



Great Vision

Great Coverage

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Bus driver shortage causing daily bus changes and confusion

By Aryaan Khan

For the first month of the school year, Franklin has been dealing with a bus driver shortage. Franklin has tackled this issue by combining multiple buses and assigning bus drivers multiple routes to get students home safely.

Junior Hamaad Abbasi takes the bus everyday and is not happy with the adjustments made. "Everyday the bus comes, but some days there is a different driver. This causes the bus to come at an unknown time," he said. "I have missed the bus multiple times because it had come earlier than it should have."

The current bus driver shortage has led students to miss precious class time, which is especially frustrating for those who are taking advance placement classes first thing in the morning. "I have to get to coach class in the morning first thing for Mr. Barrett's college algebra class. If the bus is coming at different times every day, I

won't be able to know if I can make it there or not," junior Alec Nahum said.

The bus driver shortage has also caused confusion among other students because of the constant changes in bus numbers. To help with the problem, multiple teachers stand outside at the bus loop and explain to students when and where to expect their bus.

Bus numbers can be extremely confusing for students and cause them to even sit on the wrong bus due to the constant changes. "Everyday my bus is always in a different spot. Sometimes it's in the front, and sometimes it isn't even here. If it's in the front and already about to leave, it only gives me a short amount of time to get on," junior Aidan Nahum added.

The bus driver shortage has also been affecting other schools in the county and even across the

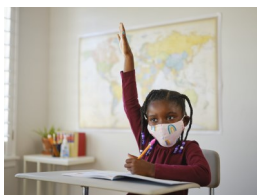
United States. Disorganization and confusion have resulted from the shortage due to the combination of bus destinations and arrival times of different drivers.

Although students have many complaints about the new bus adjustments, Franklin is trying their best to get students home as safely and quickly as possible.



COVID-19 cases rise since the start of the new school year

By Jaida March



COVID-19 cases have risen significantly over the past month, as schools fully reopen for the first time in more than a year. Franklin High's Nurse Andrea Loes is at the forefront of the

public health battle to keep students healthy and in class.

COVID-19 is likely to be transmitted if you are closer than 3 feet for more than 15 minutes. The primary way the virus spreads is from person to person through respiratory droplets when people cough, sneeze, or talk. You can also get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object with the virus on it and then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes. In addition, the virus can be spread by people who are not experiencing symptoms.

COVID-19 testing is a critical part of breaking the cycle of spreading the virus. Contact tracing can be used to find COVID-19 and contain it before it spreads to anyone else. The goal of

regular COVID-19 testing in schools is to find individual cases before they become outbreaks quickly. In addition, when used alongside other prevention strategies like social distancing and face masks, COVID-19 testing creates an additional level of reassurance that it is safe to keep schools open with students and educators in the classroom.

Interview with Nurse Andrea Loes

Q: Is there a rise in COVID-19 cases since school started? **A:** "Yes, somewhat"

Q: How many cases are there per day at our school? **A:** "0-2 per day that I see or hear about."

Q: How likely are we to catch COVID-19? **A:** "That is a huge question. At home, much more likely than at school. It depends on if you are considered close to contacts, which is closer than 3 feet for longer than 15 minutes."

Q: When is there usually a rise in symptoms? **A:** "A little after holidays with family get-togethers - there is a rise in Covid. Symptoms appear 2-14 days after exposure."

Q: What are the most common symptoms? **A:** "The common symptoms are fever, sore throat, cough, difficulty breathing, diarrhea, vomiting, new onset of severe headache, and new loss of taste or smell. You don't have to have all of them - just one, and for everyone, it is different. For example, one could have a headache and another vomiting or no symptoms at all."

The COVID-19 vaccine by Pfizer is available for those 12 years old and up, and soon the vaccine will be available for those 5 years old and up.

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Our athletes sacrifice

By Kierra Richardson

Here at Franklin, we have more than enough students, but how many of those are student athletes? Franklin athletes show leadership and are responsible in school to complete everything they need to play a sport. Athletes take part in serious sports that are hands on, and they inspire people to be better and work harder.



Photo from Baltimore Sun

Studies show that student athletes tend to do better in school since they must stay on top and work towards something. Some athletes in sports do underperform, and people question if the sport is too much pressure for them.

A student athlete participates in a sport while still taking on their education. Three different students shared their perspectives about what it's like being a student athlete. "It's fun, but it's definitely challenging sometimes." Students feel this way because they must wake up around 6 or 7 for school, attend classes until 2:25, and then head to practice. Then, after practice, they have a load of homework to finish. Student athletes also take on things like the SAT at the same time as sports, and they even balance their mental health too.

Student athletes still sign up knowing a great deal of injuries are possible, demonstrating their bravery. Some would argue that's what they signed up for, but student athletes at Franklin fight hard to just to have their fun playing the sport. Being a student athlete also benefits them by learning flexibility and responsibility with as-

signments getting done before or after practice. One other skill gained is the knowledge of critical thinking in sports and school.

The daily life of an athlete includes school, practice, icing their body and doing it again in a routine. This builds our athletes on a normal routine but an exhausting one that they must get used to.

Along with academics, one student athlete also mentioned that "when you become one you are taking the schools name on your back and you can't let them down so you have to watch what you say on the media or anywhere since you don't know who's watching." They argue that you're carrying the weight of the school so you cannot be disrespectful because you never know if a college coach for your sport is watching. These athletes give up a lot just to play sports. For example, one student mentioned that they cannot go out as much since they have sports, but their homework must be finished. Let's not forget our athletes take care of their attire. They respect people and maintain proper grades, plus play in bad weather conditions.



Photo from WJZ news

Athletes do all this by balancing their time to be successful. We don't give our student athletes enough credit here at Franklin. They are above and beyond in managing things and without them, we wouldn't greatly enjoy Friday night games and homecoming weekend.



Spirit week FHS

By Desean Walker

Spirit week started off with PJ Monday. Everyone in the entire school finally had a day off from looking so presentable. We could just wake up and throw on a onesie without being criticized. Students came in onesies and pajama pants as well as baggy eyes. We were all looking pretty tired. We were all happy to wear what we wore when we got out of the shower. The next day we wore our favorite team no matter the sport. We saw a lot of Ravens fans of course, and lots of Pittsburgh fans as well. There was a little war going on throughout the day, but they are rivals at the end of the day.

Wednesday, first-year students wore red, sophomores wore blue, juniors wore black, and seniors wore white. Few people wore those colors honestly, and just came in with any color clothing, but it is the thought that counts. Am I right? Junior-Jaden McClung said that he is happy to see most people participating in the spirit week traditions.

