase the percentages of wins at regular season competitions during the fall season for each team. Because of the nature of this measurement, teams were only included if their normal competitions were head-to-head with one other school. Each team’s record was used to calculate their percentage of wins for that season, and each season since 2015 is included. All data for this infographic was collected from our school’s yearbook.

From this data we can see how completely our girl’s golf team dominates. Senior Sydnie Leavery attributes the team’s growth and sustained success to Little Lady Riders golf league. Run every summer, the program “was run by the golf team, and served as their yearly fundraiser.

Almost all of the other girls who have been on the team also went through this program. It is a way to get girls interested in golf, and gets us experience starting at a young age!” Leavery says this cuts down on time needed for girls to fall in love with the sport and increase their skill. Good luck to the girl’s team as they continue using their skills to make another trip to states.

Some other notable seasons were boy’s soccer in 2015, girl’s soccer in 2017, boy’s golf in 2018, and volleyball in 2017. Not included in these graphs is cross country, which competes at large-scale invitationals, and our cheerleading team, who are wildy successful in their own right, boasting multiple suburban league championships and trips to states.

With stellar records from our girl’s golf team and boy’s soccer team this year, we are yet to see if 2021 will be a new peak for our athletics teams overall.



## SENIOR SPORTS SPOTLIGHT



**Name:** Ezra Turner

**Sport:** Cross Country

**College:** Grinnell College

**Hobbies/Interests:** Running, studying Big Foot, reading, hiking and camping

**Favorite Memory:** “Singing my sophomore year at the start line. We would sing 80s music. It was alot of fun always, and no one took it too seriously.”

**Advise to Underclassmen:** “At the end of the day, only you can control the out-come of the race.”

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# Horoscopes

By Payton Courtney

## Aries March 21 - April 19

October will bring you competition. Whether that be in school or sport, you will face some sort of competition. You will also be put in a position where you will have to show your patience, which will not come easy to you.

## Taurus April 20 - May 20

October will bring you a new skill to learn. At times you may feel like this skill is taking too long to learn, but your patience will persevere. There will also be a new situation that you will have to adapt to.

## Gemini May 21 - June 21

October will be a difficult month for you. You will need lots of grit to survive grueling tests. On Halloween, watch out for purple cars and Monarch butterflies. Both indicate immense change.

## Cancer June 22 - July 22

October will bring you closure. You will cut out any negative and bad vibes from your life. October will be a fresh start.

## Leo July 23 - August 22

October will be a big month for you. You will go to many fall and halloween themed events. This month will also bring you fun times with friends and family. At times, you may feel as though people are shutting you out, but do not worry. It will all work out.

## Virgo August 23 - September 22

October will be a stressful month for you. Things will start to become unorganized, which will be the main cause of your stress. Once you push through this stress, you will be rewarded with something you may have been longing for for a long time.

## Libra September 23 - October 23

October will bring peace and state of mind. Not saying it won't be stressful, but there will be little conflict involved with you this month. You will visit many beautiful places with the ones you love.

## Scorpio October 24 - November 21

October will bring you many jealous thoughts. You may feel as though your emotions will get the better of you, but do not worry. You are a true friend and your strength will keep you steady this month.

## Sagittarius November 22 - December 21

October will bring you travel. I may not be far, but it will be very beautiful. This month will also bring you change. It may not be the change you are looking for, but you will have to be patient.

