



# The Senior Scoop



W.F. Kaynor Technical High School, 43 Tompkins St. Waterbury, CT 06708

"Read *the scoop* or be out of the loop"

Vol. 1, Issue 2

## COVID Cases On The Rise In Waterbury



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Photograph By: Imraan Feroz. Pictured Above: Senior Angie Luciano studies motor controls while masked and sitting at her desk with its see-through barrier.

By: Imraan Feroz

COVID-19 cases are on the rise, many students are quarantined and the school is canceling events for student safety.

Connecticut's COVID-19 cases continue to ebb and flow, but there's been an abnormal increase in the City of Waterbury.

On Jan. 6 Kaynor Technical High School closed the school due to staff shortages resulting from COVID-19.

In the City of Waterbury, children ages

five to eleven are contracting the virus at higher rates than before.

Hospitalizations were at an all time high in December with 716 people hospitalized.

COVID-19 is disproportionately affecting those who are unvaccinated according to Gov. Lamont's most recent Press Release.

Hospitalization and death has increased especially among unvaccinated persons.

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# Student Council Hosts School-Wide Can Drive



Photograph By: Mrs. Cole

Pictured Above: Members of Student Council pose beside donated goods prior to delivery.

By: Hersh Joshi

The Kaynor school community held a food drive in Nov. collecting non-perishable goods to donate to local food banks.

“The canned food drive is a long standing tradition” according to Mrs. Cole, the faculty advisor for Student Council.

Student Council included a

contest as part of the Can Drive to determine which homeroom would donate the most items to win a prize.

“About ten homerooms contributed to the contest” Mrs. Cole said.

Mrs. Marks's senior homeroom won the contest among the academic classrooms while hairdressing took the first place title for

the shop homeroom contest.

“My homeroom donated a total of 580 items for the contest” said Marks.

The canned goods were donated to the NHS Food Share and the Waterbury Salvation Army.

The National Honor Society organizes baskets annually for Kaynor Tech. families.

## Restrooms Temporarily Locked After Vandalism Found



Photograph By: Anthony Valenzuela

Pictured Above (from left to right): Maximus Fusco, Justin Alvarez, and Jordan Marquez wait in line to use the restroom on the first floor.

By: Phoenix Meira

Students at Kaynor have had an ebb and flow of restroom experiences since the start of the 2021-2022 school year.

On Nov. 8 the administrative team announced that all of the bathrooms in the academic wing would be locked, indefinitely.

This decision left students with one bathroom to utilize, per gender, located on the first floor.

"It has made teaching more challenging. Students are missing instructional time, having to go so far and waiting

to access the bathroom" said Mrs. Marks.

Walking from the third floor to the health bathroom can be time consuming between classes.

The current passing time is three minutes.

"Students are missing valuable class time because the lines are long so it makes teaching a bit more difficult," said Mr. Matthew Pelletier of the recent changes.

Bathrooms were locked due to misconduct and students vandalizing the space.

Mrs. Marks said, to combat this, the school could have a monitoring system.

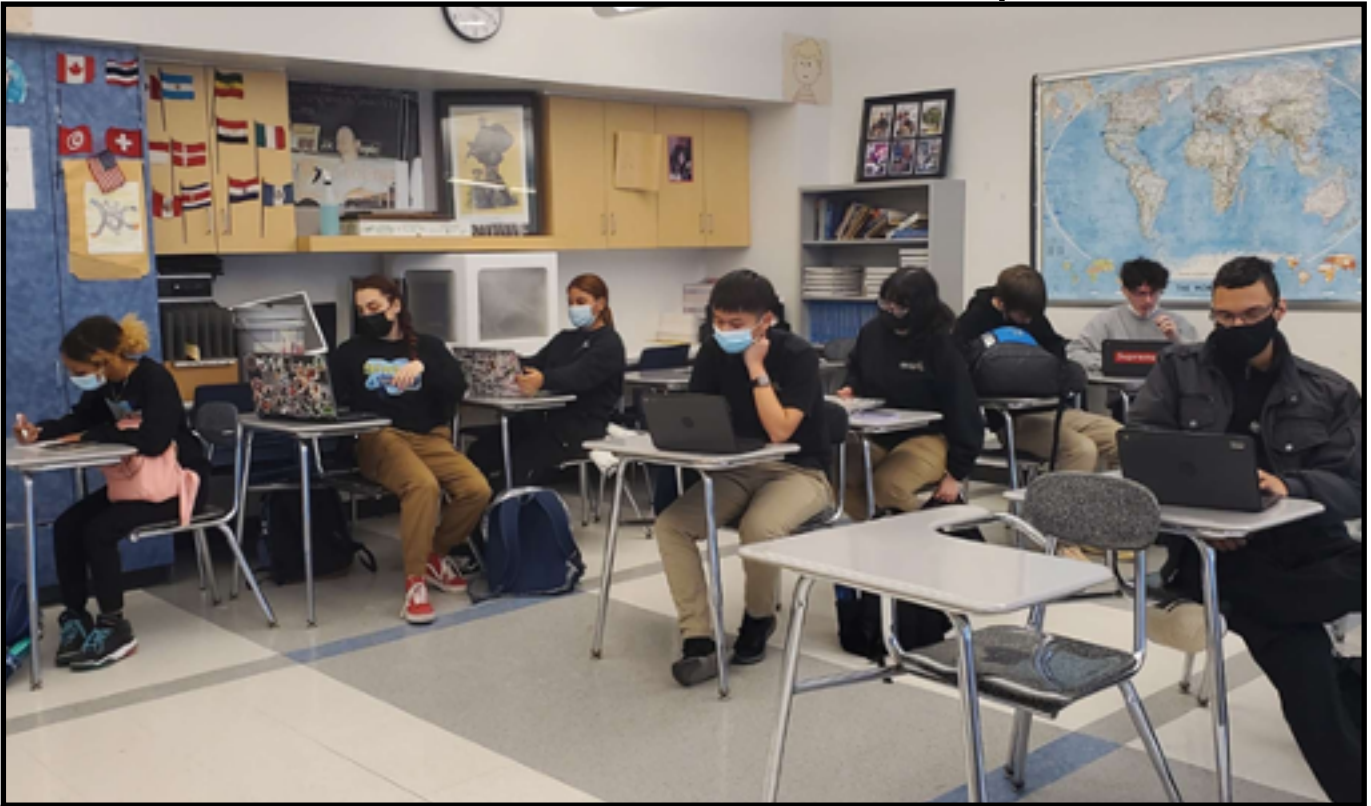
"I would suggest a bathroom monitor outside the restrooms and a sign-in/sign-out sheet with that monitor" Marks said.