Lastly, on Thursday, the day before the pep rally, we had "Throwback Thursday" and you could wear 70s, 80s or 90s clothing. We saw lots of great outfits, with mostly 90's clothing. The week finished out with Franklin Friday when students wore their Franklin gear to support our school and athletes.

Reisterstown parade comes back after lockdown

By Fiona Durante



Reisterstown festival flag. Photo from Reisterstown festival website.

September 11, 2021, the Reisterstown Festival and Parade came back to town to celebrate their 263-year anniversary, starting in the streets of Reisterstown going from Franklin Middle to Franklin High. We had different groups in the parade such as our very own Franklin High cheer team, the police department/army, the FHS ROTC group, corvettes, motorcyclists, the fire department, the Reisterstown library, Towson High marching band, Karen Sachs Academy of Dance, and more.

What can you see in the parade?

Starting us off strong, we had the police department/military group with their loud sirens and cool vehicles, getting us excited for what was coming for us in the parade this year. We get to see different types of groups such as Kenpo Karate, Karen Sachs dance team, church facilities, and the cow. Our very own FHS cheer team came back as they tried to hype up the spectators of the parade, and we even had candidates for the MD House of Delegates trying to get our votes in. For the younger kids, our groups in the parade threw candy for them to grab, there were flags for them, and a cute chicken stress toy by Royal Farms. They even get to meet ... Batman? "Everyone loves creative, interesting, "cool", entertaining, and FUN participation – you and those watchin," according to the festival's website.

Students of the Parade

FHS senior cheerleader Rachael Harbus said, "Being in the parade was fun and great."

Q: Is this your first time in this parade and if not how many years?

A: "This is my first time in the parade, in fact I didn't know Reisterstown had a parade."

Q: Since the parade occurs at the beginning of the school year, how were you able to prepare yourself in a small amount of time?

A: "We have cheer practices 2 hours per day, and we practice in practice and outside of practice."

Q: How do you stay so positive/enthusiastic all morning walking all those miles during the parade?

A: "I am very extroverted, so I get my energy from other people and seeing all the smiling & excited people as we pass by in the parade. It gives me energy and smile back at them. It makes me feel good and happy because I really like to please people."

Freshman Victoria Shats of the Karen Sachs Academy of Dance said, "I had a fun time with my studio and saw a lot of people I knew in my community. Overall, it was hot, it was hype, and it felt amazing."

Q: Is this your first time in this parade and if not how many years?

A: The first time I was in a parade was 2014. Since then, I have been in 4.

Q: Is it fun to represent Franklin to the whole community?

A: "Yes, I enjoy representing our studio and spending time with my friends doing what I love."

Q: Since the parade occurs at the beginning of the school year, how were you able to prepare yourself in a small amount of time?

A: "This year only dancers under 13 danced in the parade and the rest of us walked to keep their energy up and hand out candy. However, the girls that did dance began practice at the beginning of August and had about 4 rehearsals to learn the piece. It's a little stressful, but it's what

we train for."

Q: How do you stay so positive/enthusiastic all morning walking all those miles during the parade?

A: "Since I'm usually in it, I've only gotten to see the parade a few times, but usually I love to watching other groups of cheerleaders, and the cow is also fun."

Junior Amira Jones excitedly said, "The parade in my opinion was relatively small with like a couple parents on the side. I miss the big groups that it was before Covid."

Q: Is this your first time in this parade and if not how many years?

A: "I was in it in freshmen year before Covid, so one year."

Q: Is it fun to represent Franklin to the whole community?

A: "It's very fun, and it gives me a sense of community."

Q: Since the parade occurs at the beginning of the school year, how were you able to prepare yourself in a small amount of time?

A: "Cheer team practices every day for at least 2 hours a day."

Q: How do you stay so positive/enthusiastic all morning walking all those miles during the parade?

A: "Whenever I'm with my team, I have fun no matter what time it is. Also, coffee!"

Why the Parade Matters

Organizers and volunteers set up the parade to celebrate the founding of our town, celebrating its 263rd anniversary.

Overall, the Reisterstown parade was a success this year and everyone seemed to have fun. They also enjoyed the festival that followed the parade. Luckily, COVID-19 couldn't stop this tradition this year.

How COVID-19 has affected people in Reisterstown

By Lindsay Adjei

Schools and businesses have closed in the face of a new virus plaguing the world and the mystery is how it's going to affect the rest of our lives. Hospitals were inundated with patients whom they knew little of how to cure. Though with time we've gained knowledge on how to deal with the virus and learn how it affects us on a national scale, we don't get to hear about the effects locally.

I was able to interview Dr. Tina Adjei, a Franklin mom who has been working in the urgent care during this pandemic. Her clinic is located near South Baltimore. She said, "We're more knowledgeable about the disease, but at the end of the day, we're more exhausted... It's been a long haul, and it really seems like there's no end in sight." She explained that hospitals have become inundated with patients, and it has become harder to take care for those sick with other diseases because of the scarce access to supplies. Dr. Tina is hopeful that with new research being developed, we can see a future where we can manage and hopefully eradicate the virus.

School reopening has been a hot topic especially among medical professionals and those with school-age kids. Protocols on mask mandates, quarantine, and teacher safety have all been hot button issues and Nurse Loes was a great source for information on how our school has been handling it. Our system for handling the virus is very fleshed out, though there are still some issues that remain. "I think for the most part things are going well. The contact tracing is a lot. Unfortunately, I have had to do a lot of it through emails because there is so much of it. I don't have time to reach out to everyone with a phone call," said Nurse Loes. She explained that our school follows the CDC recommended guidelines and is generally very supportive of our school's handling. Nurse Loes also recommends that every student properly mask up and take advantage of the clinic that will soon be coming to school to offer vaccines. "Please mask up appropriately. I see a lot of masks below noses which isn't doing anything. Masking correctly does help to decrease transmission."

Businesses in the area seem to be doing well after taking a hit during the closures at the beginning of the pandemic. The shopping center across from Franklin opened up with a host of new restaurants, including Tropical Smoothie Cafe and Starbucks, which will provide more places for students to eat after school and promote new economic growth in the area.

Though the pandemic has had an immense impact on every aspect of our lives, it seems with new research, vaccines, and the reopening of businesses and schools, we can better our community and see growth in these difficult times. While hospitals still may be struggling in the long run, things have been looking up in terms of handling COVID-19.



