



Principal Fowler on New School Safety Protocols

By **MICHELLE STUBBS**

In the beginning of August, still unsure of whether it would be virtual, in-person or some sort of hybrid, school administrators were sure that Farrell Area School District would be opening by the end of the month. "It was still up in the air as to which it would be for a long time," Mr. Fowler said. In July, the school board voted that as long as Mercer County was still in the green phase, we would be able to go back to school in person.

A graduate of Farrell High School, Mr. Fowler has been working in the Farrell School District for seventeen years. Before becoming the principal, he started out as an Instructional Aid then he moved on to be a third grade teacher for six years. After that, he taught fifth grade for one year, was the Dean of Discipline for two years in the Farrell Elementary School, and, finally, was the acting principal of the high school for a year. His hobbies include singing with his praise team and family. He also enjoys being involved in the sports that his kids play. Aside from the time spent with family and friends over the summer, he had a lot of preparations to make for the school year.

Before the start of the upcoming school year, Mr. Fowler and his team were tasked with ensuring the safety of all of the students and staff. The school had bought a lot of masks, sanitizers, and sanitizing foggers to prepare. A quarantine room was also installed in the nurse's office to help prevent the spread of COVID if a student gets sick. The schedules were also more difficult to create due to there being a twenty student limit set for each classroom. That meant that the electives filled up quickly. You will see the same friendly faces welcoming you to the high school in the morning, but this year they are using a thermal scanner to check temperatures of all staff and students entering the building. The district is limiting visitors to only those absolutely essential outside personnel.

Students have been doing well listening to the CDC guidelines. The Farrell staff has been



Photo Credit: Mrs. Titus

Principal Fowler and Officer Smoot checking temperatures with the thermal scanner.

trying to be understanding and give out mainly warnings to students who are not socially distancing and or not wearing masks properly. In the future, if students do not comply with the guidelines, the consequences will get more severe. ISS is no longer an option, so OSS and detentions will be the main punishment for students that are not in compliance going forward. A student's second suspension will be a referral to online learning.

At the last board meeting, the bid for a water bottle filler fountain was approved. Parts for the fountain were ordered and were on backorder for quite some time. They were finally installed in the third week of September. The bottle fillers are efficient in preventing the spread of germs compared to a shared regular water fountain.

Homecoming and other events will be postponed until it is safe for us to have that many people indoors at one time. It was originally planned to take place on Friday, October 2, but it is now undecided as to when it will be rescheduled.

Although it was a very long arduous process, we are here in school adhering to the CDC guidelines. There was a lot of hard work that came from the School Board and Farrell Staff to ensure our safety. No matter what, we are here learning and getting through it all together.

Inside this Issue

Student Achievers	2
Mr. Folsom / Fashion & Design	3
VoTech / New	4
Virtual School /	5
Senior Night	6-7
Sports	8-9
Race Survey	10
Community Connections	11
Art, Culture, Creativity	12

STEELER Nation News

Staff Writers/

Photographers

Arianna Blanchard

Amirah Coleman

Jacara Green

Jaden Harrison

Anthony Jackson, 10

Jordan Jones

Kenai King

Nathan McGarry

Sian Rain

Malachi Shepherd

Michelle Stubbs

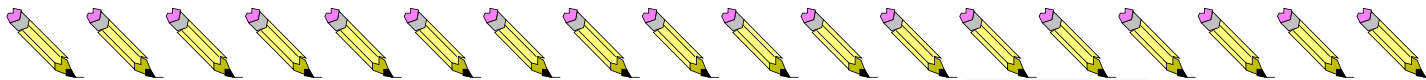
Mrs. Kladitis delivers promising report of Junior High Academic Achievers:

The CDT scores for Math were very promising considering the circumstances (Covid School shut down) with which they were faced.

In Math, there were 13 students that either scored proficient or within 100 points of proficiency. I was very pleased with this considering they only had 3 weeks of 7th grade Math under them.

The Reading, Writing and Science CDT scores were also decent considering the circumstances the students were faced with due to distance learning in the spring. We anticipate the scores to increase more during the second round of CDTs in January.

Students put their best foot forward when taking the test! Great start to the school year, Jr. High Students!



JOIN a CLUB (or 2)!

FHS Clubs offer extended learning

BY: KENAI KING

Are you interested in joining any high school clubs this school year? Farrell Area High School has several from which to choose. Science, Spanish, French, Math, National Honor Society (NHS), Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), and Student Council are included in our 2020 Farrell High School Clubs.

Student Council Advisor is Mrs. Kladitis. This group exposes students to the way large events are run, planned, and carried out. The Student Council also holds an annual 5K race which raises over \$1,000 to be used by students for charities which helps members of the community that fall upon hardships. This council also decides on our Homecoming, Overnight Lock-In, a Mini Lock-In, and Blood Drive. Mrs. Kladitis added, "This association is to ensure that students have a voice and a choice."