Junior, Joshua Tobar referenced how the new change is time consuming, "In the morning I have to go from the third floor all the way downstairs."

Until further notice, students will only have access to the single bathroom on the first floor.



# Reformed Academic Access Expectations



Photograph By: Allison Escamilla-Alvarado

Pictured Above: Students sitting in an Academic Access working on outstanding assignments. Row 1 (left to right): Yamilka Hernandez, Emily Payton, Emmy Montilla. Row 2 (left to right): Nathan Dong, Luisa Melendez, James Van Stone, David Rivera and Kevin Cancel.

By: Allison Escamilla-Alvarado

New Academic Access expectations were rolled out in Nov. in an effort to increase student usage of access time to improve grades.

The new guidelines include teachers having students check their grades, work on outstanding assignments, and, complete an Exit Slip detailing what they worked on during that class period.

“The exit ticket is collecting [student’s] self reflection data which will show us what [students] work[ed] on” said Related

Education Department Head, Mrs. DelPiano.

“These were always the expectations for academic access

***“These were always the expectations for academic access and students just lost sight of what academic access really was.”***

and students just lost sight of what academic access really was. [The intention is to] help people remember the purpose” said Mrs. Lavorgna.

“[Students] were not using the academic access time to make up work and get extra help where they need it” said DelPiano.

Some students consider Academic Access to be a free period and do not actually complete outstanding assignments or seek help from teachers.

“If I do need help I will go to a teacher” said junior Nathan Andujar.

Mrs. DelPiano’s advice to students is to, “Make sure you are using that in-school time to get caught up on your work which will lessen what you have to do outside of school.”



# Kaynor Students Prepare For SkillsUSA



Photograph By: Cynthia Kenney

Pictured Above: Jake Simoes (Top Left), Jake Ashmore (Bottom Left), and Brandon Jenkins-Garcia (Right) pose with their awards from previous SkillsUSA Competitions.

By: Anthony Valenzuela

SkillsUSA allows for great opportunities and Mrs. Kenney is looking for more student volunteers.

If given the time and effort, all students can benefit from the program.

"SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers, and

industry professionals helping students prepare for careers in their trade and in skilled service occupations," said Mrs. Kenney, SkillsUSA Advisor.

The collaboration between students and teachers has, in some cases, resulted in job offers and even on-the-spot job offers.

Students participate against other technical high schools across the state and potentially the country.

SkillsUSA allows students the opportunity to showcase their talents and skills.

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# Last Day Pushed Back Due To Snow

By: Pasquale Petroniro

Due to recent snow days, the tentative last day of school is now Jun 21.

Assistant Principal, Mr. Friedman was hoping for different weather outcomes so that 2-Hour Delays could be utilized more regularly.

"Two-hour delays are way more effective than snow days. It doesn't add days to the end of the year and in most circumstances, kids can still make it to school on time" Friedman said.

"The bottom line is that two-hour delays should be used more often" he added.

"It takes away students' summer and free time they have and can set students back, [toward the end of the year] the days will feel like they are dragging on" said senior Joseph Stasik.

"I hope that moving forward they have normal snow day cancellations" said senior Ryan Lang.

"[Administration] should switch to virtual [learning] to guarantee the kids will get out on time" added Lang.