## Capricorn December 22 - January 19

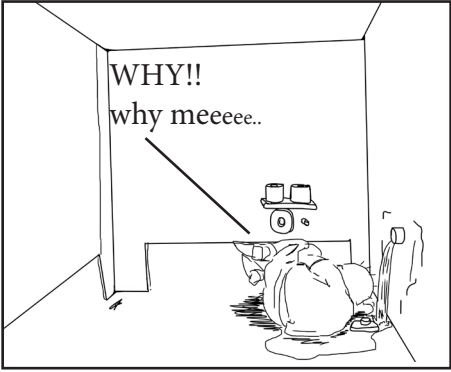
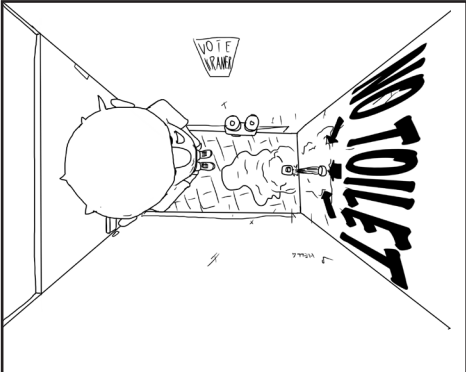
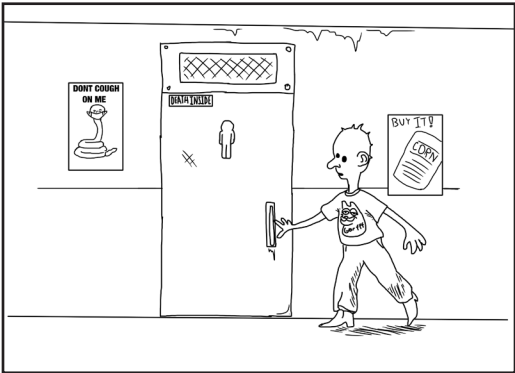
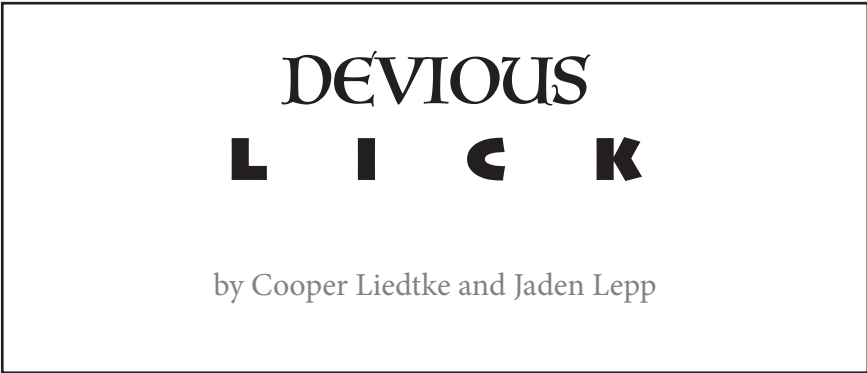
October will bring you many accomplishments. You may get sidetracked and get irritated about the amount of time it takes to complete tasks, but do not worry. It will work out in the end.

## Aquarius January 20 - February 18

October will start off as a stressful month. You may have been going through changes recently and feel out of place. Soon enough you will find what you have been looking for and end the month with a peaceful state of mind.

## Pisces February 19 - March 20

October will be a very artistic month for you. You will learn something new, that you will love, and you will be good at it. This month may also bring up some things from your past. They should blow over easily, though.