Madame Kotb advises the NHS. Students in 10th, 11th, and 12th grade, with a 3.3 cumulative grade point average and above, are invited to apply in the month of February. Following a rigorous application and faculty council review, successful candidates are welcomed into this honor society in a formal induction ceremony. Members host an Academic and Art Showcase, and complete service hours.

Spanish Club Advisor, Señora Torres will be having a limited Spanish Club this year. Sign-ups will begin the first week of October so stay tuned for that! In this club you will get to learn about how Spanish is spoken all over the world. Spanish is mainly a social club where students get together with the French club and do Spanish/French

singing at the elementary school. As a social club, they celebrate holidays, such as Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead), Navidad (Christmas), and Cinco de Mayo. This helps students learn about the actual holidays and their significance, traditional foods and crafts.

French Club Advisor is Madame Kotb. All current and former students of French who are interested in celebrating French language and culture, are invited to sign up. This club includes activities such as, Tableau and Tasting Event, Mardi Gras food festival, the SRU Language Competition, 3D monument printing in the STEAM lab, and field trips with the Spanish Club to the Carnegie Art Museum and Gateway Clipper in Pittsburgh.

Our Science Club Advisor is Mrs. Latzoo. Meetings are regularly announced on the morning announcements. The purpose of this organization is to encourage

students to explore the many aspects of science. Science club provides a safe space for students to enjoy and explore without fear. Mrs. Latzoo commented, "Students don't have to be good at this subject, just enjoy science and be curious about natural phenomena!"

Mrs. Kladitis also oversees this year's FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America). FBLA and the Student Council work together, working towards the election polls which serve the community. This organization also helps with the annual 5K race. Students are invited based upon grades and behavior

Mrs. Latzoo also instructs this year's Math club! The participants practice and reinforce math skills and introduce STEM careers (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), options, tools, and concepts.



¿SABÍAS?

Did you know?

Contributed by: Señora Torres

Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated from September 15-October 15. It celebrates the countless contributions of more than 60 million Hispanic to our culture and society.

Hispanics are the largest minority group in the United States today, and generations of Hispanics have consistently helped make our country strong and prosperous. The Hispanic community has left an indelible mark in our government, arts, culture, sports, science, and economy.

Teacher Spotlight: Mr. Folsom

By **SIAN RAIN**

Mr. Folsom joined us here at Farrell as Elementary Technician in 2019. Currently, he is teaching High School Robotics, Physics and Multimedia. He is from Mt. Pleasant and attended Mt. Pleasant High School. After graduating from high school, Mr. Folsom attended Slippery Rock University. His majors in college were Elementary Education and Business in Computer Technology also he minored in Coaching.

Before joining us, he taught at Loudoun County Public Schools in Virginia, Mohawk School and Kennedy Catholic, this will be his tenth year teaching.

While interviewing Mr. Folsom,

he described his most rewarding moment as a teacher was when his student had fallen ill with cancer. Unfortunately, the student's parents weren't financially stable, so he helped create a fund to help.

He believes it is challenging to deal with all the new restrictions because of COVID-19. However, he thinks if we continue to follow the rules and regulations we will be safe.

This year's projects for Robotics and Physics will deal with building LEGO robots, force, speed and acceleration as well as participating in the Physics Olympics. Mr. Folsom is thrilled about this year and is excited to teach his students.



Photo Credit: Sian Rain

Mr. Folsom poses with Robotics project. Welcome to the high school Mr. Folsom!

Got Style? Prove it!

By **JORDAN JONES**



Mrs. Bolyard sews names on jerseys.

As some of you know, there has been a new Fashion and Design class added to Farrell High this fall of 2020. The Fashion and Design Teacher is Mrs. Bolyard. Many students may know Mrs. Bolyard from class or from even following the delicious smells of the cooking classes on Wednesdays.

Mrs. Bolyard has been teaching for twelve years through colleges and different schools and twenty plus years of officiating basketball, volleyball, and track. She has a Master's in Education and certified in SPED K-12 and numerous subject areas such as Drivers Ed/Safety,

Health/PE, middle level Math, Science, Social Studies, and English. Mrs. Bolyard is also certified as an Emergency Medical Technician, Lifeguard Instructor and PIAA Official.

Mrs. Bolyard went on to tell me how at an early age she often sewed and created items such as upholstery, bridesmaids dresses and wedding dresses with her grandmother and mother. Since then she has always had the interest to sew and create different designs.

The new Fashion and Design class includes areas of studies such as clothes and fashion, the apparel industry, textiles and the "science" of apparel. All classes are hands-on projects and include a weekly cooking course. Students are to create their own design of their choice and pieces throughout the year. So far, students have completed hands-on sewing projects, stitching buttons to fabric, making our own face masks and a cross stitch.