According to Mr. Friedman, "The plan for snow days and



Photograph By: Pasquale Petroniro

Pictured Above: Mr. Friedman getting ready to put in some long hours plowing to keep the parking lot spotless for a recent delayed opening.

the school calendar have been clearly established. Currently, virtual learning is not an option."

"I don't think there are too many snow days, because Waterbury's road treatment is terrible" said Ryan Lang.

"I don't believe 2-hour delays are more beneficial than snow days because we don't get a ton of days off and,

snow days can be a relaxing, chill day, stress-free" said Stasik.

"When students go to school all week for multiple hours it tends to exhaust [us] causing laziness."

"If we keep the [few] snow days we have, it gives students the opportunity to recoup and take a breather from school," added Stasik.

## Senior Picnic: Guide to Holiday Hill Activities



Photograph By: Holiday Hill, May 17, 2018, "Congrats to QU class of 2018!"

Pictured Above: Quinnipiac University class of 2018 lounges at one of the pools at Holiday Hill.

By: Hersh Joshi

The Class of 2022 has a Senior Picnic planned in May, and will be attending Holiday Hill.

Holiday Hill has a variety of aquatic activities including canoes, paddle boats, rowboats, and kayaks.

All of these activities are located at the lake on the property. Holiday Hill also has two pools and a bath house.

Basketball, badminton, a rock climbing wall, volleyball, tennis, baseball, and mini golf are among the other leisure activities offered.

A large section of the property is dedicated to these sports so there is more than enough room for everyone to enjoy them.

Finally, there are various tents and pavilions for people to sit back and relax and eat.

According the Holiday Hill website, "Guests should bring bathing suits, towels and tennis equipment (if they are planning to swim and play tennis, that is)."

"Holiday Hill provides all other sporting equipment. Guests should also dress

appropriately for the weather and bring sunscreen if desired. And of course, a fun attitude will ensure a terrific experience."

The property owners describe the property as "200-acre, private resort located on the Cheshire/Prospect town line in central Connecticut."

One thing to note is that they do offer horseback riding at an extra cost.

The Senior Picnic is scheduled for Monday May 23 and is an all-day event.



# Sports

## Boys Team 6-14 As Season Comes To A Close



[robnunley54]. (2022, January 14). @watertown\_athletics @kt\_athletes. Retrieved from [instagram.com/p/CYtUoZgrb6W/?utm\\_medium=copy\\_link](https://www.instagram.com/p/CYtUoZgrb6W/?utm_medium=copy_link)

By: Daniel Useda

The Kaynor Tech. Boys Basketball team is mid-way through the season with a 6-14 record. According to Head

Coach Spellman, the team is "Young and hungry, a lot of kids will be looking to prove themselves which is something to look forward to."

"I expect [Morales] to be a key player for this year. [We] have some good size in Justin Marquez and Aidan Marveck."

According to Spellman, senior, Michael Morales, is "a hard worker and can score."

"Last year was a covid year, it didn't count for statistics, a lot of kids who didn't get play time got playtime, and it should help us in the long run."

"[Covid] was a positive thing, it gave [players] a lot of opportunity, because of the year it was, it worked out in our favor."

"[My] freshman year I was scared of [Coach Spellman], but he's actually a really amazing coach" Michael Morales said.

"He taught me how to perfect my game, taught me a couple tips and tricks" Morales added.

The Panthers take on the Wolcott Wildcats at home Mar. 9, at 6:30 P.M.

# Coaching Turnover For Girls Basketball Team



Photograph By: Yamilett Rivera

Pictured Above: (Left) Coach Robert Wallace huddles up with the team. (Right) Coach Wallace and Coach Tim Giammatteo watch as the team plays defense against the Kennedy High School Lady Eagles.

By: Nancy Nham

The Kaynor Tech. Girls Basketball Team hired two new coaches for the 2021-2022 season, Head Coach Robert Wallace and Assistant Coach Tim Giammatteo.

Coach Wallace is a physical education instructor and health teacher and Coach Giammatteo is an electronics instructor.

"I am very excited for the opportunity to both work at Kaynor and coach at Kaynor"

Wallace said of his new roles.

"I miss coaching... this is my 19th year teaching so I've coached about 14 or 15 of those years at all different levels" he added.

"I hope to lead by example and demonstrate good work ethic" Giammatteo said.

Wallace planned his practices to include work on fundamentals, and implementing both offensive and defensive drills.

Both Wallace and Giammatteo have experience as players and coaches on various sports teams.

The season is off to a great start according to junior Lilliana Moreno.

"Practices are a lot but [they] definitely push us to learn more and do better during games" Moreno said.

"The new coaches are great" she added.



# Super Bowl LVI Feat. Two No. 1 Draft Picks



Picture By: Michael Tellado

Pictured Above: A pigskin takes center field at the Kaynor Athletic Fields, Waterbury, CT, 06708.

