

The Eagle

September 2020

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Our goal of The Eagle is to bring you and everyone you know the best news you can ever get from any school. With the return of Student of the Month, which will be released in the next issue, our newspaper will be better than ever. All thanks to Yearbook Editor, Jake Lambright, Editor-In-Chief MiKembria Nickerson, Eagle Co-editor, Josh Johnston, and the rest of The Eagle crew. We are looking forward to future editions of The Eagle.

T.E.C.H.S. Opens for Learning

And so it begins ... After a spring break that turned into a 23 week Covid shutdown, Texas Early College High School has resumed classes. "It's time to get to work!" says Principal Bob Garcia.

In reality the work hardly ended for school administrators, with much preparation being performed during the summer, even if at "social distances." Classrooms and Chromebooks were being sanitized, supplies of masks, shields, and hand-sanitizers were prepared. New protocol was developed to ensure safe classrooms: daily sanitizing, temperature checks, social distance requirements, required masks and hand-sanitizing. And administrators guaranteed every student had access to a computer and wifi, should "remote learning" become a necessity in the fall. It has. This year, students and parents have been given the choice to attend school, at the school, or to learn at home. The decision is made for a six-week period of time.

T.E.C.H.S. boasts 122 enrolled students this year, an increase of 10% over last year's enrollment. However, approximately half of the students learn at home. This transition to remote learning has been relatively easy for T.E.C.H.S, due to our existing online platform, Edgenuity, and T.E.C.H.S' reliance on technology. Many other public schools are scrambling to train students, parents, and teachers on how to learn via the internet, while we have been doing so long before the pandemic.

But this is not to say remote learning hasn't been a challenge for the school. "I'm beginning to see some of the at home learners starting to fall behind," Garcia warned. "The students coming to school have been doing a good job of keeping up." The fear among the teachers is that the flexibility and distractions, inherent outside of the classroom, may make it harder for some students to stay focused on their classes. In addition, some students need extra help, beyond what Edgenuity alone offers. For this reason, at home students are reminded that tutoring and help is still available from 1:00 to 2:45, Monday thru Thursday, at the school.

Happy September Birthday to the Following Students!

- September 4th, Macy Partee, (13)
- September 8th, Savanna Wilburn, (18)
- September 9th, Shelby Battershell, (17)
- September 10th, Alicia Hughey, (16)
- September 16th, Miguel Tamez, (18)
- September 17th, Baylee Wehmeyer, (14)
- September 20th, Brianna Arias, (18)
- September 20th, Charles Davis, (15)
- September 23rd, Ihandra Arias, (14)
- September 27th, Nathan Alexander, (18)
- September 28th, Sagan Jameson-Hatch (13)
- September 29th, Crystal Brown, (17)
- September 29th, Diana Rios-Valle (18)



Kaydence Smith and Jaleigh Littrell keeps Ms. Charlene company at 'office central'

Photo by Ariana Williams



Fist-bump Greetings from Mr. Garcia
Photo by Kaydence Smith

New Faces at TECHS

By: Taylor Skinner

Students from all different types of backgrounds come together to learn here at TECHS. This year is not any different, as TECHS has welcomed some new students into our classrooms. We've asked some of our new students some questions about their school year so far.

Out of all our classes, our Eight grade class is the only grade with a roster full of fresh faces. Riley Crites is one of our new students, and according to her, this school year so far is coming along great. "I really like how easy the work is," she says, "And everything is better here than at my old school." Although admitting she struggles with math, her favorite subject currently is English. Our english classes here allow for expansion of vocabulary and experience with reading all different types of genres of texts.

Another new eighth grader is Adrian Ulrich who comes from the Marshall school system. After not enjoying his experience at Marshall, he decided to come join TECHS. "I like being able to go at my own pace." Adrian says, "It's nice to just be able to sit down and do my work. Taking notes is simple enough" Adrian enjoys our History class due to its simplicity and content. He enjoys learning about the past and how to learn from past mistakes.

