



# Viking Voice

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Kingsburg High School

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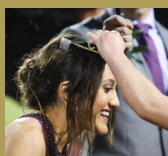


**Queen Taryn  
Irigoyen &  
King Luke  
Luttrell**

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## VIKING VOICE



Kingsburg High School 2020-2021

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**Special Thanks to Johnie Thomsen for Photography!**

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### Letters to the Editors

Email your comments, opinions, and ideas on this issue's articles to the Viking Voice at [6004356@stu.kingsburghigh.com](mailto:6004356@stu.kingsburghigh.com). Your responses may be published next issue!

Check out the Viking Valor page at [kingsburghigh.com](http://kingsburghigh.com)

# Homecoming Dress Up Days Inspire Engagement

By Camille Zavala  
Staff Reporter

With COVID-19 still running rampant, the need for school spirit is practically dire. Homecoming week brought the perfect opportunity for students and staff alike to join together and celebrate the school, the community and their class.

Homecoming week activities at KHS date back to over half a century ago, a time where the Homecoming queen candidates were hand picked by the football team and the role of homecoming king was non-existent. The week leading up to the packed football game included activities such as a bonfire and the making of a throne for the newly crowned homecoming queen to sit at on the 40 yard line.

Dress up days were a little bit different, with no themes. However, kids often showed up to school in more formal attire than normal, explained Judy Ostrom, 1966 KHS graduate.

Dress up days have been organized the week among other activities such as a rally, a homecoming court and activities during the transition time. These dress up days are made to reflect the 4 class dance genres.

On Monday, students were encouraged to wear their best 50's garb for "Crusin thru the 50's." The groovy vibe for Tuesday was "Dancing Disco." Wednesday brought out everyone's inner cowboy with "Western Wednesday." With traveling back in time for a day, Thursday brought "Throwback Thursday" to the plate. Friday, as always, was the traditional "Green and Gold" to boost Viking pride.

Students and teachers alike are encouraged to participate in the dress up days whether they are in-person or distance learning.

When asked about her emotions towards Homecoming this year despite the restrictions we face, KHS Freshman Kelcey Brett responded, "I'm very excited that Homecoming is happening, especially since there weren't any other school events this year."

Freshman Homecoming Atten-

dant Addison Murguia is grateful to get to participate in anything in this modified school year.

"I'm just glad we are even getting the chance to do anything this year," she said. "I think it's something fun to look forward to since we have had such a weird year."

Brett has vowed to not let the restrictions dampen the mood, all while making sure to follow the correct protocol. "I feel like in order to make it happen we must follow the restrictions," she stated.

"It will be challenging but I feel like everyone feels the same way about Homecoming happening," Brett continued.

As for the dress up days, both girls say they're all in. "I do plan on participating in the dress up days. I feel like school spirit is something we all need, especially with the new circumstances," interpreted Brett.

Murguia agreed, "I think that if people want something fun then they will dress up and it will boost the school spirit. It's a safe way to bring something fun to look forward to!"

### Monday: Crusing Thru the 50's



### Tuesday: Dancing Disco



### FRIDAY: GREEN & GOLD



### WESTERN WEDNESDAY



### THROWBACK THURSDAY



# Homecoming Week Celebrations, Finally!

By Avneet Purewal  
Editor-in-Chief

Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, KHS ASB and administration have been working hard to make the 2020-21 school year as normal as possible. Homecoming festivities, with modifications, were held from March 15 to March 19th. Seniors Taryn Irigoyen and Luke Luttrell were crowned the KHS 2021 Queen and King.

The Homecoming festivities included dress-up days, Homecoming candidate competitions, a live-streamed coronation video, and a dance video class competition.

All of the fun activities led up to the first Viking football game on Friday, March 19th. Students were excited for the game and to have the school year feel somewhat normal. The KHS Varsity Football Team beat CVC, 21-14, on Friday. It was a close and intense game, but the Vikings triumphed at the end.