By: Michael Tellado

On Sunday, Feb. 13, 70, 240 spectators from around the world will watch two teams face off for the NFL Championship.

As of Dec. 2021 qualifying candidates for the super bowl included the Green Bay Packers, the Kansas City Chiefs, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and the Buffalo Bills.

Super Bowl LVI will take place at the SoFi Stadium in Inglewood California. Leading up to this year's

Super Bowl, the Buffalo Bills have never won a super bowl, while the Kansas City Chiefs have won two Super Bowls, one in 1970 and another in 2020.

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers have also won two Super Bowl Championships one in 2003 and another one in 2021.

Finally, the Green Bay Packers have won four, all together, they won back-to-back in 1967 and 1968 then in 1997 and 2011.

Judging by team records this

season, the Packers are most likely to be contenders in this year's super bowl.

Other teams that still qualify but are not as likely to make it are the Tennessee Titans, Los Angeles Rams, and the Dallas Cowboys.

The Super Bowl set to take place on Feb. 13 in Los Angeles, looks to feature two number one draft picks Cincinnati's Joe Burrow and Matthew Stafford from the



# Features

## A Lesbian's Take On "The Prom"

By: Isabella Minacci

The movie "The Prom," written and directed by Chad Beguelin and Bob Martin, has been available on Netflix for a year.

The stage-play it takes it's score from, follows the same premise as the movie, but the thing it does better than the movie is show the main relationship in a better light.

The premise of the movie is that Emma Nolan, a high school senior in Indiana, wants to bring her girlfriend to prom.

The school cancels it because they don't want her to attend, and are unwilling to change their rules.

Emma's girlfriend, Alyssa is a type-A person because of her cheerleading career and constant need to earn straight A's and blue ribbons.

Her mother happens to be the PTA president and is partially responsible for the canceling of prom. Down-on-their-luck actors heard about this predicament on Twitter, and made their way to Indiana to lend a hand.

The things that sets the movie



Photo Credit: [theprommusical]. (2021, December 4). OnThisDay in 2020, TheProm Netflix-original film directed by Ryan Murphy made its theatrical release before arriving on Netflix! #ThePromMusical. Retrieved from [https://www.instagram.com/p/CXEuLtkMkU9/?utm\\_source=ig\\_web\\_copy\\_link](https://www.instagram.com/p/CXEuLtkMkU9/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link)

and Alyssa's.

One of the notable scenes cut from the movie is the song "You Happened." Alyssa sings to Emma, "Before I met you, I was a mess, not honest with myself, I confess." This was kept in the Broadway version but not in the film.

Overall, the movie is a step in the right direction in facing homophobia and lesbian representation. But, it could've been more truthful.

The movie's main plot is driven by Emma and Alyssa and how 'controversial' their relationship is.

The cut scenes between Emma and Alyssa were hurtful.

It's not common to find stories about healthy sapphic high school relationships, which is why I've adored the The Prom story for so long.

apart from the Broadway musical is that the movie seems to focus more on the straight relationships.

Emma's principal, Tom Hawkins, and one of the Broadway actresses, Dee Dee Allen are a straight couple in the film. Their relationship was much more fleshed out than Emma

The soundtrack cuts and scene changes felt hurtful, and almost targeted.

The only thing done right is that Ariana DeBose and Jo Ellen Pellman are queer women, and it felt right to have them play lesbians in this movie.

# How-To Play Valorant: A First Person Shooter Game



Photograph by: David Rivero

Pictured Above: Senior Joseph Stasik defending the B-Site on Valorant.

By: David Rivero

Valorant is a game that attracts users from around the world due to its intensive game-play and visually pleasing graphics, while still being able to run on lower-end computers without impacting the game-play dramatically.

Valorant is a futuristic and immersive first-person shooter game, developed by a popular video game company Riot Games.

Riot Games also developed the ever-popular MMORPG game League of Legends.

The game encompasses a 5v5 situation featuring real players.

Each player has to choose a different agent and each agent has a different set of abilities that they must use to win the round.

An example of these abilities would be the

agent ,Sage, whose ultimate ability is being able to revive a player on their team after collecting a certain amount of points.

Your team has two objectives during a match, starting off by either attacking or defending and switching after 12 rounds are completed.

The goal of the attacking team is to plant a spike at one of the sites in the selected map for the match.

After placing the spike, the team is supposed to fight off the opposing team giving the spike time to ignite.

After igniting, the attacking team will win the round moving on to the next.

The goal of the defending team is to defend the sites and take out the attacking team before they can place the spike.

If the attacking team manages to place the

spike, the defending team will have to defuse it.

This required to be defused even if the attacking team's members have been eliminated.

Players are encouraged to strategically coordinate with their teammates in order to win the round.

The abilities connected to each person's agent can be used to give the team an advantage, if used correctly.

Players with poor communication skills tend to have lower success rates and end up losing to the opposing team.

According to dexerto.com, "The game maintains an estimated 12 million monthly active players each month, peaking in July with roughly 15 million active players that month."