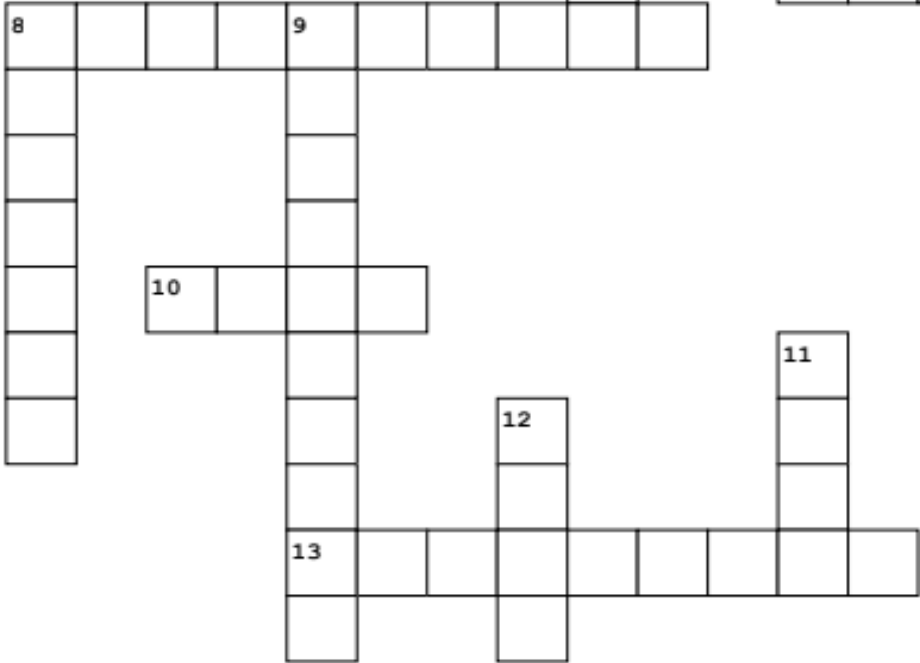


# Rough Rider Crossword

By Ezra Turner

## Across

- 3. the school literary magazine
- 5. the kicker for our football team
- 6. teaches APUSH
- 7. both a game and a club at TRHS
- 8. our school mascot
- 10. a recent devious TikTok trend
- 13. the type of publication The Colonel is



## Down

- 1. the 'dead' foreign language taught at RHS
- 2. the last name of the TRHS Soccer Coach
- 4. the director of our school band
- 8. our rivals
- 9. a recent school dance
- 11. our principal and an emotion
- 12. a face covering



# A guide to after-school clubs at RHS

By Fatou M’Baye

It’s a new year back at Roosevelt, and after a year of hybrid learning and lockdown, many RHS students are wondering which clubs are still up and running at the school. If you want to join a club after school, here is an overview of the many options that exist here at RHS.

## Booster Club

Booster Club is a service organization that focuses on supporting Roosevelt students and families. The biggest thing that they do is plan the Homecoming dance every year. Some of the other activities they do include putting on the Chili Challenge, making blankets during winter, sponsoring a food pantry, and buying groceries for families in need. They are a group that works behind the scenes to plan many awesome events at RHS. Booster Club meets every Monday after school in Room 133.



“Booster Club is a good way to feel like you’re making a difference and helping those in need, and working with everyone in Booster Club is like a little family. It’s fun and relaxing, and a good break from a day of stress, knowing you’re helping out people who need it most!”  
-junior Clara MacPherson

## Environmental Club

“Environmental Club is open to all RHS students and focuses on three things: outreach, action, and the Envirothon Competition,” says club advisor Mr. Carman. The club wants to make sure that Roosevelt students know about major environmental issues so that they can find ways to make a difference. They also participate in local environmental action, like community cleanups and invasive species removal. This past spring they gave away over 80 plants for free on Earth Day in Downtown Kent. Every year they compete in the Area 2 Envirothon Competition, which tests students’ knowledge of the environment. Last year, the Kent team won 1st place in Portage County; they qualified for the state competition for the first time in Roosevelt history, and ended up earning 5th place. Environmental Club meets every Thursday after school in Room 213.



“It’s fun and a great way to engage with the outdoors!”-senior Tara Sefchick

## Riders for Social Justice

Riders for Social Justice is exactly what it sounds like: a social justice club. “We are focused on bettering Roosevelt and Kent through uplifting minorities, teaching mindfulness and empathy, and joining together for what we feel is just,” says club president Isabella Rodriguez. RSJ works to build a better environment for all, either by volunteering or raising awareness. The club meets every Wednesday at 2:40 pm in Room 135.



“If you see inequality around you and want to make a change, Riders for Social Justice is the club for you.”  
-junior Claire Lovinski

## Zoology Club

Zoology Club is a place for animal lovers to socialize and care for the rescue animals in Mr. Zagray’s room. The animals are mostly reptiles like snakes, lizards, turtles, and tortoises, as well as frogs, a tarantula, and cockroaches. The majority of the animals were donated by people who got them as pets and didn’t want them anymore. The Zoology Club tries to rescue these animals and socialize them so that they are used to being handled and won’t bite. The club is sometimes invited by teachers at other schools to take the animals and share them with students. The club also holds fundraisers throughout the year to raise money for the animals’ food. Zoology Club meets every Thursday after school in Room 206.