KHS students are doing their best to stay optimistic about the opportunities that the school is providing for them. KHS Sophomore and Homecoming Representative Liliana Dias interpreted, "Homecoming is different this year because this is the first time it is in the Spring. It is sad to think there's no student section because that's usually the best part of football season! I am so thankful our school is doing Homecoming because something is better than nothing."

In a normal school year, there would be Homecoming candidate competitions sometime during school. Due to the AM/PM schedule split, ASB planned candidate competitions during the transition. Students were welcome to watch the activities live in person, but they were also shown to all classes the next morning as a video. This was done to make sure that students got to know the Homecoming candidates before voting for a winner on Wednesday.

On Monday, March 15th, the Homecoming candidates competed in a dance competition with their running partners. The winners were Taryn Irigoyen and Luke Luttrell with their charming western-style dance.

On Tuesday, March 16th, senior candidates played a competitive game of volleyball. There was one catch: players were tied with a rope to their running partner. The winners were Blaire Wilson and Gavin Fagundes with their elite volleyball playing skills.

On Wednesday, March 17th, the King & Queen nominees competed in a football-style competition. They participated in football activities to prove who were the most worthy candidates. The winners were Taryn Irigoyen and Luke Luttrell with their impressive football performances.

On Thursday, March 18th, an annual KHS pieing tradition was held. The candidates for 2021 King & Queen were pied by KHS students. Any student was able to pie any candidate(s) of their choice for \$2 a pie during the transition period.

KHS was excited to be able to keep up the traditional Homecoming court voting. Students voted for a girl and boy to represent their class prior to the Homecoming week. The freshman representatives were Addison Murguia and Gavin Jensen. The sophomore representatives were Liliana Dias and Trace Jackson. The junior winners were Kira Wilson and Chase Dias.

For the senior class, 5 pairs were chosen by the senior class. The candidates are as follows: Madeline Perkins with David Reimer, Blaire Wilson with Gavin Fagundes, Khloe Hodges with Cal Muxlow, Taryn Irigoyen with Luke Luttrell, and Mattie Barnett with Eric Carillo.

These pairs competed in activities during the transition period to try to win votes. The winners of the KHS 2020-21 King & Queen were announced Friday, March 19th at the first home football game. The freshman, sophomore, and junior class representatives were also present at

the coronation ceremony.

Before the football game began, the homecoming nominees came out. It was announced there that Irigoyen and Luttrell won Queen and King. They were both honored and excited to be selected.

Luttrell commented, "It is an honor to be crowned homecoming king! I am happy to represent our amazing student body. The homecoming activities were my favorite part of the week. It was a lot of fun to be able to just let loose and have a good time. My biggest piece of advice for underclassmen is to put yourself out there. Have as much fun as you can because these memories last forever. Go Vikings!"

Irigoyen added, "I was super excited and honored to be crowned as queen. I love Kingsburg High and the Kingsburg community in general! I really liked the dance competition and the football sled competition. Luke and I were really competitive so we had a fun week! It was different for sure, but it was the first time we had some normalcy this year. I'm very grateful for the staff at KHS for working so hard to make homecoming happen for us. Homecoming week was super memorable and I had the best time!"

Before the game, each class' homecoming videos according to their prospective themes were also played. KHS ASB Advisor Doug Davis explained, "We changed things up this year and it was a combination of the videos and spirit points (dressing up for Homecoming)." After halftime of the game, it was announced that seniors won, juniors came in second, sophomores in third, and freshman in fourth.

KHS had a fun week full of Homecoming activities. Junior Representative Kira Wilson added some advice for KHS students. She stated, "We should all try to appreciate what we have in this moment, because as we saw last year things can change unexpectedly, and many of the opportunities we have now aren't available to others."