# Opinion: Gas Prices & The Cost Of Inflation



Photograph By: Pasquale Petroniro

Pictured Above: High gas prices shown at Cumberland Farms on Meriden Road in Waterbury, CT

By: Pasquale Petroniro

Many consumers have been a victim of the drastic effects of inflation.

Gas costs have hit astronomic heights as have both food and general car maintenance costs.

Why does inflation exist? The government is pumping money into the economy through the stock market. They have pumped trillions of dollars into it.

The United States is in trillions of dollars of debt, and can only afford to maintain current living styles if the

government prints more money.

Printing more money would drive inflation through the roof.

The dollar being worth less makes fuel and consumer goods cost more.

In Jan. of 2021, the regular cost for gasoline was roughly \$2.17 a gallon and now regular gas averages around \$3.65 a gallon more.

That is around a 55% increase from Sept. of 2020.

But with pipelines and drilling and ways to get oil in America getting more scarce, prices

are expected to go even higher.

The current administration's decision to close down drilling and native oil gathering is going to cripple the economy even moreso.

What is the point of shutting the native oil industry down?

It seems to be a power play, because of global warming concerns.

We need oil and not being able to have our own and buy it from other countries just puts us on a price elevator which is another reason for the high fuel prices.



## Lin-Manuel Miranda's "Encanto," An Instant Hit



Photo by: Disney's Encanto, the\_.madrigals, September 29, 2021.

[https://www.instagram.com/p/CUaAdeoLBZx/?utm\\_medium=copy\\_link](https://www.instagram.com/p/CUaAdeoLBZx/?utm_medium=copy_link)

*Who: Class of 2022*

*What: Senior Prom*

*Where: Grand Oak Villa in Oakville CT.*

*When: June 3, 2022*

*Why: High School tradition, and to send the seniors off with a fun night!*



By: Allison Escamilla-Alvarado

"We don't talk about Bruno" is the new "Let It Go." The hit song from the film "Encanto" is one of many unforgettable songs from the Disney film "Encanto."

The film, about an extraordinary family called "The Madrigals," has gained more and more popularity recently.

Set in Colombia, the story is about a family that acquires a magical candle that gives every family member a special gift...except the protagonist, Mirabel.

All the gifts are unique and special, some are gifts people don't even expect.

Every character was created to be unique in their own way.

Everything is different for each character from the style characters wear, to the colors used, and even the skin tone of each character.

All clothing was unique and made for each character, specifically.

In addition to the choices for character wardrobe and skin tones, the sound and original score for the film has been highly touted.

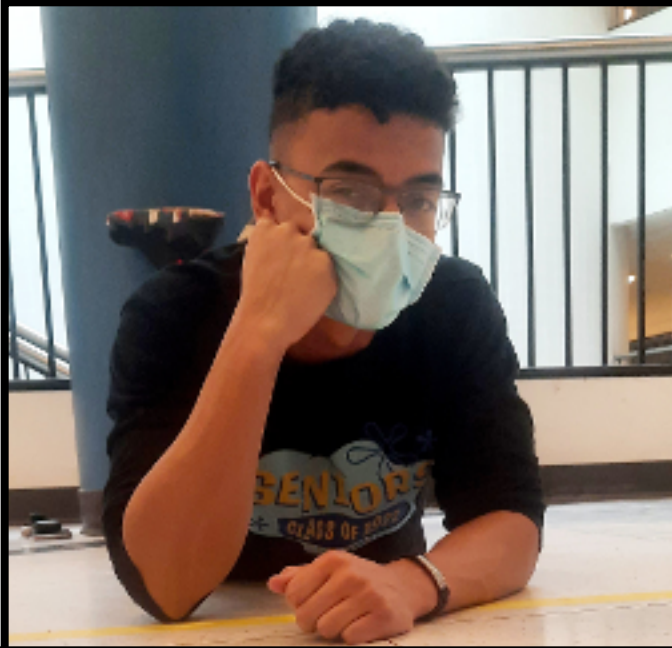
Lin-Manuel Miranda did a fantastic job writing the songs in the film.

All songs are "catchy" as a result of the hook and chorus along with the accompanying instrumental.

The movie truly encompasses the message of many Disney movies, the importance of family, kindness and staying together.

# He Said/She Said

## *Is Your Partner's Phone Off-Limits or Fair Game?*



Photograph by: Isabella Minacci

Pictured Above: Columnist Anthony Valenzuela poses in the hallway of the academic wing.

By: Anthony Valenzuela

A significant other should not be able to go through your phone, unless it's under SPECIFIC circumstances.

I view my phone as my personal property, and having anyone be able to go through my personal property at any point in time, whenever they want, feels like an invasion of privacy.

Not that I and/or every other dude has something to hide, ya know? But, it is a boundary that most people don't want others to cross.

To me, the specific circumstances when a significant other can go through your phone is if you are: already married to them, have three children, a mortgage, and have already passed your mid-life crisis.