According to Mrs. Bolyard, the objective of the class is to give students a taste of family, work, and career life, while providing opportunities to develop the knowledge and skills to dress and act appropriately. This is very important for young adults as we enter the real world. Knowing how to present oneself is a vital part of achieving success, especially as students experience new milestones in life and are taking actions that will impact their future.

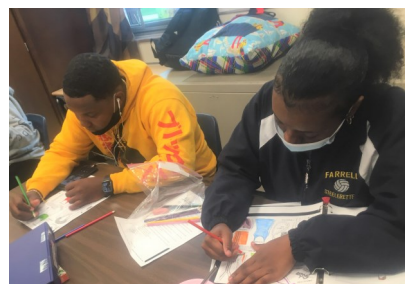
Lastly, I would like to take the opportunity to convey my personal motivation for taking a special interest in the Fashion and Design course. I own my own clothing brand called *Cocoa Apparel*. My personal goal this year is to learn better techniques of stitching and creating clothes. In class, I have recently designed a plain denim jean jacket. It was the first piece I have ever made with more than one fabric. It was extremely motivating to be able to bring my ideas into creation in this way. I plan on making more pieces and even selling them. So far, the class has definitely opened my eyes

to more than just the basics.

Throughout this year, look for more fashion news by way of my column in Steelers Nation News.



Family and Consumer Science classes decorate and sew facemasks. From front, left: McKenzie Ulan 10th, Jacara Green 12th, Nathan Davey 9th, Amya Oliver 12th, Harold Hooten 10th, Jakai Burris 9th, and Brandon Chambers 9th.



Christian Hartley and Kamira Brown, Seniors, hard at work in Fashion and Design class.

FHS Students hands-on at Vo-tech

By AMIRAH COLEMAN



Senior, Emdalay Johnson, student of Autobody, dusts off project.



Sophomore, Tymere Evans whisks eggs in culinary program.

Several Farrell High School upperclassmen are currently spending half a school day at the Mercer County Career Center, enrolled in hands-on learning. The first vo-tech was started in 1879 in St. Louis, Missouri. They set the foundation for modern career and technical education. The school combined hands-on learning with classroom learning. Going to vo-tech is a good option because you can get college credits and it is also a great experience to get to work in an area of your interest and to learn more about your future career.

Senior, **Lakyah Burns**, is enrolled in Innovation and Entrepreneurial Development. She's been in this class for 2 years. In this class, students learn about the techniques of building a business. The school store is a perfect example of how to manage money and also entails responsibilities of running a real job. She chose this class because she is interested in owning her own business.

Junior, **Marissa Wise**, is enrolled in Business Entrepreneurship. The Business Program helps students to learn how to build a business and it has helped her to expand the business that she already has. Her business is called *Glowed By Riss*, which is

her makeup line, *if anyone is interested you can email her at, mwise21@farrellareaschools.com*.

Student, **Mya Coleman**, a Junior, is in her first year and is also taking Entrepreneurial Studies. She joined to learn more about how to run a business, how to write checks and make deposits.

Sa'Mya Moore, a Senior, is in her second year of Entrepreneurial Studies. She wanted to join this class because she always wanted to start a business, be her own boss, and learn all the techniques of owning a business. She has a lip gloss business called *Kissing Eye Cosmetics*. Her business is under construction because she is increasing her inventory and expanding her product line. Her products are handmade, organic products. She tailors to the unique needs of each customer.

Nathan McGarry, a Senior, is in his second year taking Computer Information Technology. He learns how to build and troubleshoot computers and also how to set up and run servers and networks.

Lashya McClendon, Senior, is in her second year in Early Childhood Education. She chose this class because she wanted to see what it would be like to work with kids in contemplating opening



Senior, Nate McGarry focused on a coding sequence.



Juniors, Marissa Wise and Mya Coleman pose in front of a student run business.

her own daycare business. I, **Amirah Coleman**, am a Senior and also enrolled in Early Childhood Education, this is my second year in the program and I love the class. The class is about teaching young children and getting them ready for kindergarten, it also gets you ready to pursue a career in various childcare related fields.

Some 2020 TECH

By NATE MCGARRY

2020 has been a really weird year. Technology has been equally weird. Whether it be Elon Musk's *Neuralink*, or Microsoft and Sony's gaming consoles, technology is always progressing. Even in times of hardship, and sometimes as a result of that very same hardship we experience innovation.

Elon Musk, creator of Paypal, Tesla, and SpaceX, is working on *Neuralink*. Brain implants are the medical advancement of the future

Recently, Elon has presented his brain implant experiment with pigs, to the public. The words of Neil Armstrong, first person on the moon "One small step for man, one huge step for mankind," come to mind.