Addison Murguia & Gavin Jensen



Liliana Dias & Trace Jackson



Kira Wilson & Chase Dias



Mattie Barnett & Eric Carillo



Taryn Irigoyen & Luke Luttrell



Khloe Hodges & Cal Muxlow



Blaire Wilson & Gavin Fagundes



Madeline Perkins & David Reimer

# Academic Decathlon Team Takes Division III Title

By Avneet Purewal  
Editor-In-Chief

The KHS Academic Decathlon team competed in the virtual Fresno County competition on January 30 and February 6. KHS students won first place in Division 3, most improved team, and brought home 1 individual medal despite facing many difficulties in the competition this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

KHS first had an Academic Decathlon team in the 1980s, but it didn't continue. KHS' Athletic Decathlon Team is very young, having been revived after decades of inactivity in the 2018-2019 school year.

The Academic Decathlon team was started up again by English 2 and AP Literature and Composition teacher, Daniel Albers.

Albers began teaching at KHS in 2018. He formerly taught at Orosi High School prior to KHS. At Orosi, he took over the Academic Decathlon Team. They competed in Tulare County's Academic Decathlon and were very successful.

When Albers began teaching at KHS, he was very excited to coach the Academic Decathlon Team.

He explained, "In my previous job at Orosi High School, I coached Academic Decathlon from 2009 to 2018. We won our division in 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018 (Orosi is in Tulare County and so they don't compete against Kingsburg). When I started at KHS I was excited to see that there was not an Academic Decathlon team but that the administration was open to starting one. I believed that it would be possible for us to become a real competitor in the county competition. I also think that the competition is a wonderful opportunity for students to learn and compete. Interest here was small at first, but the fact that we won second place in our division in our first year got us some attention. We were even on the news, KSEE 24! It was an exciting year, and I think that we can keep building on our success and growing as a team."



The KHS Academic Decathlon Team performed well starting in the first year they competed. They placed second in 2019, third in 2020, and first in 2021.

The COVID-19 pandemic brought challenges to the 2021 Academic Decathlon. The competition was held completely virtual, differing from the usual in-person format.

All parts of the decathlon competition were done through individual devices. The Speech and Interview section was held through the Zoom applica-

tion. KHS Graduate and Smittcamp Honors Student at Fresno State, Shareen Purewal, served as a judge this year.

She commented, "I was a judge for the speech and interview aspect. The coordinators tried to keep the competition the same as it was in previous years. I was really impressed with how well the students did this year. It is truly amazing considering all the difficulties that they have faced."

Other parts of the competition include an essay, objective tests, and a super quiz.

Due to the nature of virtual competition, there were many obstacles to consider including internet stability and laptop battery life.

Albers stated, "I believe our team handled it well, and the fact that we are on campus was nice because it allowed me to provide internet access for students whose internet access might have been spotty at home."

KHS Academic Decathlon Team not only placed first in Division 3, but they also won the "Most Improved Team" in the competition. They were given this award because their score went up by over 20% compared to last year.

Albers added, "I think our team performed amazingly. We won our division, and actually came in eleventh overall (out of 23 schools). Based on the size of our school and our newness we are in Division 3, and yet we came in ahead of Division 1 schools like Sanger, Buchanan, and Clovis West. I have always said that I think Kingsburg High has the potential to compete with any high school in the county, and I think our results this year went a long way to proving this."

To reward the team for this accomplishment, Fresno County will give each member a \$50 scholarship. Additionally, some of the KHS team fees will be waived next year. KHS Junior Clinton Rhodes, performed exceptionally well and placed 9th out of all students in the competition. He will receive a \$100 scholarship as well.

KHS is excited to see how their academic decathlon team performs next year. Albers said, "We will still be in Division 3 most likely, as we would need a few years of slightly higher scores to move up in divisions. I would like to win our division again, and possibly move into the top ten schools overall (we were very close). I would also like to increase the number of individual awards we win, like Clinton's 9th place win."

Albers added, "It would also be nice to recruit new people. The team has grown a lot, from eight students in 2019 to fifteen in 2020 and 2021, but I would love even more people to show up and participate."

# KHS Shines During 6 Year WASC Visit

By Brittyn Jennings  
Staff Reporter

During the days of March 7th to 10th Kingsburg High School was under evaluation by the WASC organization.