“If you want to hold a snake, Zoology Club is pretty cool!”  
-seniors Liz Cline and Lennox Hutzell

## Drama Guild

The Drama Guild is open to all TRHS students and meets monthly. They will be putting on two productions this year. The club just finished auditions for the Fall ONE ACT Festival, which features four student written and directed One Act plays. This production is held with audience seating on the stage for a smaller and more intimate performance and will open November 18-20. Their second production this year will be Little Shop of Horrors, a musical that will hit the stage on February 24-27 with auditions being held on November 30. Anyone interested or having questions can contact Stephanie Auton on remind (@sauton) or by email: sauton@kentschools.net.



“In Drama Guild, high school is just like the musical!”  
-senior Theoren Brown

## Perception

Perception is a literary magazine at RHS that hopes to promote creative student expression. Members are welcomed into a positive atmosphere where they can share poetry, stories, artwork, photography, music, plays, and ideas in general. The club produces both a print and digital literary and creative arts magazine. They also host events that encourage creative expression within the TRHS community. Perception meets every Friday after school in Room 120.



“It’s nice because no matter what you’re interested in creatively you can do it at Perception! Whether it’s writing, drawing, taking pictures, or making music, now that we have a website you can do anything!” -senior Rain Carman

## Project LIT

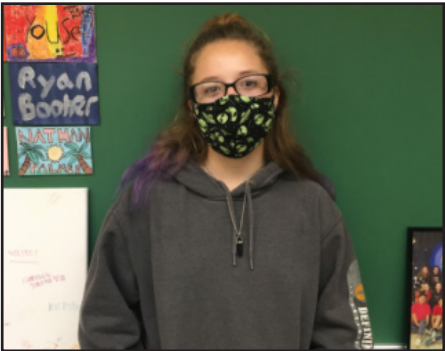
“Project LIT is a book club dedicated to reading culturally sustaining books and creating a space for discussions that better ourselves, our schools, and our community,” says club advisor Mrs. Flaherty. The club is a collaboration between the Roosevelt library and the Kent Free Library. They feature a new book and discussion every six weeks. Project LIT holds meetings on select Mondays at 3 pm in the library. The books and meetings dates this year are:  
September 20: *You Should See Me in a Crown* by Leah Johnson  
November 1st: *Pumpkin* by Julie Murphy  
December 13th: *Zara Hussein Is Here* by Sabina Khan  
January 24th: *The Black Kids* by Christina Hammonds-Reed  
March 7th: *Last Night at the Telegraph Club* by Malinda Lo  
April 11th: *Every Body Looking* by Candace Iloh  
May 16th: *Full Disclosure* by Camryn Garrett



“It’s a really good club to meet people who are just as enthusiastic about reading as you are!”-senior Maddie Touve-Streby

## Gay Straight Alliance

Gay Straight Alliance provides a safe space for LGBTQ+ students and allies at Roosevelt. The club is also taking a stance on advocacy for the community in RHS. They meet every Tuesday at 3 pm in Room 216.



“We’re very inclusive. Everyone is welcome!”-senior Ashlyn McGee

## Interact Club

Interact Club is a volunteer organization that puts on fundraisers and events for important causes. One of the big things that they do is the Chili Challenge, which donates all of its proceeds to the Miller House, a domestic violence and homeless shelter. Last year Interact Club also donated over \$500 to a domestic violence shelter in Chardon. Another event that they participate in is the Bowl Against Abuse. Once the pandemic gets better, the club will help elementary schools put on events such as festivals and concerts. Interact Club meets every Tuesday after school in the library.

## Multicultural Rough Riders

Multicultural Rough Riders has a mission to help all students feel included in Roosevelt with a special focus on international students and learning about other cultures. Their next meeting called “Cultural Cafe” will take place October 1st in the quiet study area in the library before school. They will be discussing Hispanic Heritage Month and the club’s goals for the upcoming school year.



# The favoring teams dilemma at TRHS

By Ethan Jenkins

Throughout the years, schools and administrators all over the country have been rumored to favor certain teams. Schools push large amounts of money into specific sports and seem to neglect others. The question at hand is: does Theodore Roosevelt High School favor teams as well?

Money has been a sore subject for the past couple of years at TRHS. Certain teams feel like they have been underrepresented by the school and the athletic department for years.