FHS Vaccination Clinic, 5-8pm in The Franklin Fieldhouse (Gym)
All Day

Mental health aspect of returning to school in person

By Noah Eaton



The 1st day of school was August 30th, 2021, and I was so excited to be back in the school building after being home for almost 2 years. A lot of my friends that I know were very excited to be back as well. During the Pandemic everyone was having a tough time trying to adjust to the new normal especially students and teachers. It was very stressful and depressing for the students, the fact we couldn't see our friends and we had a hard time trying to communicate with one another. When school had started back up about a month ago, I saw all my friends and classmates smiling and everyone was happy to see each other again. Everyone was laughing, talking, basically picking up where they left off in the beginning of 2020, it brought a smile to my face that every-

one was hanging out with their friends again even though still living in this pandemic. The pandemic affected lots of students mentally. Nobody was able to see friends or hangout with anyone. It was almost the same old routine everyday being to ourselves and being hymned up in the house, and all we really had to rely on was blowing up our friends' phones just to get that communication back. I asked a few of friends of mine on how they felt about being back in the school building and seeing their friends after not seeing anyone for almost 2 years and if they were feeling better mentally learning at school than at home. (Sophomore) Breanna Ball says, "It was pretty nice and relieving to see everyone again. I feel like communication is stronger with my friends and teachers this time around." "I'm kind of feeling mentally the same as I did back when virtual learning started. Jumping from 8th grade to 10th grade is a huge adjustment for me and I haven't gotten completely comfortable yet." (Junior) Andrew Dymanis says, "I am a very sociable person and it messed with me not being

in school, I was happy to go back to school and get out my house to see people and talk to them again." "I felt 100% better mentally learning at school. When you're in school you process things better and when you move from class to class you have that social interaction, and you feel like you are learning in school." (Senior) Natalie Lisitsa said, "It felt great seeing all my friends and hanging with them again." "It stayed the same for me just because I never had a problem being at home learning." I can relate to all 3 responses because I was completely lost at home during virtual learning and without seeing my friends and talking to them. For me personally I had a tough adjustment jumping from 10th grade into 12th grade. Now there are still students who might be still feeling stressed with a lot on their plate and a little depressed over a certain situation they may be dealing with. They also could be just mentally drained, but now that everyone is back in the school building it feels like there is more positivity in the students and even in the teachers.

The Pandemic's Effects on Education

By Kylie Beveridge

What is COVID-19?

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared that COVID-19 was a global pandemic, indicating significant global spread of an infectious disease. China was the first country with a widespread outbreak in January, South Korea, Iran, and Italy followed in February with their own outbreaks. The virus was later on in all continents and over 177 countries, and the United States has the highest number of confirmed cases, and, sadly, the most deaths. Covid effected schools by closing and universities closed their physical locations and moved education online in 2020. This year 2021, Baltimore County decided to end hybrid school and now offer 2 options: all in-person school or all virtual school.

The Impact of COVID-19 on Students and Teachers

The world has struggled to adapt to and deal with COVID-19. A dangerous virus still with many unknowns reasons of how it spread. It was hard for teachers to teach the material through a computer to help educate students to become successful for their future.

According to CNBC, in September 2020, the UN projected that at least 24 million students would drop out of school, due to a

lack of internet access or devices to participate in virtual learning. The reopening of schools was a hot-button issue, particularly in the U.S., where the former president "pushed to reopen schools regardless of how widely the virus is spreading in the community."

During virtual learning, the motivation for teachers and students decreased. It was all new for everyone.

"Being at home and not in person made it more difficult to manage my schoolwork and my personal life, which brought a lot of stress and anxiety," junior Liz Wirts said. "Having someone guide me is the way I learn best. I am happy we are going back."

How does COVID-19 change the profession of teaching?

Going back to school in-person during the coronavirus pandemic has created a swamp of emotions for teachers, students, and parents.

According to AP News in May 2021, "U.S. educators [were] doing everything they [could] to track down high school students who stopped showing up to classes and to help them get the credits needed to graduate, amid an anticipated surge in the country's dropout rate during the coronavirus pandemic."

The goal this year was to see kids back in the school building. There is fear and risk of getting Covid-19. It is a change in routine since many got used to staying home, joining Google Meets. Now every day, students are required to come to school wearing a mask to stay safe and healthy.

"Doing the same repetitive tasks every day with little variation can be so boring. I did not have the same motivation I would do normally in school," freshman Alexi Beveridge said about virtual learning. "I am grateful Baltimore County decided to have virtual still an option but the other option to going into the school for education."

"Yale president emeritus says there's a 'tremendous' gap between students due to COVID-19," CNBC published in September 2020.

A math tutor said, "Students have lost specific skills, content, or foundations in math, like fractions or number sense. Also, I could not do what I love and help these students that struggle with their skills because I needed to stay safe for my family and me."

If you are a teacher, please know this: your community supports you. If you aren't a teacher yourself, make sure a teacher gets the message: we have your backs, and we are in this together.

How has the pandemic affected people physically?

By Noelle Cheeves

There has been a lot of issues with weight within the past years of 2020-2021. But from what? Quarantine impacted many people. There was less motivation to do anything. Some people have trouble eating, sleeping, doing any physical activity, etc. Teenagers from ages 14-18 have lost or gained a lot of weight in this time period. People have changed their hobbies and things they do on the daily, such as going from taking morning runs to sleeping in until 12:00 pm, or going from doing laundry every over day to every couple weeks. But why did this happen? Most things shut down when the pandemic began so it led



people to become less motivated and less attracted to things that stood out to them before. People did more things that broke them instead of things that could build them. Interviews from local students, and parents have said that they honestly think that this was their worst year when it came

to physical health. Other people have said that their food pallet had become a lot worse. Going from home cooked meals to Door Dash, and from fruit to chips or cookies. On the other hand, people have also lost weight, and the pandemic benefited them in a bunch of ways. According to inquirer.com, someone said, "This is the only time in my life that I went to the gym regularly." Local teens state that they got to form "a schedule to success," making a strict eating plan, work out plan, and social plan every day to "obtain sanity."

Franklin's Progress With In-Person Learning

By Laila Roodbari

As we all know, the shutdown in March 2020 caused drastic changes to the learning environment which caused many to struggle while some were not affected at all. Some students loved the virtual world, while others were not so okay with it. Not only did this apply to students but teachers as well. The moment schools were announced to fully reopen for the 2021-2022 school year, many emotions were going through everyone's mind.

There are many pros and cons about being back in the school building, but everyone has different opinions. For the most part, the community has a lot of positive energy about being back in person. The majority of students and teachers have been looking forward to coming back to a sense of normality, rather than "interacting" with others behind a screen.

"I missed the feeling of being in a well environment for school, knowing you're in a building full of books and learning itself," junior Heidi Cordon stated. Another junior, Taleya Younger, claimed that, "Seeing faces, even if it's only half of someone's face. It counts for something." "I feel like I'm learning more," junior Kristyana Harris said.