Mackenzie McGuire is a new face in the Ninth grade class. She says that here at TECHS learning is just easier. "I definitely like Panola much more." Mackenzie stated, "I just feel like i'm getting a better education here." She says that although keeping her grades up is difficult, she finds that while taking English, she enjoys learning.

Melton Houston is another new face at Texas Early College. He comes from Waskom High School and learned about TECHS from his friend, and now fellow classmate, Julian Mierop. What Melton likes best about our school is the ability to take dual credit courses. "I really like that I can take college classes already," Melton said.

We hope this article will remind you to take notice of the people around you. Just because someone is unfamiliar, doesn't mean they have to stay that way.



Left: Melton Houston can still smile while doing classwork Center: Adrian Ulrich takes a break from class for a photo-op Right: Mackenzie McGuire 'chills' during breaktime in 'the big room' Photo by Kaydence Smith

Jokes (answers on page 7)

By: Kaydence Smith and Jaleigh Lenz

1. What do you call a cow with 2 legs?
2. What has 4 wheels and flies?
3. What rhymes with orange?
4. Why did the nurse need a red pen at work?
5. What do you call a sheep covered in chocolate?
6. What does the nosey pepper do?
7. What was wife's reply when she was drawing her eyebrows too high?
8. How does a dog stop a movie?
9. What do you call a magic dog?
10. What did the traffic light say to the car?

A New Summer

By: Amma

This year summer looked different for everyone. Because of the virus and quarantines, most of us were stuck at home. During that time, we had to find new ways to spend our summer, since some of us could not run around with our friends. There were still many summer activities that we could have enjoyed like swimming, binge watching our favorite movies and shows, or even pulling all nighters. Even with these fun activities we missed out on a lot of friends get-togethers and had to find other ways to fill our time. Here are a few students and Mr. Garcia, and what creative things they did to fill their time.

Mr. Garcia said during this summer he spent his time on many house projects and trips to Lowes. "I got to build a playhouse for my granddaughter, and did many home projects." His favorite project was remodeling his "man cave" and buying a new shed. "I was up at the school a lot during the summer, as well, interviewing kids and preparing for the new school year." He still got to play golf on fridays during covid, but he didn't get to see granddaughters. "I missed that," he said. However, with all the time spent at home he got to spend more time with his wife, which he enjoyed.

Trevor Reeves said in order to fill his free time he dumped all his legos out on the living room floor (3 huge tubes to be exact). "My mom was shocked to see the mess!" he said. Trevor built with them for about 3 weeks, creating many things from lego city, star wars, and much more.

Jaleigh Littrell said she still got to hangout with friends during the summer. "We had fun going down Stagecoach Road and hanging out." Jaleigh and her friends opened a soap shop where they got to make all of the soaps and lotions. "It was fun to do, but my favorite part was getting to come up with all the fun scent names." Even though summer is over Jaleigh said her last trip will be coming up soon. "My dad is taking me to six flags this weekend!"

"I spent a lot of time working," Austin Slate said. When he wasn't working he was at home playing games on his Xbox, such as Call of Duty, Fortnite, and 2k. "I enjoyed getting to spend time with family, and hanging out with friends." Austin and his friends got to hang out at the Longview Mall together having fun.

Makynzie Lewis said she spent a lot of time making collages of her and her friends, and hanging out with them. "I enjoyed getting to go out to eat with my family more often." Her favorite part of the summer was going to her grandmas to play with her dog, and getting to go to Colorado to see her uncle. "When there was nothing else to, I just watched tv," she said.

Baylee Wehmeyer mused, "I missed not getting to go mudding on my four-wheeler this summer." Instead, she got to go to Colorado, where she went skiing and snowboarding while she was there. She also went shopping this summer with her mom, aunt, and cousins which she enjoyed. "My favorite part of the summer was getting to prepare for the new school year." Baylee was very excited to start her first year at T.E.C.H.S.

Even the Covid couldn't stop anyone from having as much fun as they could. Everyone did so many unique things, such as projects, spending time with family and friends, and doing their favorite activities. Even if there was a virus, that didn't stop them from having a great summer.