Imagine, instead of going to Google to search for a problem, you can connect to Google through your brain. In an instant, all of the internet's knowledge would be right at your fingertips, or brain stem. Many skeptics are frightened by the thought of a chip being implanted in their brain. In the demonstration,

Elon showed pigs with the chip in their head and pigs who recently had the chip but got it removed safely. This means if you got the implant, and wanted it removed or upgraded, theoretically, you can. Well, maybe YOU cannot remove it, but it could be done, professionally.

The next generation of gaming consoles are coming soon. November 2020, to be exact. *PS5* and *Xbox Series X*. One of the biggest improvements is the change from HDD or hard disk drive to SSD or solid state drive. Hard disk drives are unorganized and inefficient.

With the new SSD, loading times will be almost instantaneous. Xbox is dropping two new consoles, the *Series X* and the *Series S*. The X will support 4K, 120 frames per second while the S will be cheaper but only support 1440p at 160 fps.

Microsoft released their prices with the *Series X* at \$499 and the *Series S* at \$299. Sony released their prices with the PS5 being \$499 and the version without an optical disk drive will be \$399. Xbox *Series X* will be released November 10, and the *PS5* will be released November 12.

Neuralink. (2019). Retrieved September 18, 2020, from <https://neuralink.com/>

Wetsman, N. (2020, August 28). Elon Musk trots out pigs in demo of Neuralink brain implants. Retrieved September 18, 2020, from <https://www.theverge.com/2020/8/28/21406143/elon-musk-neuralink-ai-pigs-demo-brain-computer-interface>

Photo credit: Amirah Coleman



Google Classroom

Virtual Learning. The good. The not so good.



By: Jacara Green

At one point or another we all wished to be homeschooled. At the end of the 2019-2020 school year, no one had a choice due to the Covid 19 pandemic. All Pennsylvania schools closed down, and a Google Classroom was our only platform to use for education. Now, with the 2020-2021 academic year already underway, students and parents made a choice as to whether they would continue at home "virtual" learning or attend school in person.

There are pros and cons to both coming to school, and doing online school. I approached several students, teachers, and parents to gain some insight from the school community. Senior, Jada Jackson stated, "Coming to school is a better fit for me because I can not stay focused at home. I either fall asleep, want to go to the store, or get bored. School work isn't something fun that I want to do independently."

Some pros to doing virtual school would be being able to work at your own pace and times, providing that you are keeping up with assignments and teacher expectations. Students also enjoyed being in the comfort of their own home and not having to get dressed to look presentable for school. This change of routine was fun for a short while.

Another pro would be feeling well rested. When learning at home students do not have to be awake by 6-7 am and be at school by 8 am. When distance learning first started (last spring), students could turn in their work at any time as long as it was turned in by midnight. Senior student, Mariah Hopson, stated "I feel virtual school is more on your own time and you can manage how you do things instead of hav-

ing to be on a schedule while in school."

With the current virtual schooling (as of this fall term), students have to be online by 8:00 for attendance just as if they were in school. Of course it is still easier because waking up and getting on your computer is easier than maintaining a set schedule of getting ready to leave your house.

Some cons of homeschooling would be the struggle with organization and self discipline. As we all know, technology can have malfunctions and this can result in lost work. Another issue would be the multiple Google Classroom posts and Edgenuity deadlines. Assignments can easily get lost and or forgotten about, resulting in work not getting done. Virtual school can also affect a person's mental health due to the lack of interaction with peers.

There are pros and cons to coming to school as well, however, these are things we have had to deal with since kindergarten, and we will have to most likely deal with when we enter into the workforce.

Mrs. Armour, high school lead teacher, shared some insight from a teacher's perspective, "In this day, with so many unknowns, I do believe we needed to have options for all families during this pandemic. The fact that our school has given families of our community the option to either come to face to face school or virtual is respectful of everyone's needs. In my personal opinion, there are positives and negatives to both. One of the most important aspects of face to face school is that the teacher and students can have clear communication and under-

standing of their subject. A challenge is that students and teachers don't always get that one on one connection as often. The positive of virtual school is that students are able to work at their own pace to a certain extent, they are able to go to class and use the virtual tutor for assistance. Personally, I believe students need to be in brick and mortar schools. I believe the relationship between teacher and student is important and I feel like students here have a deeper connection with their teachers. However, I 100% respect students and their families' decision to stay home doing learning virtually."

Middle school lead teacher, Mrs. Kladitis summed it up like this, "During this pandemic I've said to family and friends, as well as students, it's not about my comfort level, it's about my respect for yours. I do respect every parent/guardian's feelings on COVID. I think as parents we all share the same "knot in our stomach" when it comes to the safety of our children during this pandemic. I am overwhelmingly pleased with the precautions FASD has taken to keep the students and faculty safe. I feel as long as we ALL do our part, I look for it to be a successful school year."