Students tend to appreciate physically being in the classroom since it provides a better ability to learn since you know you have the appropriate materials accessible, and since you can see others not just through a screen. It allows students to be better focused instead of risking the higher chance of being distracted like at home. Not only has this been beneficial to students, but teachers as well. Teachers are able to get students to engage in classroom participation and socializing with others, along with being able to visually monitor how students are performing academically.

"You can see that students learn better," said Mr. Carreras, one of Franklin's history teachers when asked about this school year compared to last. "Students didn't learn as much last year. You could tell from failed test scores." With students being in the classroom, it's easier for teachers to tell when they are struggling or are successful through their actions and physical expressions. While being

behind a screen, you cannot see students, making it extremely difficult for a teacher to tell how a student is doing without them speaking up. Physically being in classrooms removed that barrier between students and teachers.



Picture of dismissal
Photo by: Peach Schulman

Socializing is another huge part of the benefit of the community being back in the building. "I missed seeing my friends" said Kristyana. Students seeing their friends is the key that makes school fun for them, along with making new friends and building social skills. Teachers also enjoy the social interactions within the Franklin community. "Building relationships with other colleges and students" is what Mr. Carreras claimed he missed when being virtual. Returning to socialization allowed everyone to be released from isolation.

While there are a lot of advantages to being back in person, there have been some concerns and challenges. These issues mainly revolve around the virus, how students have been performing academically, and missing the virtual environment.

Heidi claimed a con is "The exposure to many people around you and you don't know whether they are sick or not". Taleya said she is "nervous" since "everyone is in danger. People keep going missing from school and coming back after having Covid." The virus is still out there and has been in contact with our school, making people feel very anxious and unsafe. "I wouldn't be surprised if halfway through the year we go back to being hybrid," Heidi said.

While the virus is one of the major concerns that the community has, some also didn't mind being virtual and would actually prefer that. Taleya claimed that being virtual was "pretty easy as long as you stayed on top of your work", along with the fact that "the schedule was 10 times more effective and efficient than the one we follow in person." With switching back to in-person, she felt drained due to switching back to the high energy activity. Some students tend to have had it easier while being virtual and even performing better academically.

In terms of performing academically, being virtual influenced how students have been performing in school with the transition to in-person. "Some students aren't up to speed," Mr. Carreras said. He claimed that their skill was behind. Being distracted at home caused students to lose some skills, making it harder for them to proceed with learning in the classroom.

While some may prefer being virtual and some are totally against it, the community appreciates being able to socialize again with others. After nearly a year and a half of being stuck at home behind screens, the community has gained back a sense of freedom from the isolation that the virus caused.



Picture of the pep rally
Photo by: Laila Roodbari



FHS Vaccination Clinic, 5-8pm in The Franklin Fieldhouse (Gym)
All Day

The effect of grades on a student's mentality

By Stephanie Salgado

Everyone knows that school grades are the one of the most fundamental and important things when it comes to succeeding in school. However, some may not have any idea how those school grades affect a student and their mental health. While it does allow the student to pass many of their classes and go forward to the next grade, and later college, it can also have an impact when it comes to a student who tries their ultimate best to pass their class, and yet they fail in doing so.

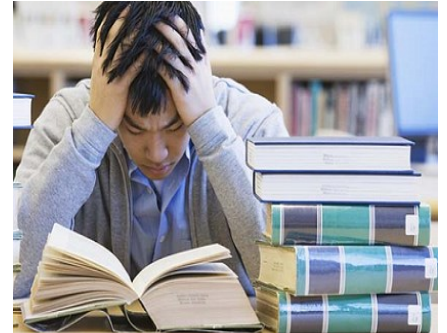
Of course, there are some positive affects grades can have on a student like a sense of value and accomplishment that they were able to push through, pass the grade, and move further up to continue with both their education and their life. However sometimes a massive accomplishment can come at a great cost. Even with its positive benefits, many students fall under the pressure of wanting those good grades for themselves that they eventually become stressed out.

According to some of students I have talked with however, not only do they stress out, but grades can also make them feel so pressured and disappointed in themselves and

their current grades that they consider taking away their own lives because of this. Too much pressure from teachers and parents can cause young students to spiral down into depression and be hard on themselves, and it doesn't make for a healthy mentality. The most common time for this to happen is in late middle school and high school, and it's more likely for those with ADHD, anxiety issues and depression. If we continue putting students in a state of panic, depression, and suicidal spiral like this, then school is going to end up causing a more harm than good to current and future students.



*High school student stressing out over studies.
Photo via openaccessgovernment.org*



*A college student going through stress over studies because of pressure and anxiety. Photo
Via Aaaa.org*

If we start supporting each other, give out tutoring lessons, and give students even more of a chance to keep themselves together and go through their work patiently and calmly, then there's hope in their grades but most importantly, in the students.

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Scan QR code to book an appointment with
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Ms. Linton, 11th Grade Counselor



Scan QR code to book an appointment with
Mrs. Weisman, 9th Grade Counselor



Scan QR code to book an appointment with
Mrs. Jones, College and Career Counselor



School Bathrooms: Are they being properly taken care of by schools or are they being neglected?

By Rachael Harbus

With the recent change from virtual learning to in person learning, schools are now throwing away the “new” normal and trying to bring back the “old” normal. Part of the “old” normal is having the school bathrooms available to students during the school day. Many students’ expectations on the state of cleanliness of these facilities was less than ideal.

A commercial washroom solutions company called Bradley Corp. took a survey of about 630 American high school students to obtain their opinions on the cleanliness of school bathrooms. The not-so-shocking results stated that:

50% rated them as poor or fair

68% claimed they were poorly maintained and unclean

32% said they were dirty and smelly

57% would not wash their hands



Image inside a boy's bathroom stall at Venice High School. Image from veniceoarsman.com

Jon Dommissie, director of strategy and corporate development for Bradley Corp. stated that “the negative impact of poorly maintained school restrooms is clearly significant and spreads beyond the bathroom doors to the entire school.”

The meaning behind this quote is that students are often under the impression that because of the state of their school bathrooms, their school does not care about

their health and well-being, causing them to not look very fondly upon their school.

Even our students at Franklin High School have similar opinions:

“Franklin High School bathrooms need updating, better cleaning, and clear consequences for destruction of property (toilets/sinks),” said senior Katie West.

“It’s horrible especially since they locked down some of them. I had to walk all the way to the new building to use the bathroom only to find out that they have no toilet paper or soap,” said senior Allie P.