"The purpose of the Commission is to foster excellence in elementary, secondary, adult and post-secondary institutions, and supplementary education programs. The Commission encourages school improvement through a process of continuing evaluation and recognizes institutions through granting accreditation to the schools that meet an acceptable level of quality in accordance with the established criteria," according to [www.acswasc.org](http://www.acswasc.org).

Attending an accredited high school and/or college is very important. Attending these schools fortifies students diplomas for jobs and colleges. It shows that a school is teaching at the level that is nationally accepted. A college recognizes this accreditation, and without one, students may not be able to

attend a college or get a certain job.

"The ACS WASC Commission is comprised of up to thirty-five persons, representing various constituencies of ACS WASC, selected by the Commission's Nomination Review Committee from candidates nominated by member organizations or the Commission," ([www.acswasc.org](http://www.acswasc.org)).

Schools are observed every six years with a three year check up. The evaluation of Kingsburg High School was different this year. Normally, commissioners would walk around campus. Whereas this year commissioners were present on chrome-books, via Zoom. Through this process, the KHS staff created different plans and goals for the future of the school.

Prior to the accreditation week, KHS staff and a group of selected students worked together to reflect on KHS in the past few years.

KHS Librarian Lauara Vallenari and Assistant Principal Heather Wilson led the WASC process

as chairs. They both put a lot of hard work and time into making sure the process ran smoothly.

Kerry Peterson and Jacob Simmons led the Organization and Purpose group, Michele Schiller and Gail Williams discussed Curriculum in their group, Elizabeth Vandervelde and Leigh Ann Olsen led the Learning and Teaching Group, Frank Carbajal and Ken Harvey managed the Assessment and Accountability Group, and Shanna McDONALD and Doug Davis headed the School Culture and Support Group.

On March 8th, a selected group of KHS seniors, juniors, and sophomores participated in an interview with the WASC delegates. Students expressed that they felt positive feedback from the WASC interviewers. Although KHS has not received back a final decision on their accreditation, all staff and students that helped throughout the process feel like a positive decision is coming.

## Dutch Bros, Grocery Outlet & Adventist Health in Kingsburg

By Trista Fry  
Staff Reporter

While many projects were halted during the global pandemic, the growth of the Kingsburg Business District was not slowed. The City of Kingsburg has broken way to three new businesses entering on the corner of Sierra and Simpson Streets. Grocery Outlet, Adventist Health, and Dutch Bros will eventually call the area home. They expect the construction of the projects to be finished in 2021 or early 2022.

Dutch Bros is one of the largest privately held drive-through coffee chains in the entire United States. They are headquartered in Grant Pass, Oregon, and were founded in 1992 by Dane and Travis Boersma, former dairy businessmen.

It has quickly expanded to 328 locations across the Western United States and captured the hearts of many young coffee enthusiasts. Many people are excited about the arrival of a Dutch Bros in Kingsburg, as the only other locations that are closest are in Lemoore, Hanford, Clovis, or Fresno.

KHS Freshman Lauren Berry exclaimed, "I'm super excited for Dutch Bros to be coming to Kingsburg! I'm ready to not have to drive to Fresno or Hanford since I go there all the time!"

Dutch Brothers Coffee Company has been able to gain popularity amongst so many people because of its diverse selection of drinks, and its out of the box coffee making reputation. Some of their creations include cold brews, dutch freezes, the americano, and a rebel energy drink.

Right next to Dutch Bros, Kingsburg has also started construction on a new Grocery store, Grocery Outlet. Grocery Outlet is a chain of affordable supermarkets that provides discounted and overstocked products from name brand and private label suppliers.

One of Grocery Outlet's main goals is to pro-



vide thrilling details to all of its customers.

They have been providing discounts since 1946. Their founder, Jim Read, opened the first store in 1946 to sell deep discounts on military surplus items. Three generations later the Read family is continuing the tradition with more than 300 stores across the nation.