Allowing your significant other to use your phone to play a game, watch a video, or go on social media is fine, especially, since you're "in love" or whatever...but only if the aforementioned requirements have been met.

If you go looking for something, you are going to find it and that is simply an argument waiting to happen because they may not know the context or situation of what they found.

I don't know about you but I don't like arguing and it's just easier for everyone to have their own space and have mutual trust between one another.



Photograph by: Isabella Minacci

Pictured Above: Columnist Nancy Nham poses in the hallway of the academic wing.

By: Nancy Nham

Why grab your phone when your partner attempts to look at something? Potentially, he or she may not be trying to look for anything specific. They could be merely wanting something to do.

It seems untrustworthy for someone to snatch their phone out of a significant others hand before they even have a chance to see what's on the screen. Consider the image you are projecting to him or her.

Even if you give your significant other an "allowance" after a certain stage in life, what does that say about the trust level of your relationship prior to that stage?

It plants the idea that you're hiding something from him or her, and are only together as an experiment to see if you would last until certain point. Leaving your partner unsure about intentions.

If a person wants the benefit of the doubt and, say that your significant other was in fact looking for something specific, that just adds more of a reason why he or she could be worried.

Their choice to peruse your phone to ease their anxiety about what you could be doing can be seen as judgmental and rude.

Looking through a significant other's phone can be perceived as showing you are trustworthy.

It shows that you have nothing to hide, so the trust between you is not second guessed.



# Book Review of Kino's Journey

## Traveling to the World of Kino

By Daniel Useda

Kino's Journey the Beautiful World, or Kino's Journey, is an adventure novel series that follows a young girl named Kino, and her motorcycle partner named Hermes, as they travel.

Written by Keiichi Sigsawa and illustrated by Kouhaku Kuroboshi, the story is nonlinear.

The characters travel from country to country, typically meeting people and hearing stories about their culture or customs, only staying for three days, usually with a sort of question or statement on psychologically and morality. The stories all take place around the same time, but without a direct timeline there is no need for direct continuity. This allows the stories to be more focused on the events in that story, which is one of the more unique things that I like about it. It lets the reader pick up from anywhere and not feel out of place.

The chemistry between Kino and Hermes is simple to understand but is enjoyable, the classic straight woman and the more joking partner.

From banter or arguments to heart to heart moments, you can tell that they care deeply for each other.

There are many serious, depressing moments making you question things about life, but also has many moments of inspiring stories of overcoming challenges. They all fit perfectly as the characters are written in a way where no matter the tone of the story they're in, it never feels out of place.

One of my personal favorite stories is from the animated series, entitled 'Colosseum.'

We briefly see a silent flashback of

her talking with a woman. After some banter between Kino and Hermes, she reaches a country and is told by entering that she is entered into a contest for citizenship in which you fight to the death in a tournament.

She is told the history, and how the previous king was killed by the current, making it more chaotic and more popular, so they began a tournament for a high class citizenship and whoever wins gets to make a new rule.

She initially doesn't want to enter, one of her common phrases is how she doesn't want to play god, deciding who gets to live and die. However, when she asks about the woman from the flashback, she is told that, she didn't know about the citizenship rule. She and her husband came to the country, and while she was able to surrender in the tournament, her husband wasn't so lucky. The guards laugh at them, and she interrupts them to accept the tournament.

When Hermes' asks why she entered when previously had said no, she says that she just wants to test her skills, trying to justify her selfish reason for entering.

After entering the tournament you meet a number of people who all are there for a different reason. My favorite example is an assassin who came in hopes of attaining a high class citizenship.

He was born and raised as a disposal killer and believed he'd die one, yet in a place like this, he could live a life of luxury he never thought was possible for someone like him. After losing, he attempts to kill himself, being stopped by Kino, however, even though he tried to kill her. I love how it shows that despite



Section 23. (2017). Kino's Journey 2017 DVD collection box art. [Cartoon]. [kinosjourney.fandom.com/wiki/DVD\\_%EF%BD%A5\\_](https://kinosjourney.fandom.com/wiki/DVD_%EF%BD%A5_)

how most would view this place as a horrible battle-to-the-death arena, there will always be someone who finds value in it.

She makes it to the end of the tournament without killing anyone, but in her final fight she starts talking about how she plans to end it with a 'bang.'

During the fight she has the advantage against her opponent. She fires the shot, and it lands directly into the king's skull, killing him instantly as the crowd is in shock. She breaks the silence and her new rule is that the high class citizens will have to fight to the death to decide who the new king is. Those who don't want to fight can simply leave.

But within all this brutality, poverty and death there is beauty, as the subtitle says, "The world is not beautiful, therefore it is." 4.5/5



# Peacemaker: T.V. Review



Photo credit: [hvomaxpeacemaker] (December 3, 2021) This whole thing is a group effort that I carry on my shoulders. [https://www.instagram.com/p/CXBmLWPJ7dr?utm\\_medium=copy\\_link](https://www.instagram.com/p/CXBmLWPJ7dr?utm_medium=copy_link)

By: Greg Mason

The director of the latest Suicide Squad movie, James Gunn, recently released a show on HBO Max about one of his movies main characters, Peacemaker.