“They are gross. They need to be cleaned more,” said freshman Tara Stolusky.

The main reason most students would not wash their hands is because there was no soap or paper towels. There were also defective faucets or dirty sinks.

The shortage of soap and paper towels in the bathroom is a huge problem. We’re still in a pandemic, so hand washing is still very important. Students being unable or unwilling to properly wash their hands puts them more at risk to getting COVID-19 or other illnesses, considering how many people use the bathroom every single day. If we want our students health to flourish, it is imperative they have the proper means to do so.



Image of a hand dryer inside of your typical bathroom. Image from www.wired.com

One simple solution to this problem is to replace the paper towels with a hand dryer so that students can dry their hands easily. The initial installation of the hand dryer would cost more than providing paper towels, but in the long run, it would cost way less to use the hand dryer and actually minimize the spread of germs. It would also save more trees which in turn helps the environment. Plus, the extra money saved can then be devoted to increasing the supply of soap, cleaning supplies, and maintenance.

To further improve the cleanliness of the bathrooms, air deodorizers could also be added in all of the bathrooms. This would improve the smell of the bathroom making each visit more pleasant.

One of Franklin High School’s administrators has a very strong opinion on this issue:

“I think our bathrooms reflect those of an older building and our custodial staff is constantly working hard to maintain them,” assistant principal Russell Valentine said. “I cannot speak for the girls’ rooms, but the boys’ bathrooms are generally in decent condition as long as students aren’t making efforts to destroy some of the dispensers. I think replacing paper towels with hand dryers in every bathroom could work, but when I use a public restroom, from a personal standpoint, I always prefer paper towels because they are quicker, and I feel that they clean my hands better than hot air. For me, it’s not just about drying, it’s about wiping them clean. But, for a school, I can see where the dryers may have certain advantages.”

Fast Fashion, Greenwashing, & Pollution

By Chinaza Nnagbo



Image of a sweatshop overseas

We all do it; we all shop at fast fashion companies either knowingly or not. Fast fashion is when cheap clothing is produced rapidly by mass-market retailers in response to the latest trends. Most people are consumers of fast fashion brands such as Urban Outfitters, SHEIN, and Victoria's Secret occasionally, but the problem is buying in huge quantities and polluting.

I asked freshman Moyinoluwa Olukanni a few questions on fashion due to her alluring outfits. "How often do you wash denim?" "Every time I wear it," said Moyinoluwa. Washing denim after every use can be

damaging to the environment. Most are made from synthetic (or fake) indigo, which has dyes that can go into waterways and hurt marine life. Half a million tons of microfiber clothing goes into the ocean. That's equal to one billion plastic bottles.

Brands such as Old Navy, H&M, ZARA and Uniqlo have participated in greenwashing, or putting out false information about a company's environmental impacts.

A way to promote sustainability is shopping second hand. Air drying clothes also helps, and they won't shrink as much as when it's in the dryer. Another solution is to make clothing pieces yourself and shop less, once or twice every few months.

H&M, GAP, and NIKE are big users of sweatshops in Asia, specifically Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, and Cambodia. It's been revealed that the employees work under very poor conditions with over 540 workers reporting assaults. With mostly men in charge, women are often raped and forced to work overtime without even having access to the bathroom. Radhika, a fe-

male sweatshop worker for H&M has experienced this abuse. "He pulled me out of the chair, and I fell on the floor. He hit me, including on my breast. He pulled me up, and then pushed me to the floor again [and] kicked me." She then filed a complaint, and the Human Resources department only told her boss to stop harassing her, but not much changed. Some are too scared to report assault from their bosses or coworkers fear losing their job and suffer in silence.



Image of an H&M storefront

Poll: Which shoes are best?

By Christian Rivera-Hernandez



*Image of popular shoes among students
Image from seventeen.com*

This is a poll of 25 students. 18 out of 25 people said that sneakers are better. Some said, "They feel more comfortable." While others said, "They are more versatile." 4 out of 25 people said that Crocs are better, but one disagreed. "I hate Crocs. They are bad, horrible," said sophomore Lindsay Adjei, "I hate Crocs because I had to wear them everywhere, and the plastic handle dug into my ankle." 2 out of 25 people said that heels are better. "I like how they look. I like going to Home Depot in heels and being taller than the men. I like the feeling of being tall; I like the power trip," Lindsay said, "I can't walk in them though." 1 out of 25 people said that boots are better. 0 out of the 25 people said that dress shoes are better.



*Image of crocs with jibbitz
Image from plantbasednews.org*

Do video games directly correlate to violence?

By Kevin Folgar

We live in a world with rising gun violence, school shootings and mass killings. Some people think that violent video games are the cause for all this. We've all heard or seen gamers rage and throw controls, smash keyboards and even punch holes in walls. This has led to the notion that violent video games desensitize kids to violence and by nature makes them more violent leading to the higher crime rates and shootings.

Video games have progressed so much from where they started from a dot on a screen hitting lines going back and forth to now to hyper-realistic, highly-detailed graphics that some people think it's hard to tell between the game and real life. With better graphics also came more types of games like realistic violent games such as first-person shooters and third-person games like *Grand Theft Auto* in which you could commit any crimes your heart desired. These are the games parents believe desensitized their kids to violence because the kids are being exposed to things the parents weren't exposed to at that age, along with the rising violent crime rates.

Although there is some misleading evidence that can lead people to believe this to be true, there is also evidence to go against it. I conducted several interviews asking my peers who play video games, play violent video games, and peers who don't play video games as a control group regarding violence. The answers will surprise you most of the people interviewed said they did not care for violence at all. Responses to questions like, "If you see a fight, what your reaction would be?" everyone re-

sponded with "Walk away." When posed with a question such as "When pushed, do you push back or walk away?" the majority of answers came back, "walk away." The notion that violent video games make you violent comes from the fact that the older generation never played the types of video games in the modern age and misunderstands.



Image of a girl playing a first-person shooter at an arcade

Contrary to what people think, violent video games do the opposite. This is to be believed because violent video games can be a form of therapy. This is not hard to believe because, in video games, people are able to do things, they aren't able to in real life. And people who commit crimes have no correlation to video games.