Every week about 1.5 million shoppers shop at Grocery Outlet and Kingsburg is about to add to that astounding number.

Grocery Outlet is able to provide such amazing deals on a diversified range of products because of its buyers. Their buyers scour the world to find the most thrilling and exciting details to bring the world's top name brands to shoppers at an affordable price.

KHS Sophomore Sydney Brock stated, "I am glad that the vacant spot is being filled by a grocery store that offers low prices, but I am concerned that there are a lot of grocery stores in the area."

Finally, in the same area as the Dutch Bros and Grocery Outlet, there is going to be an Adventist Health Medical Office.

The Adventist Medical building that is located at 1521 Draper Street will soon be moved into the new building under construction at 1781 Simpson Avenue. The Current Adventist Health office has been open to the community since 2010.

The new facility is quite the upgrade as it is triple the current facility's size and it will have 31 exam rooms and 5 dental chairs.

Andrea Kofl, President of Adventist Health in the Central Valley added,

"We are honored that this brand-new building will not only expand our services in Kingsburg but extend our commitment to the health and wellbeing of the community."

Staff and providers will transition to this new site upon its completion, which is expected in 2021.

The Kingsburg community is very grateful to be breaking way on these new businesses that will provide jobs to residents, prosper the community, and increase the productivity of the town.

## The show must go on, but not quite yet!

By Kristen Pacheco  
Staff Reporter

Due to COVID-19, the Drama Department has had to make some tough decisions on whether or not there is going to be a school play this year.

Because of the Coronavirus, schools have been putting off their productions and holding their breath as they wait to see if things would change. All theatre productions have been put on hold and precautions have been implemented to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. The restrictions have limited theatre groups and their ability to perform together. Schools have been encouraged to perform outside, even in the cold, and must require face coverings over musicians' faces and performers' faces at all times.

Contrary to the information above, Fresno State was allowed to put on their production of Detroit '67 and live stream the entire show online for people to watch in the comfort of their own homes. The performers were socially distanced throughout the whole show and wore face masks as well. When asked if livestreaming might be an option for KHS, Media Teacher Laura Vallenari responded, "It is difficult to get the rights to a show for live streaming. We would have to invest in whatever live streaming service is allowed by that particular playwright. How would ticket sales be handled?"

Vallenari added, "It is just too hard to have

actors interacting on stage, delivering their lines forcefully or even singing with masks on. Additionally, we wouldn't be able to have an audience unless we did a virtual performance. In that case, it would be hard to get the rights for a virtual performance and I don't think it would do our kids justice for the amount of time and energy a play requires both on and off stage. Actors and back stage crew and builders work very closely together over long hours and social distancing would be impossible in that kind of situation."

When asked if there were any plans for putting on a play this year and how those plans would work with COVID-19 restrictions, KHS Drama and Choir Instructor Richard Mynderup responded, "Unfortunately there will not be a spring production this year. Ms. Vallenari and I really tried to figure out what to do to be creative. But in the end and due to all of the current performance restrictions by the county health department we felt it best to let COVID play out the rest of this year. We would be forced to severely limit the number of students that could participate. And we would be very limited in what we could even offer in the way of a title. And the hardest part about all of this is our students would not be able to perform in front of a live audience."

Vallenari commented, "Students would have to wear masks and remain socially distant on and off of the stage. Microphones would need to be used to

help project voices but we would struggle with a muffled sound and interference between mic and mask." The idea of doing the production of Fiddler On The Roof was then brought to attention due to its cancellation last year because of the COVID-19 pandemic and school closures.

When asked if she would like to do Fiddler on The Roof again this year if she were given the chance, KHS sophomore, Emily Fedor, (playing the lead role of Hodel) responded, "If there was to be a play this year, I would like to do a new play because even though we spent hours learning choreography and lines, doing a new play this year would lead to new opportunities, and might even attract more people to participate in it."