Jokes (answers)

By Kaydence Smith and Jaleigh Lenz

1. Lean Beef
2. A garbage Truck
3. No it doesn't
4. She needed to draw blood
5. A chocolate baaa
6. Get jalapenos business
7. She looked surprised
8. He presses paws
9. A labracadabrador
10. Don't look. I'm changing

Newspaper/Yearbook Rises to ‘the Cloud’

Big changes are in store for the Newspaper/Yearbook class this year. To further our training in digital media, Panola Schools has invested in new hardware and software for the class that hopes to stretch our capabilities beyond just the newspaper and yearbook. A big part of that change is Adobe Creative Cloud, with over a dozen different software apps that promise to keep all students learning, active, and creative.

The Adobe Creative Cloud will give Newspaper and Yearbook students access to some of the most popular software in professional media. “InDesign” will allow students to create newspaper and yearbook spreads with increased flexibility, greater collaboration, and more tech tools. The photo editing software, “Photoshop,” will allow students to manipulate, enhance, and easily integrate photos into our publications. Likewise, “Illustrator” can be incorporated into our media projects, and gives the artists in the class a powerful digital tool to produce works of art. Beyond print, InDesign media creations are easily converted into html format allowing web publishing.

Other Adobe applications present new ventures for the class. “Premier Pro” is a video-editing app that will allow students to create films, documentaries, or advertisements. “Animate” and “Character Animator” offers artists and cartoon animators a way to bring their creations to life. “Audition” is an audio recording app that provides recording, mixing, and restoring capabilities. And “Dreamweaver” can be used to design and develop websites that puts it all on the web.

The changes made to the Principles of Art and A/V technology class, aka “Journalism” are sure to challenge the students this year. “I think some of the students sign-up for newspaper because they think it will be all fun and play,” said Mr. Grace, the sponsor/teacher for the class. “I still believe it will be fun, but the new technology will definitely bump up the learning curve for the kids.”

Computer Programming Spring 2021

If enough of you are interested, you can learn to program in the "C" language. "C" is the origin of most modern programming languages: C++, JAVA, PYTHON, and C# are the best examples. The textbook is: PROGRAMMING C, THE ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS GUIDE. You can borrow one if you would like to see.

Everyone will have a laptop assigned for the class. That way you can work on your assignments at home. We will use a software tool called an “Integrated Development Environment.” It makes writing and testing your code much easier. The class will meet two days each week (Mon & Wed, or Tue & Thu) at 1:30 PM. Each class will run 75 minutes.

Details:

- Algebra I is a pre-requisite.
- This class is available to Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors.
- The class is limited to 10 students.
- You must remain on schedule and passing all of your Edgenuity and Panola College classes.

Send an e-mail to Mr. Bill at bmferrin@panolaschools.net if you are interested.



Newcomers to the Journalism class:

Macy Partee,
Karlee Sawyer,
Taylor Skinner (horizontal),
Yasmine Else



Mr. Bill ready to compute
Photo by Kaydence Smith

Why Donald Trump Should Win The Election

By: Josh Johnston

I'm sure you've heard of the upcoming presidential election of 2020, an election that is more prominent and larger than the last election. It's impossible to not hear the numerous rumors that are surrounding Donald Trump. I am not a "Trumper," but neither do I think Joe Biden is what many think he is. So if everyone hates Donald Trump, why should we vote for him?

A simple answer: Donald Trump has done a lot for America. Ever since he first stepped foot into office, Donald Trump has lowered the unemployment rate to its lowest point that it's been since 1963, even lowering the unemployment rate for African and Latino Americans. And if you think about it, he's actually great for us in the Lone Star State of Texas. Without him, the oil fields that support our friends and family would be heavily regulated. If Joe Biden is elected, our economy would go downhill, and millions of families will be in a difficult situation.

In response to the Coronavirus, Trump has given every U.S. citizen a stimulus check. Joe Biden and everyone else think that Trump handled the virus poorly, downplaying its severity. He didn't want to scare people, or hurt the economy, even though he knew that it was coming.

Even though he managed to add an enormous amount of debt of \$1 trillion dollars, that's only 1/10th of his predecessor, Barack Obama.