But with all that said that doesn't mean there isn't evidence that says violent video

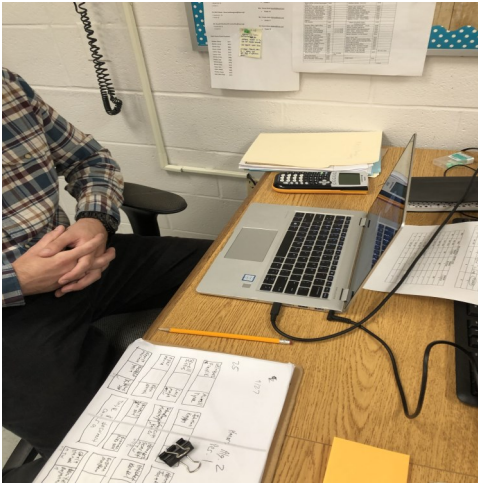
games make people violent. "One study reveals that young men who are habitually aggressive may be especially vulnerable to the aggression-enhancing effects of repeated exposure to violent games," said psychologists Craig A. Anderson, Ph.D., and Karen E. Dill, Ph.D. "The other study reveals that even a brief exposure to violent video games can temporarily increase ag-

gressive behavior in all types of participants." Studies conducted by psychologists say violent video games can increase aggressive behavior, but this doesn't account for violent crimes, just aggressive behavior.

A conclusion can be drawn that violent video games and whether the person becomes more violent really depends on the person and how well they can control themselves, not that video games hypnotize people.

A new face within the math department, Mr. Skinner

By Mariana Noyola-Hernandez

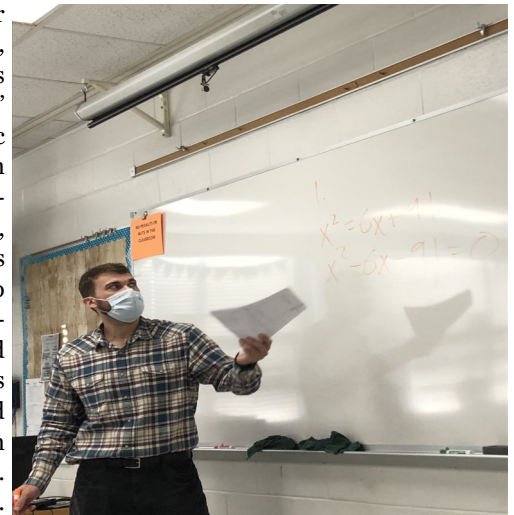


Mr. Skinner working at his desk while waiting for the first period bell.

Of the many teachers at Franklin High, some are old, some are new. Mr. Skinner is one example of a new face within the school. He works as a math teacher, and for his first period, he teaches Algebra 2 in honors level. On his first day, he was nervous, but with the active participation of his homeroom students and with the help of his fellow co-workers and superiors, he managed to get the hang of it. Mr. Skinner might just be another teacher, however, he is a person, too. He has strengths, likes,

and hobbies just like everyone else. Mr. Skinner is hardworking, caring, and ethical. Apart from being good in math, he has other talents like being a good listener, resilient, and humorous. Like all other adults, Mr. Skinner placed his hobbies aside and focused more on his profession. Mr. Skinner said, "I used to play video games like *Call of Duty* and *Madden*." Mr. Skinner also used to play sports including football, basketball, and baseball. After a long day of work, people generally take a break and watch some TV. Mr. Skinner said that his favorite movies are, "*Flight*, *Superbad*, and *Fast and Furious* (1)". As for his favorite TV shows he likes "*Ozark*," "*The Office*," and "*All-American*." Music can be used as a method of concentration which many people use. The kind of music that Mr. Skinner listens to is rap, R&B, and classic rock. Mr. Skinner said that his favorite artists are, "Nas, Juice Wrld, Polo G, Ari Lennox, and The Beatles." Everyone has favorite foods, and many would wish to eat them forever. Mr. Skinner's favorite foods are pizza, burgers, and chicken. His favorite dish is Chicken Chesapeake. After a feast dessert follows. Mr. Skinner's go to dessert is cheesecake. And of course, candy can be a dessert, too. Kit Kats, Snickers, and Fast Breaks are considered best by Mr. Skinner. There is a

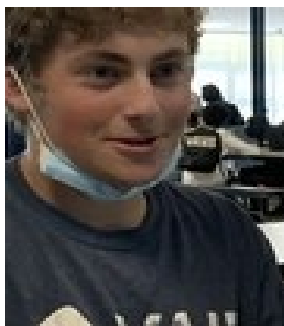
lot to know about Mr. Skinner for sure and the best way to know is by asking him kindly just like any other person. That is, asking him appropriate questions, those that can help you make a friend. Getting to know your teachers is important in the school environment. It helps build trust, which allows students and teachers to feel comfortable while communicating. As the new school year continues, Mr. Skinner will keep making progress to adapt to his new environment.



Mr. Skinner teaching Honors Algebra 2.

Aidan Nahum, the scholarly baseball standout

By Ronald Edmund Jr.



Junior Alec Nahum

The student in this month's Personality Profile is junior Aidan Nahum.

Aidan is 16 years old from Reisterstown, Maryland and lives with his mom, dad, and twin brother Alec Nahum. He is a model student member of the

Franklin community, and it was my pleasure to take the time and pick his brain for this interview.

His presence is welcoming and can always make you laugh. He currently is on the badminton

team and plays baseball for our school. He is involved in many clubs such as Diversity Club where he talks about controversial topics and National Honor Society.

His favorite teachers in our school are Ms. Nemoto, Ms. Sudduth, and Mr. Schrengost. Our fellow junior class member Harrison Fagin said, "Aidan is a handworker who you never question if their work is late or subpar." Kevin Folgar another class of 2023 member said, "Aidan is a kind, soft-spoken kid, who's a good friend, and you know wouldn't hurt a fly."

Aidan told me his only idol is "Russell Wilson," an NFL Quarterback who fought through obstacles like being a late draft pick and being shorter than other Quarterbacks. When Aidan isn't working hard and wants to wind down, he plays sports, video games, and learns about geography.

Aidan would like people to know that he likes to play sports and travel.

Some traits of his personality are that he is honest, caring, and responsible. Some pieces of advice that Aidan would give is, "Explore the world to its fullest, never give up, and don't view anything as a brick wall. View it as an obstacle." This is very similar to his idol Russell Wilson's quote "Always persevere, always have a great perspective, and always have great purpose in your life." Aidan is not the type of person who leads by directing others but rather by example. He told me he put this on display during his baseball season at Franklin last year.

Aidan says he doesn't know what he wants to do in the future, but he works hard so his successful habits will stay with him for life.

"Come On In, The Door's Open!" Theatre is back!

By Peach Schulman



Gina Claire Mason in *Wicked*

Photo By Joan Marcus, Broadway.com

On March 12th, 2020, an hour before it was announced we would close due to COVID-19, it was announced that Broadway would be shutting down due to COVID-19, which would begin an 18-month hiatus. But, as we have come back to school, so has Broadway to their stages. But why does this matter in Baltimore and Reisterstown, when New York City is over 4 hours away?