Overall, the students feel as if coming to school is easier to concentrate and easier to get things done in a timely manner. Coming to school also has more excitement such as seeing peers, getting a giggle from a teacher, or feeling the positive vibes from our principal, Mr. Fowler. Students are more determined to get good grades. Participation and motivation come naturally because we are all together and can ask teachers questions and give and get immediate feedback.

Your thoughts revealed: COVID 19 SURVEY RESULTS

BY Arianna Blanchard

BREAKING NEWS!! You know about Covid-19 right? Yes the deadly virus that is going around that is causing us to go through months of quarantine and now back to school season unlike virtually, any other back to school ever experienced. Due to Covid-19, there have been many changes in the world around us and our surroundings. There are many different feelings, thoughts, and ideas that people have about the pandemic and what's going on and going to happen.

A recently published article in *The Herald*, entitled, "COVID crush", written by local journalist, David Dye, discusses the effects that quarantine and Covid has had on people. What caught my attention in this article was the word *isolation*. Many people tend to get mixed emotions from being isolated from the world and from others. They can feel from a range happiness, sadness, depression, anger to

many more. Being alone for a long period of time can cause a lot of unwanted negative thoughts, such as, suicide from being depressed and sad. September 10th is *Worldwide Suicide Prevention Day*. This day helps spread awareness around the world for people dealing with suicide and the effects of suicide.

I surveyed a variety of classmates and school faculty and staff regarding Covid related topics in order to reveal whether or not similar challenges are being faced by members of our school district.

For this survey, a total of 67 responses from grades 7 through 12 and some staff were submitted. When asked if Covid 19 had impacted their lives, 55% of the people surveyed said yes and then 37% of people surveyed somewhat. In terms of specific impacts on their lives, an

Continued on page 8



Senior Night 2020



"Senior year is for the tears. Facing your fear, loudening the cheers. You find out how close you are to some, and how far away you are from others. You'll have your lasts and get ready for the firsts. Then you'll look back on it and remember it forever." -Kaitlyn Sommer

Seniors Reflect...

"It is bittersweet. We've been with the same kids for 13 years... and now we are about to part ways." - Maria Haynes

"We made it to the end of the ride..." - Sa'Mya Moore

"This school year is stressful, but it will pay off in the end!" - Katay-ia Milhouse

"It took soooo long to get here and now it is going by so quickly!" - Marionna Deitz

"Face the fact that your fears are quickly approaching." - Kamira Brown

"As Senior Year is starting, I am beginning to think about all of the memories in my old chapters, and it is bittersweet. But I look forward to what's to come in my new chapter." -Jada Jackson

Photo credit: Principal, Mr. Fowler



From top left: Brice Butler, escorted by Mr. and Mrs. Robert and Amy Butler; Christian Hartley, escorted by Ms. Whitney Hartley and sister Kris Blue; Cameron Burris, escorted by Ms. Autumn Desomma; Amarion Odem, escorted by Mr. Anthony Pegues and Mr. La-mont Samuels; Jeremiah Butler, escorted by Mr. and Mrs. Kathy and David Shaffer; Jaden Harrison, escorted by Mr. and Mrs. Troy and Joyce Harrison; Gary Satterwhite, escorted by Mr. Gary Satterwhite II, Ms. Amber Satterwhite and William Satterwhite; Taivon, Strickland, escorted by Ms. Tina and Mr. Brandon Ward.



Senior Night 2020



"My wish, for you, is that this life becomes all that you want it to, your dreams stay big, your worries stay small." — Rascal Flatts, "My Wish"



Photo credit: Principal, Mr. Fowler

From top left: LaShawn Williams, escorted by Mr. Theodore Williams II; Jada Jackson, escorted by Mr. and Mrs. Jason and Cassandra Jackson; Katayia Milhouse, escorted by Ms. Kendra Odem; Kamira Brown, escorted by Mr. Randy Jones and Ms. RONALDA BROWN; Jacara Green, escorted by Mr. and Mrs. Jacob and Yolanda Green; Samya Moore, escorted by Ms. Yvonne McKeithan; Makyah and Lakyah Burns, escorted by Mr. and Mrs. DeWayne and Tolanda Burns; Marionna Deitz, escorted by Mr. Isaac Chapman, and Ms. Amanda Deitz; Toni Austin, escorted by Mr. Tony Austin and Ms. Angela McKnight; Kathleen Dean, escorted by Mr. and Mrs. Ernie and Kelly Dean; Maria Haynes, escorted by Ms. Naomi Brown and Mr. Michael Haynes; Mariyana Amos, escorted by Ms. Danielle Dallas and Mr. Melvin Amos.