The show picks up right where the movie leaves off and continues Peacemaker's story, along with new and returning characters.

James Gunn has directed movies for both Marvel and DC, and he puts his own spin on these movies that separate themselves from the others.

A lot of the movies made by DC are

usually dark and pretty serious.

Gunn turns this around by bringing more comedy into Peacemaker, and lightening the tone overall. It's refreshing to watch a show that has fun with its characters and concepts, and doesn't stick to a singular formula.

Along with comedy, the characters in Peacemaker feel more real and relatable than other characters do.

They talk to each other and have real conversations instead of the usual back and forth jokes you can expect from Marvel movies.

## COVID Cont.

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In Connecticut, many students are overwhelmed with restrictions such as social distancing, assigned seating, and masks. Events are being postponed, such as the Candy Cane Lane event, due to the increase in COVID-19 infections.

Senior, Nancy Nham said "It's very difficult to fight something you cannot see or physically touch. COVID is something we're just going to have to live with."

Many students gave up hope on things ever going back to the way it was, "it seems too far-fetched," senior Ahmed Shabbaz said.

In a recent announcement on Jan. 5 Principal Dr. Hilliard said "In an effort to keep our school running and everyone healthy, please continue to self-monitor and screen for COVID at home."

"If your student is showing any signs of illness, keep them home and get tested as soon as possible," Hilliard added.

"If your student tests positive, please let us know immediately. Our priority is to keep our buildings open and students in school, and we will do everything we can to allow for that."

The Kaynor Technical High School staff is working hard and is determined to keep the school safe and open.

Mrs. Hernandez always advises members of the school community to "Take care, stay healthy, and be safe" in her messages on Parent Square and GoogleClassroom.

Although the pandemic has put many through countless obstacles and conflict, the Kaynor Tech. students, staff, and parents, continue to be patient and persistent.

Adjusting to changes is difficult and regularly presents challenges, however, as the axiom goes, "we are all in this together."

## Class of 2022 Spirit Week

- Apr. 11- Apr. 14.
- Students may pay \$2 per day, or \$5 for the entire week.
- All funds raised will benefit the Class of 2022 and help defray the cost of other senior activities.
- Bracelets will be sold each day in the atrium prior to homeroom.
- For more information, contact Mrs. Petrucci at [anne.petrucci@cthss.org](mailto:anne.petrucci@cthss.org) or Mrs. Henriquez [lisa.henriquez@cthss.org](mailto:lisa.henriquez@cthss.org).



## OpEd--Jordan v. James: Who Is More Iconic?

By: Imraan Feroz

Michael Jordan is an amazing athlete, but does he compare to LeBron James?

James's stats show that he is a way more efficient player than Jordan.

Although Michael Jordan has more championship rings that means nothing.

Jordan has faced teams that weren't even fully formed yet to get to the championship!

In 2020, James carried his new team single-handedly and beat other super star teams. James has shown he's an all-around athletic team player with his generosity with the ball.

Michael Jordan just shoots mid-range shots.

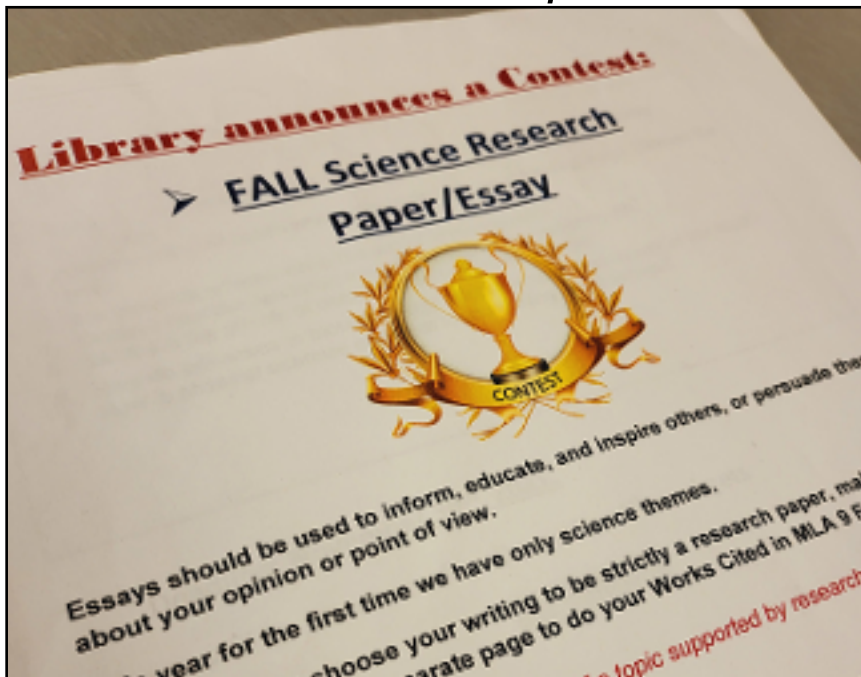
One thing I'll give Michael Jordan is he is definitely a more acrobatic player due to his lean skinny size which allows him to fly around the court.