Mark Pfaff, the athletic director for Theodore Roosevelt High School, commented on the budget saying, “Ever since COVID happened, no team has been given a budget by the school. The only money ever given to teams was for emergencies only. Money from the school board is given to the athletic department to pay the game staff and the officials as well but nothing else”.

Pffaf was also asked if the budget was broken down fairly before COVID. Pfaff says, “The budgets for each team were fair but not equal. Football gets more money than a lot of the programs because they need the most equipment and resources by their side, compared to the tennis team, who only needs tennis balls”.

Some students argue that the budget is not equitably shared. They say that we can use that money in different ways to help the teams become the best of their ability. The wealth should be spread more to other teams instead of given to teams who already have the best equipment and resources by their side.

Practice and game time on the turf has been another shaky area ever since it has been completed. Pfaff was asked how practice times and games on the turf are distributed.

Pfaff states, “There is no real method to madness, but my goal is to get each team on the turf at least once a week if that is possible”. Pfaff continued with his general system saying, “I really try to get teams on the turf the day before a home game because that’s important.”

According to Pfaff, “It’s hard to share the turf because we have a football team, two soccer teams, and a field hockey team. Varsity games are the most important when it comes to that turf and it will stay that way.”

Pfaff was also asked why the football team seems to get the most time on the turf. “It is because the practice field we have for football is not safe to play on. There are too many things close to the field and the surface is not safe to play a game, but it is okay to practice on it. That’s why middle school, JV, freshman, and varsity are always on the turf.”

Although this is true, many other teams have to play on dangerous practice fields on a daily basis and have a high risk of injuries. Field hockey doesn’t have a field, so they practice on the baseball field with nowhere else for them to play.

Captain of the boys soccer team, Mathias Broyles states, “The soccer practice fields are in a state of their own. The girls isn’t even half a field because of a mower incident that the school never fixed. And the boys field has more holes on it than the football team’s trophy case in the last couple of years. Over the summer and at the start of the season, four of our players have been injured due to the state of our field”.

Rachel Booher, a senior on the girls soccer team states, “The football team gets the most favored out of anybody. They get more benefits than any other team as well.”

“The football players get taped and cared for before the girls soccer players. This then leads to soccer players being late to practice because they have to travel a farther distance than the football team,” Booher explains.

Over the past couple of years, teams have been gaining support and money from supporters and administrators due, in part, to what sport they play. Success in the past years hasn’t been great for some teams, but the community still loves to watch them.

Senior football player, Justin Dunfee, was asked who he thinks is the best team at the school.

Dunfee says, “The football team because we bring in the most fans and the most money compared to any other team. Even though the success is low, the community still rallies behind us and helps us on our feet.”

The head coach of boys soccer, Garyn Daniels, spoke on the favoritism of teams at Roosevelt. Daniels states, “The whole city of Kent stops to watch the football team play. It doesn’t make sense on why they get more support over teams who have greater success. It’s always great to see people come support and watch the football players, but the recognition should be shared to all teams”.

Coach Daniels was also asked if he thinks the football team deserves the recognition they receive. Daniels says, “I’m gonna say no. It all borders around team success. People all over the city come and watch that team play, and then they get pounded by the opponent. There are many other teams in this school that deserve the same and more respect because of their high success.”

Athletes across the school are calling for action to stop favoritism. Will the problem fix itself or continue to spiral?



Drone shot by Zachary Jenkins, taken over 400 feet in the air on September 24th, over the newly turfed Roosevelt Stadium.

## Need a fathead, poster, or sticker? Come down and talk to Rider Prints in Room 182 for all your printing needs!

## Fresh faces at the front desk

By Payton Courtney



Security guard Stacy Puzines discusses life experiences with senior Luke Jenkins.

Front desk security guards Stacy Puzines and Niesha Crim bring a new light to Roosevelt. The front desk security guards make sure that everyone entering and exiting the school are not a threat to any of the students. But they do much more than that.

The first security guard is Stacy Puzines. Puzines got the job based on the experiences indicated on her Police Officer resume. She also spent five years in the army and national guard, which she is also still a part of. Puzines grew up in Columbus and has a bearded dragon and a cat who are best friends.