Coach Amp opens up on COVID sports season

BY JADEN HARRISON

You can call this a crazy sports season, huh?! Unprecedented cancellations, due to Covid 19, have and are being experienced across all sports, from local to college to professional. I caught up with our Athletic Director / Head Coach, Anthony Pegues, and asked him about the fall sports' seasons during Covid-19.

He pointed out that first, there are new rules across all sports. This year, players have to bring their own water, coaches are not allowed to provide the kids with water at all.



Livestream (screen capture above), led by STEAM and Physics Teachers, Mr. Lewis and Mr. Folsom, made safe viewing possible as in person spectators were limited at the Friday, September 18, match up.

On the sideline kids and coaches have to be spread apart for football games. They made the sideline bigger to make that possible. In order to keep the equipment clean, custodial personnel are helping by using disinfecting spray and going up and down the rows to spray pads in athletes' lockers.

The spectator situation has been a heated debate for months. So far, football players, cheerleaders, Golden Girls, and band members get two tickets for their families to attend in person.

On September 2, *The Herald* front page article, "Governor Wolf blasts GOP response to court ruling," Finnerty explained that the governor does not like the plan for the sports seasons taking place, let alone having fans. However, "U.S District Court Judge William Stickman ruled Monday that Wolf's limit on the crowd sizes of 25 people indoors and 250 people outdoors violates the First Amendment."

When asked how the Steeler Football Team looked coming out of the first quarantine, the coach answered, "Their energy actually helped a lot." With the departing seniors from last year he feels there is no change, if anything, the football team has gotten better. The only difference being, the offensive and defensive lines, not the skill level.

With a couple games down, he feels the new Coronavirus rules don't affect the season at all. He says that it feels like normal games, just without the fan energy. The Sharpsville game really set the tone this year, showed mistakes they made and holes that they need to fill.

He cites that his best experience as a coach and a father has been watching the kids that he taught grow up to be successful in life. So, I asked him what's the most challenging thing as a coach, father and A.D., he said, "A busy man doesn't think that anything is challenging, if you know you're up for the task."

Finnerty, J. (2020, September 16). Gov. Wolf blasts GOP response to court ruling. *The Herald*, pp. 1-20.



Covid 19 Survey Continued:

overwhelming majority response was that it limited their activities. This is not surprising because Covid-19 and the safety enforcements caused a lot of activities to either be banned or shut down. About 32% of others answered that they are trying to be extra cautious by handwashing more often and social distancing.

This next survey question, a highly debated topic, is the origin of Covid 19. Many of us seem to believe that Covid came from China. Considered to be a conspiracy theory by some, population control, was the most common response, with a total of 33%. Then only a few percent of people answered that Covid-19 came from bats from China that they were experimenting with then they either released them purposely or accidentally.

Some of the precautions that students are taking to stay healthy are that 88% are choosing to wear face coverings. Next came 43% of people wiping and cleaning off their cellular device. 40% of the survey takers said that they do not share any classroom materials with any of their peers to help to stay safe. A total of 41% of people said that they keep themselves quarantined as a way to stay away from people to obviously help prevent the spread of anything that can lead to contracting the virus. 31% of people responded that they make sure that they

wipe down their assigned seat in their scheduled class. Finally, others said that they use hand sanitizer more often and change clothes when they return home from school. When it comes to following school safety protocols, a total of 74% of people followed the new protocols with a total of 23% of people saying that they do somewhat.

There are many things that Covid has been preventing people from around the world from doing. Some of the activities that you feel you can no longer do because of Covid would be watching sports, playing in sports, any kind of physical contact such as hugging, sharing food, traveling, getting a part-time job. You can no longer go see relatives, go shopping, go to the movies, and hang out with friends. For this survey question people chose many of these activities listed above, but the largest category selected was "limiting travel".

When asked if survey participants would still attend school if one of our fellow classmates had become diagnosed positive with Corona, about 69% of people surveyed yes or maybe they would return to school physically. 66% of people felt that you should not be permitted to play sports if you do not attend physical school.

DYE, D. (2020, September 10). "Covid crush" *The Herald*, pp. 1

Girls' Volleyball



From left: D'Eryah Stewart (11), Toni Austin (12), Gabrielle King (10), Demaris Crowder (10), Makyah Burns (12), look to the flag as the National Anthem is played to being the match versus



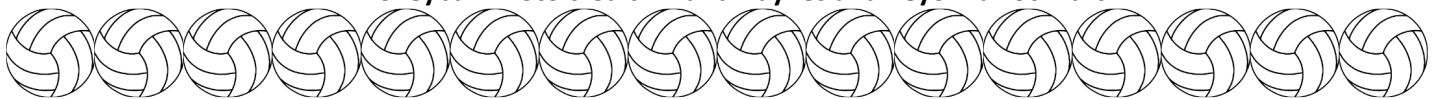
Toni Austin (below) passes the ball to setter D'Eryah Stewart. Girls showed hustle and teamwork throughout the month of September but hoping to improve their record in the second half of the season.