There's quite a lot of reasons why Broadway's reopening has such a huge impact where we are.

The Baltimore Hippodrome is one of Baltimore's most popular theatres, and is Baltimore's national tour theatre, where musical national tours stop to perform. With Broadway's reopening makes the return of national tours, which are replicas of Broadway musicals with a new cast and team that travel across America to perform at theatres in cities across the country.

These companies also were shut down due to COVID-19 early last year. Now, these companies are heading back out across the country to perform and tell these amazing stories.

Some of the performances you can see at the Baltimore Hippodrome this season are *Waitress*, *The Prom*, *Mean Girls*, and *Hamilton*, among other shows that have graced the great white way.

"I think it has impacted the whole greater Baltimore area greatly. The Baltimore theatre community is so tight-knit that every-

one I know is missing not only consuming theatre as an art form, but the social relationships that develop from performing, attending productions, and supporting their friends," said Mrs. Manuel, Franklin High School's new theatre teacher and director.

Mrs. Manuel has over 20 years of experience in the theatre industry, and some of her favorite shows are *Spring Awakening*, *Shrek the Musical*, and *Radium Girls*.



Danny Burstein in *Moulin Rouge*

Photo by Matt Murphy, Broadway.com

"It's important to get people talking again about what they love: theatre," Mrs. Manuel said about the importance of Broadway reopening in Reisterstown and Baltimore.

However, with the delta variant of COVID-19 and vaccine misinformation, some are afraid that Broadway's reopening, as well as national tours and local theatres' seasons will be cut short.

"My fears are that people will get sick," said Mrs. Manuel on the issue. "I hope that everyone stays healthy and safe as theatre begins to open back up, in whatever capacity that looks like for them." Theaters on Broadway and national tours require proof of vaccination and masks to be worn throughout the duration of all performances, and capacity will be limited to comply with social distancing guidelines.

Theatre here in Baltimore and Reisterstown, along with on Broadway and across

the nation is reopening larger and more spectacular than ever, and with rising vaccination rates, safer, too.

"I'm excited to watch my friends perform again, as well as see some new musicals that I have not yet had the opportunity to see," said Mrs. Manuel on what she is excited to see with theatres' reopening.

As Lin-Manuel Miranda said on the reopening night of *Hamilton*: "I don't ever want to take live theatre for granted, ever again."

Broadway is officially back open for business with over 8 shows, including *Hadestown*, *Moulin Rouge*, *Wicked*, *SIX*, *The Lion King*, *Chicago*, and *Hamilton*, that are officially open on Broadway. On September 27th, 2021, Broadway held the Tony Awards for the first time since 2019, crowning *Moulin Rouge* as the new best musical.



Andre De Shields and Reeve Carney in *Hadestown*

Photo by Matthew Murphy, Broadway.com

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Shang-Chi Review

By Matt Luniewski

The entirety of the Marvel Cinematic Universe has been very hit or miss recently with the phase 4 wave of movies and mini series. WandaVision started well but lost its footing towards the end. Falcon and the Winter Soldier was slightly more successful in its political themes but eventually followed the same fate that WandaVision did. Black Widow was misplaced and yet again another boring spy movie, and Loki was so far, the only solid Marvel project we've had since 2019. Thankfully, this trend wasn't continued with Shang-Chi, Marvel's newest movie. Some aspects of the movie are done exceptionally well and set it above most Marvel movies while other aspects follow the same problems that have been criticized in nearly every Marvel project since 2008.

The main highlight of this movie is undoubtedly the action. Fights scenes are filmed wonderfully and have lots of long shots which are staples in Asian martial art movies. The cinematography is outstanding and isn't overly reliant on a shaky camera to make an attack feel like it has weight. The fights have multiple references to well-known Asian martial arts movies like Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon, Enter the Dragon, Kung Fu Hustle, and even Rush Hour 2. It's baffling to see all these references while keeping in balance with new and creative ideas which the movie doesn't come short of. Small ideas are utilized to their fullest, relentlessly hurling new idea after new idea at you. Simple concepts like a fight on a train or the side of a skyscraper feel like they've been done hundreds of times, but Shang-Chi manages to keep it refreshing.

The performance given by Simu Liu, actor for Shang-Chi was surprisingly good which was a big worry for most people going into the movie as Marvel has a track record of having poor origin story movies. Thankfully, Simu was tremendous in action scenes and even wrote some of the choreography himself. He also works well when given emotional parts of the story and isn't completely reliant on his stunt-

work. Aquafina was another reason why people hesitated to see the movie as she's known for her at times irritating comedy. She isn't tremendous, but she doesn't hold back the movie at all. She has shown to be a very capable actor in 2019's The Farewell, so at times it is a little bit annoying to see her only be cased as a quirky comedic side character.

The villains and Marvel movies have also been very hit or miss, but when they hit, they really hit. Tony Leung's Mandarin is no exception. Leung is the soul of this movie and unsurprisingly works amazingly, creating a sympathetic yet monstrous character, succumbing to his grief. It isn't as great as some of his other work but is still probably the best performance in the movie by far.

The movie heavily relies on flashback sequences that all feel out of place except for the one about how the Mandarin met Shang Chi's mother. The movie relies on Shang-Chi's mother for a lot of his motivation throughout the movie, and they only explain what happened to her during the final third of the movie. The movie jumps around with only half of a reason to, which takes away from mostly well-fleshed-out characters. When speaking with students who had seen the movie, they also noticed the overuse of flashbacks.

One of the problems with Marvel movies that is widely overlooked is how Marvel often doesn't know when to make an actual fight with little special effects or a full CGI fight. The movie was on a streak of great fight scenes, and then they finish it off with a monster fight. All the fights including the ten rings worked because the rings work in tandem with the fighting and didn't prohibit hand-to-hand combat. Some students believed that it's purely preference however and enjoyed the fight. There's also several plot-points the movie just swept under the rug like how Shang-Chi enters this important area that can only be accessed at a very specific time. After getting through, other people imme-

diately come through, ignoring the rules the writers just set. Characters repeatedly make unreasonable decisions that are very clearly just written in to move the plot along. Most of the flaws in the movie feel like they exist because the writers think the viewers are dumb, which they aren't, and can see a contradiction in writing easily. This is a reoccurring theme in Marvel movies as they often gloss over some of the plot points they have created in the build up and expect people to forget that they established something existed.

Shang-Chi is fortunately a solid return to Marvel's previous consistency in quality. In some ways, it even excels far beyond most other Marvel movies with its impressive fight cinematography, choreography, and villain. On the other hand, it continues the flaws found in every Marvel movie to date with bland scripting and skipped-over plot points, making the movie feel almost factory made.