Puzines has much experience in the field. When working as an officer at Marcs, she played a key part in stopping an attempted theft.

Senior Skylar Benedik says that her and Puzines “are besties” and that Puzines “is the best.”

Puzines encourages kids to come and say “hi” sometime. She engages in life talks with many students and has lots of useful life advice if needed.

Niesha Crim is also a front desk security guard who accompanies Puzines. Crim has prior experience in this job and continues to love it. Like Puzines, Crim did not grow up in Kent. She was born and raised in Cleveland, but spent her summers in Kent growing up with her dad. Crim likes to read and stays active in the community. She also loves kids and has four of her own.

When asked about any messages she would like to provide to our students, she responded, “Life is what you make it.” Along with Puzines, Crim is able to provide great advice if you need it.

Senior Theo Lovinski said that “everyday they just say ‘you’re good’ and I go.” Lovinski also added that “they are as nice as one can be.”

Next time you walk into school or just walk past the front desk, I highly encourage you to say “hi” to our two front desk security guards.



# Roosevelt’s remodel

By Cooper Liedtke

In the past couple years there have been some major remodeling and improvements, to not only the aesthetic side of Roosevelt, but also the functional side.

The biggest improvement would be the brand new turf field that was installed over the summer. While this may be the headliner for now, there is definitely more to be excited about for the future of the Roosevelt campus. A new gym and field house are both on the way.

The field house was originally rumored to be done this year, and would include numerous additions to the athletic roster, including an indoor field, new athletics offices, and a new concessions stand. While currently there is no official date for when the field house will open, it is going to be a nice luxury for those who eventually get to use it.

Another new addition to the school that is up-and-coming is the brand new gym that is being constructed back by the softball field. While nothing has taken any shape yet, the new gym will have a much taller ceiling than the soon to be old gym. This will be an important improvement for the boys and girls volleyball teams as up until now they’ve had to play all their games at the middle school gym.

Though we are gaining a new gym, that doesn’t mean that the old gym will be purely discarded. Just recently the gym received an 18,000 dollar sound system and now Mark Pfaff, athletic director, is advocating trying to get the gym a new paint job before the new gym takes its place. Pfaff stated that the old gym will still be used for practices, lower level games, tournaments and various other things.

Other than athletics, the school is also planning on implementing air conditioning throughout the school. There are also plans to move around the road that cuts through the campus to make traffic less of a pain.

The future of everyday life at Theodore Roosevelt High School will most likely be very different than what they’re used to now, but hopefully it brings new opportunities and luxuries for future students and teachers to enjoy.



Photo by Google,

# Skate shop opens in downtown Kent

By Ezra Turner



Get your boards ready, skateboarding is coming back to Kent. One Kent native, Matt McMinn, decided that his passion for skateboarding should be shared with the community. Earlier this summer, he did just that.

McMinn is the founder and owner of The Dirty Skate Company, a brand new skate shop downtown.

McMinn, a Theodore Roosevelt alum, began skateboarding in his teenage years. He returned to it recently during the initial lockdown as skateboarding was something that can be done alone and outside. A true samaritan, McMinn isn’t in it for the money. According to him, what’s more important is that it exists for the youth around Kent. McMinn believes skateboarding should be accessible at a local level and is working to make that a reality.

We spoke to *The Colonel’s* very own Charlotte Crowe, a customer of The Dirty Skate Company and longboarder herself. “It’s really cool to have a shop like that downtown. Kent hasn’t ever had anything like that, skateboarding or skateboard-related. It’s super easy to just go there,” Crowe comments. To Crowe,

a skate shop in Kent is a breath of fresh air.

When asked about starting out with skateboarding, Crowe said, “Boarding has always been something that I’ve been interested in, I always thought it was cool, I just never went out and bought a skateboard. When I went in to buy my longboard they were friendly and helpful. I think it’s an awesome place to start out, even if you don’t want to shop, just go inside and check it out. If you’re looking for an adventure, stop in.”

If skateboarding sounds cool to you and you just aren’t sure where to start, head on down to The Dirty Skate Company located on 223 North Water St. in Kent.

Order your yearbook at [www.jostens.com](http://www.jostens.com)!