Lakyah Burns (above) passes the ball to setter D'Eryah Stewart.



Volleyball Photo credit: Maria Haynes and Keyonna Lockhart



SENIOR Night 2020



Photo credit: Principal Fowler

Back left: Makyah Burns, Kathleen Dean, Amarion Odem, Back right: Jeremiah Butler, Middle left: Maria Haynes, Cameron Burris, Gary Satterwhite III, Jaden Harrison, Brice Butler, Taivon Strickland, Christian Hartley, Samya Moore, Katayia Milhouse, Lakyah Burns. Bottom left: Jada Jackson, Lashawne Williams, Marionna Dietz, Kamira Brown, Mariyana Amos, and Jacara Green.



Community Connections

School Wide Racial Perceptions Survey:

Results reveal Farrell participants open and eager to converse about race.

By **ANTHONY JACKSON**

Many people have been contemplating the meaning of racial equality in light of the current events of this past summer. Here, in Farrell High School, we are a predominately black school and race is a very sensitive and important subject for us. As an African American student body, students find it necessary and important to be able to grapple with sensitive topics about racial inequality and injustices because these are issues that we face everyday, it is who we are.

As a journalist for the *Steeler Nation News*, I set out to open up this discussion by surveying students, staff and faculty concerning their perceptions of three main topics: racial equality, police and community relations, and current events.

When asked about race relations and whether it is getting better or worse in the United States, only 14% of people think it is improving and the remaining 86% think that it is getting worse. About 61% of participants believe that the change of president would improve race relations in the United States.

To go into a little more in depth and get a feel for whether or not the problems experienced on a national level are being resonated here in Farrell, I asked if people trust their local police department. Responses revealed that 25% of people do not trust the local police department whereas the remaining 75% strongly or somewhat trust the police department. When asked if the local police department made them feel mostly safe or mostly anxious answers were split down the middle 50/50.

Addressing the current events and Black Lives Matter movement, participants were asked about how much news that they follow. Only 6% of people said they never keep up with BLM, about 40% said from time to time, and the remainder were split between daily and once a week following. Attendance at BLM Rally was relatively low with only 23% responding that they had attended.

Opinions as to whether Black Lives Matter rallies and protests were achieving the goals of increased awareness and justice varied. 43% of the people who surveyed said yes, awareness and justice are both increasing, while 7% said that it is not changing anything. When asked whether or not survey participants agree with the mission of BLM, an overwhelming 90% strongly agree or agree. A final question addressed the riots (looting and destruction of property) during the BLM protests. The majority (42%) of the votes were 'undecided', and felt that it may have brought necessary attention to the movement, but it was mostly negative and possibly caused more harm than good.

Various answers were given when asked what police could do to build trust with the community. Many wanted to see officers interacting in positive ways with the community. One anonymous survey participant eloquently summed up their feelings in the following words, that *SNN* felt important to publish in its entirety below:

Survey participant offers insight and personal experience...

All occupations that deal with the public, such as the police, need to have sensitivity training on a regular basis. The police need to know the community and its people. I am sensing that Black people want the police to do their job, "Serve and Protect." Unfortunately, our confidence and trust that it will be done fairly, is not there.

Personally, I, start shaking and have cried whenever I am pulled over for a speeding ticket or if a police officer appears that he may be approaching me and I don't know why. The narrative we give in our family to our educated, respectful men of color; is to always keep their hands on the steering wheel, keep their car information above the visor, talk slowly, clearly, respectfully and steady when talking to the police. Explain any moves they may have to make and the biggest most important thing is to always have their phones fully charged and camera ready.

I think that the only reason true attention has been brought to police brutality is because of cell phones and the very public, unfortunate, death of George Floyd and countless others. There have been many protesters and movements that have been screaming for years that something wasn't fair. The protest have always been "our problem" and the fix has been to "throw us a bone" and we'd be happy. When we were all stuck in our house because of Covid and could not run from the "in your face" injustice that has been happening for years is when many of the "unaware, not wanting to know, privileged people" could not run from the reality that was on every news station. When we could not look away from the horror as a police officer so cavalierly put his knee into a man's neck until life was taken from him is when much (not all) of this country woke up and said "Oh, this is what you've been talking about!"

When Colin was kneeling at the start of a football game it was called "disrespecting the flag," never once did the people who called him and his fellow players horrible names ask him why he was kneeling or gave him a platform to publicly speak on the issues. His narrative was changed so that his reason had no meaning. Now, after the summer of 2020, the world has to admit that there just might have been a reason why this man did not stand and that his reason really had nothing to do with the cloth but with the unfairness of the lyrics that were being spoken.