But have you seen James's movement and speed? He's 37 years old moving like he's 18.

He is literally double the size of Michael Jordan too! Needless to say, James is the greatest basketball player of all time.



## Not Enough Participants For Fall Science Research Paper Contest



By: Greg Mason

The Library Media Specialist, Mrs. Marzec holds an annual Fall Essay Contest, and the top three winners earn cash prizes.

For the past five years Mrs. Marzec has held an essay writing contest with different themes and topics each year.

"In the past we've done poetry, humanity, and this year the theme [was] science."

Along with the theme, students are presented with two topics to choose from.

Mrs. Marzec tries to base these topics off of things that would be relevant in the students lives, and things that they would be interested in writing about.

"The topics are based off of things happening in the media, or things that the students would care about," Marzec said.

The students are able to write their response in one of two ways, they

can either write a factual essay where they only present facts about the topic; or they can write an opinionated essay on the topic.

When the contest ends, Mrs. Marzec prints out multiple copies of each essay without the students' names on them.

Then she hands out the copies to the judges, which then give a score based off of a point system to decide who wins.

The winner is announced approximately a week later.

Unfortunately, this year there weren't enough participants to go through with the contest.

So this time around there won't be a winner, but hopefully next year more students will decide to join and share their writing skills with the rest of the school.

If Mrs. Marzec decides to do this again next year, she may use the same theme or even try a new one, we'll just have to wait and see!

## "To Write Love On Her Arms" Nonprofit

By: Evean Roman

To Write Love On Her Arms is a non-profit organization. The organization started with the founder, Jamie Tworowski, trying to help out his friend, Renee Yohe.

She was suffering from addiction, depression, self-injury, and suicidal thoughts. Tworowski helped her get into a treatment facility and helped her pay the cost. Tworowski sold shirts to make the money to pay for her treatments.

"To Write Love On Her Arms," also represented a goal—to believe that a better life is possible.

In 2007, "To Write Love On Her Arms" became an official non-profit organization.

Since 2006 they had, responded to 210,000 messages from people around the world and traveled over 3.8 million miles to meet people in their communities. They also shared over 1,100+ blog posts and launched a podcast.

"To Write Love On Her Arms" offers a find help tool that shares up to 56,000 programs that are willing to help. They have donated over \$2.6 million to treatment and recovery to 105 unique organizations and counseling practices,

There are many ways to donate to the cause. You can buy their official merchandise from their website or just simply make a donation.

You can donate once or switch to monthly.

"To Write Love On Her Arms" also has a daily self-care app called *The Hopeful*.

## SkillsUSA Preparation Cont...



Photograph By: Cynthia Kenney

Photo Description: Zachary Persaud (Left) and Matthew Barber (Right) pose holding their SkillsUSA awards.

...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Student membership is free to all CTECS students.

Students are merely required to attend the monthly meetings and sign up to be a part of a committee.

The obligations that one would have to fulfill being an active member involve service to the community, assisting in school functions, fundraisers, recruitment for competitions, collaborating with the student body, elect officers annually, and establish committees.

Also, something very important to note is that SkillsUSA allows for great opportunities out in the workforce to be presented to students.

Involvement also allows one to build deep and lasting relationships with one's mentors in the program.

According to Electronics Teacher, Mr. Tim Giammatteo, "(SkillsUSA) really allows me to share my experiences in the industry with students and that's what Skills is all about."

"My shop teacher nominated me to participate and compete... and now I'm the secretary," said senior Jeileanys Ojeda.

SkillsUSA provides opportunities for students to interact with industry experienced mentors.

These mentors guide students and even provide some students with job opportunities at times.

SkillsUSA is an extremely valuable resource that Connecticut Technical Education and Career Systems students have access to.

The annual competition is an all-day event held on March 31.

## OpEd--Virtual Learning: A Thing Of The Past?

By: Selena Vazquez

For some students virtual learning was ideal. In 2020 most schools in the U.S. went to virtual learning.

Many secondary students got used to waking up later to merely sign into class. Some relished at the ability to sleep in.

For some, it was easier to learn virtually, and for others, it set them back.

In 2021 schools switched to allowing the option of virtual or in-person classes.

Some students remained virtual learners due to Covid-19 concerns, and others because it was the easiest option.

In 2022 schools are back to fully in-person learning with virtual learning option.

Personally, I was learning better virtually and it was easier for me to be able to do online learning and allowed me to attend school more often.

It seems unfair that we have no option to learn virtually because Covid -19 numbers are on the rise again, and for some students this is a concern.

For me, staying home and learning in an environment where I felt more comfortable was just easier.





# Kaynor Tech. Newsletter

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