What we should also know is that Joe Biden and the Democratic Congress is trying to make Donald Trump look bad so he won't win his second presidential term. The Democratic Congress and Joe Biden have been trying to put a hole in his name, and they continue to do so as we speak.

I don't understand why people act like they hate him. In my point of view, he was elected for a reason. Trump has done so much that's right for this country, and people continue to complain about him. He's not the worst president; he's just portrayed poorly in the media. The good outweighs the bad.

If Donald Trump isn't elected for his second presidential term, many states in the south would feel an economical backlash after the next election. He's done much more than most of our presidents. If we vote for Donald Trump, he would continue to do great things for our economy, along with many other things. I may not be a Trump supporter, but I am someone who knows the right and wrong about Donald J. Trump.

This fall Americans will have to choose between Joe Biden and Donald Trump. They will make decisions that will affect the rest of our lives. Climate change, gun laws, and civil rights are only a few of the laws that will affect our lives.

The Biden campaign has announced a plan that would insure that the US achieves a 100% clean energy economy. This includes a plan for the US to reach net-zero emissions no later than 2050. This is important because according to the World Wildlife Fund, if action is not taken now, within our lifetime the sea levels will rise almost two feet. That may not seem like much, but this is enough to cause severe flooding, greater hurricane impact and will submerge the land where over 1 billion people live today.

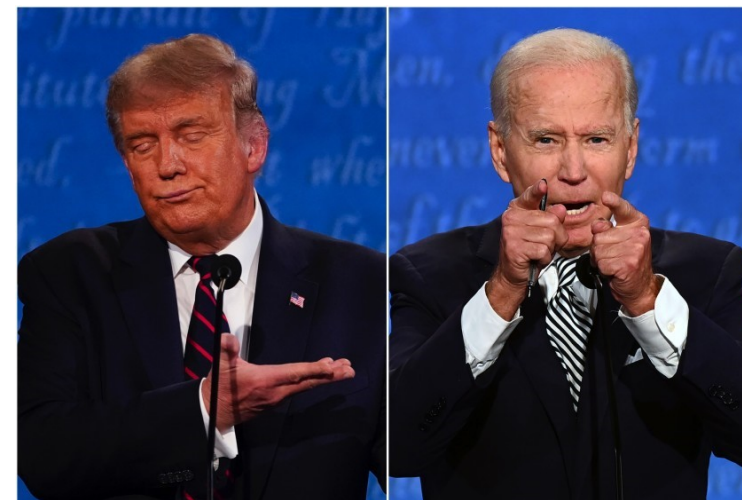
Since many schools around the country have suffered gun violence and mass shootings, gun laws are important to those who are still in school. Biden has a plan to help stop gun violence in the US. His plan is to enact universal background checks, an assault rifle ban, and more funding to communities to enforce existing gun laws. Part of that is also "Red Flag" laws. A Red Flag Law is a law that would allow law enforcement to temporarily remove firearms from a home if a person is found to be a risk to themselves or others.

So if someone was at risk of committing suicide, the guns could be taken away temporarily. Right now there are a lot of people who have been discriminated against for a very long time. Improvements have been slow but many Americans see that those gains are reversing and life is becoming more unequal for people of color, women, and people in the LGBTQ+ community. It is important that all people in America have the same rights and responsibilities. If Joe Biden is elected he will enact many laws that help reduce violence, increase equal protection of the law, equality in the workplace and in school, and that all people have equal rights to health care. His administration will hope to set an example of tolerance and equity and return America to a symbol of equality to other nations around the world. The American public must make a decision in just a few weeks. With so many issues facing our country today, we need a president that knows leadership, hard-work, and compassion for the American people. Joe Biden is the right man for this choice. We can't allow Donald Trump to stand any longer.



Decision 2020: Who do you support?

Photo: Fox News



President Donald Trump faced off with former VP Joe Biden in the first televised debate on Sept. 29th 2020

Photo: Los Angeles Times



Chris Wallace moderates what became a raucous debate.

Photo: Reuters