When John Lewis spoke of "Good Trouble" he was not referring to burning and looting. Such acts bring the wrong message and give fuel to those who do not want to see justice or change. "Good Trouble" is not trouble at all, at least not for the person who is bringing the "trouble". The only reason it is called "trouble" is because it brings an uneasiness to the oppressor, the blindly privileged. An uneasiness that, just maybe, will make them look at themselves and admit some unfairness and in some cases some wrong doings. The "trouble" comes when we all are made aware, yet again, that the playing field is not even. That judgement is given too quickly, that I am to be in the shadow seen and heard only when it is for a specific purpose. The "trouble" comes when I have the audacity to ask for the same exact thing that my oppressor is getting and not just be satisfied with the "crumbs" that have fallen to the floor. Me having "the nerve" to ask for sameness is where, "Good Trouble, Necessary Trouble" comes from. And yes, this "trouble," this uneasiness, is absolutely necessary.

Community Connections



"If you do what you need to do, it's easier to do what you want to do."

- Representative Harris offered this wisdom imparted by his mother.

Local WWC Member Goes on the Record with SNN

By MALACHI SHEPHERD

As the Black Lives Matter movement gained momentum this summer our local organization, We Want Change (WWC) has been actively spreading their message of equality by hosting friendly rallies. As a SNN reporter, I reached out to Ms. Danielle Richardson, active member of the WWC movement. She explained that group is made of up of racially, culturally, religiously diverse, people that share a common goal of changing the world for the better.

When asked for Ms. Richardson's opinion about local participation and support of the WWC organization, Ms. Richardson responded that the movement is largely ignored or sometimes unfairly judged because people feel threatened. This negative image leads people to believe that the values of the organization are wrong or that members set a bad example for their children. Their intention is just the opposite.

She believes that people from our local community often fear the backlash of speaking out, so it is easier to say and do nothing. She added that the younger generation (referring to students) do not have a very clear understanding of the organization nor its motivations.

Ms. Richardson believes that the current, tense political climate has led to sharp divisions. She feels that many tweets and other public comments from President Trump, that fail to take a firm stand against racist actions, tell the American people that it is okay to keep doing them. She feels that this hurts our country on the whole.

Ms. Richardson pointed out that the Public School System of her generation let down African Americans by omitting so much of our history. For example, our current African American History class in Farrell is in its 5th year, before that our history was a very small portion of the American History course. The importance of this course to our students is obvious as it is often a favorite class among students that have taken it.



On Friday morning, September 25, Representative Harris addressed Junior High Students. He discussed overcoming a tough upbringing in Southwest Philadelphia, earning a teaching degree, passing the "Clean Slate Act," and being elected to office at the age of 27.

"I see what's possible when we recognize that we are one American family, all deserving of equal treatment." - President, Barak Obama

WFMJ Big 22 Contenders



Top left: Brice Butler, Gary Satterwhite III, Bottom left: Anthony Stallworth and Jaden Harrison have all been named contenders for the annual, prestigious "Big 22" award.



Farrell High 'pops' with art, culture and creativity



Art students, from left (above), Toni Austin, Demario Norris, Naveah King, and show off **Pop Art Self Portraits**. Students studied a history of the Pop Art move-
Teacher, Mrs. Munnal, including masters, Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein and Romero Britto (among others) and then created their own in this eye catching style.

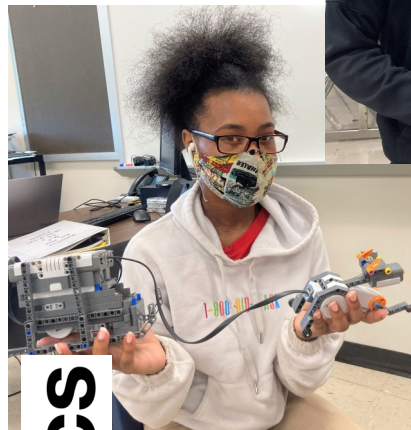
Marcus Green
ment with Art

Le Saviez-Vous?

Did you know?



Of the approximately 300 million French speakers worldwide, almost half live on the continent of Africa! French students, **Keyonna Lockhart** and **Khalil Matthews** model Egyptian garments. Egypt is one of Africa's many members of the **Fran-cophonie Organization**. A group of 88 member states that celebrate French language and culture throughout the world!



Robotics



Top: Jaden Harrison and Ramon Oatis, Left: LaShawn Williams, Bottom left: Kolden Peace, Curtis Coleman, Zaire Brown, pose with self-propelled LEGO robotics projects created in class.