Shang-Chi movie poster
Photo from [marvel.com](https://www.marvel.com)

Squid Game Review

By Brady Davidson

Earlier this week on Netflix a new Korean show called Squid Game released. Squid Game is about a group of gambling addicts who have lost everything. These people being extremely desperate accept an offer to compete in a deadly game for billions. The show explores the struggles of addiction and how far someone will go for money.

Overall, this show was amazing. It is very stylized and original compared to what we usually see being released. It is constantly keeping the audience shocked. The creators of this show executed its premise beautifully, while also being able to add depth to the characters. Because of this, the audience feels more connected to these characters, making shocking moments a lot more impactful and exciting. The show is also great at establishing stakes for each character. Another thing this show does really well is anticipation. The show is amazing at setting up big climactic moments where everything it previously sets up pays off. These moments stand out in the show and will leave



*The cast of Squid Game
Photo via Netflix.com*

you speechless. Something I loved about this show was the cinematography. Some scenes of this show are very intricate visually, which makes for a new and exciting viewing.

While being great there are a couple of problems I had with the show. One being the main side plot. This side plot was underwhelming compared to the main plot. It's not as developed and as focused as the main story and has little impact. The show also has parts that feel like filler between impactful scenes. This can cause the show to drag at times. Another complaint I had is that by the end of the show you don't get closure. This choice could be an attempt at setting up following seasons, but it causes characters to feel inconsistent.

This show felt like something new and refreshing and I enjoyed it all the way thorough. I hope to see more shows like this. I highly recommend this show, especially if you're a fan of thrillers/horror dramas.

TikTok in a World Full of High School Students

By Dannah Tinio

Throughout the past few years, especially during Covid-19 times, TikTok was an app that many people turned to to express themselves. The majority of TikTok users consist of Gen Z kids. Most of them being high school students. So what exactly do high school students do spending their time on TikTok?

At a young age, feeling like others understand you is something that's needed. Teenagers often post relatable content on TikTok that makes them think 'me too' or 'same'. "It kinda creates a sense of solidarity," Patricia Alegria said. Students are reassured through this relatable content that others their age are with them and that they aren't alone with their thoughts.

Other than relatable content, TikTok is also used for entertainment purposes. From the high school students I interviewed, 1.5 hours everyday is their average use of the app. One of them said she uses it whenever she has free-time. TikTok can show you content that lines up with

your interests, showing why teens go on it often. "I enjoy reading, so seeing book-related videos makes me happy," said Patricia. Fiona Durante said she likes seeing the current TikTok dances, as well as Brittany Pate who said she liked seeing the fun TikTok dances/dance chains from 2018.

More and more teenagers in this day and age are finding their own style, and you can partially credit TikTok for this. Brittany brings up how the app can be used for fashion inspiration or a place to simply show off your outfits. Patricia also agrees that fashion is influenced by TikTok and said, "One clothing piece would get popular in a matter of days and be replaced by another one, and it's really fueling the fast fashion industry."

Despite all the positive things about TikTok, there are also many downsides to it. TikTok is very looks-heavy, and with the majority of the users being teenagers, you can tell that's not a

good combination. "It gives people insecurities everyday," said Brittany. She then elaborates on how TikTok can make teens think, "I wish I looked like that," showing how based off of one's looks, teens can feel insecure about their own. Fiona also says that the comments can be very negative and that people bully each other in the comments, whether it be about looks or not.

Brendan Gahan, a partner and chief social officer for the digital agency Mekanism said, "TikTok allows people to share, and display, (that) behavior, on a scale that's not really been available before." (New York Times). This quote from Gahan is saying that TikTok offers many opportunities in many different kinds of ways. Concluding all of this information, we can see just how influential of an app TikTok is and how it has an even bigger influence on students in high school.

The Rise of Genshin Impact

By Tina Tran

How does a free online gacha game stand out from the rest and soar in popularity in the past year?

On September 28, 2020, a new game was released to the market. The game called Genshin Impact is made by a company name Mihoyo, who also made the game Honkai Impact. Genshin Impact takes you on an adventure where you get to play as one of the twins, Aether or Lumine. You also get to meet new characters, go on quests, play with friends, decorate your house, and much more.

Although the game did get some traction when it was first released, it didn't really get much attention until the game's 1.3 update when two characters' banners were released. Every update, the game will have two new characters with their own banner. The banner is where you will wish for the character with primogems (the currency made for pulling a character) When 1.3 update got released, Genshin rose to the top of the chart with the release of Xiao and Hu Tao. During Xiao's banner, Mihoyo was able to make up to 15.1 million dollars just from Xiao's banner alone. They made a good 12.9 million on Hu Tao's.

Something that really helps get Genshin more exposure is the amazing fan base that the game has and the amazing English voice actors. The fanbase is so talented with all their amazing fanart and animations. For the most part, everyone in the fandom are welcoming and kind. The English voice actors are very active with the fandom like playing games with them and doing fan signs.

Being stuck in quarantine also helped boost the game. The game allowed you to be able to play with friends and explore the world together. With every update, a new event with different mini games will be added keeping it new and fun.

Many say that Genshin Impact is a fun game that you can play with friends. It's a simple a game with a complex lore that is interesting to dive into.

"The best part of Genshin is probably the story. It's really fun to see more of characters you're passionate about, and it's really fun to see where the plot line is going so far," said Elizabeth Papp-Grebb

When asking people about how they would rate their experience from a 1 to a 5, majority said a decent rating.

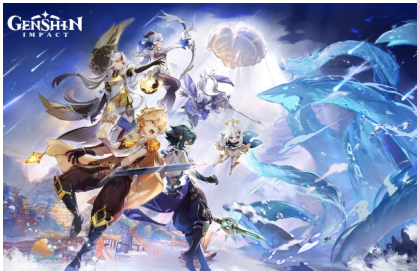


Photo found on Hoyolab.com

"I say 3 because it takes up [lots of] data, and when I played online it was glitchy and slow ... but the game itself is nice," said Kay Williams.

"Ehhh, a 4. The overall experience is pretty nice, but Mihoyo can not be so great sometimes. They make their game really sucky for F2P (free to play) players like me," said Elizabeth Papp-Grebb



Photo found on Hoyolab.com

Genshin Impact even got nominated "The Game Award for Best Role-Playing Game," "The Game Award for Best Mobile Game," "Apple Design Award for Visuals and Graphics," and "Award for Best Audio/Graphics." Genshin ended up winning for Best Visuals/Graphics and Best Audio.

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