Fedor also said that she would be very disappointed if it was officially announced that there would be no play because theatre is a place for people to be themselves and try new things whether it's acting, singing, dancing, or stage directing.

Unfortunately, the announcement has finally become official. KHS will not put on Fiddler on The Roof nor will it be doing a new play this year because of the Coronavirus.

Although this is very disappointing for all theatre lovers, it is important to stay positive and hope for the best. Students should look forward to next year when KHS will finally get to put on another play.

# Vaccine Options Increase as Availability Grows

By Brenda Marquez & Abigail Jobe  
Staff Reporters

COVID-19 cases are decreasing in California and vaccines are becoming more widely available.

According to ScienceNews, on December 14, the first Americans got a vaccine designed to protect against COVID-19. Health care workers and older adults living in care facilities were put at the head of the line. Over the next few months, more adults were made qualified to get the vaccine. Pfizer's vaccine is currently authorized for those ages 16 and up, while Moderna and Johnson & Johnson are approved for adults 18 and older. Many wonder about whether or not children under the age of 16 will be vaccinated. As reported by WUSA9, kids 12 and up will most likely be able to get the vaccine by fall or spring of 2021. Younger children will not be able to get the vaccine until months ahead.

The COVID-19 vaccines help our bodies develop immunity to the virus that causes COVID-19. The body is left with T-lymphocytes that will remember how to fight that virus in the future. It takes a few weeks for the body to produce T-lymphocytes after vaccination. It is possible that a person could be infected with the virus just before or after vaccination and then get sick. Sometimes after vaccination, the process of building immunity can cause symptoms. These symptoms are normal and are a sign that the body is building immunity.

According to CDCGOV, side effects for Moderna and Pfizer include fever, chills, tiredness, and headaches. Most side effects are mild to moderate and they can last between two to five days. A small portion of people had severe side effects which affected their ability to do daily activities like cook-

ing, cleaning, walking, or writing. These side effects went away after a few days.

The vaccine has met the requirements for emergency use of authorization. In the United States, 33.9 million people have been fully vaccinated and 98.2 million doses have been given. Experts are also saying that if you do get the vaccine, it will prevent you from becoming seriously ill if you come across COVID-19. They are saying that in the coming months the vaccine will become widely available.

Biden has stated that on May 1, 2021, he will order states to allow all adults to be eligible to receive the vaccine. He wants Americans to be vaccinated by July 4, 2021 so that they can openly celebrate Independence Day.

The COVID-19 vaccine was made available for KHS teachers to take, if they chose to receive it. KHS Teacher Diana Crass has just received her second dose for the vaccine. She was given the first shot on Feb. 6, 2021, in Fowler.

One of the questions she was asked was if she did any research before she was given the vaccine. She replied, "I did because I wanted to make sure it was effective. I wanted Moderna (which I received) rather than Pfizer because it could be stored without a special freezer. Pfizer is harder to transport and can go bad faster than Moderna without the special precautions."

When asked if she felt safer at work now that she has been given the vaccine, she said, "I do, but only if students and staff are still taking precautions. Although the vaccine is only 94% effective, the virus is still out there and everybody needs to still be cautious until we get a majority of the people vaccinated."

Some KHS students are eager to get the COVID vaccine as soon as possible. Getting the COVID-19 Vaccine will not only protect them, but others around them. There may be less cases in the state and the virus will become less infectious.

When asked whether or not she wants to take the vaccine, KHS Junior Kayla Adame stated, "If I had the chance to get vaccinated, I would because I would be doing something good not only for me but others as well. It is beneficial to get vaccinated because COVID numbers will decrease."

Other students disagree with this mindset. KHS Freshman Rosalynn Carpenter mentioned, "I would not choose to take the COVID-19 vaccine because I don't think it's necessary. Also we don't know the long term effects of the vaccine and it may help but I just don't feel the need to take it."

As stated by NatureNews, it's possible that the vaccine will not stop or significantly lessen the chances of infection, but it may make infected people less likely to pass on the virus.

Numerous students and teachers are excited about the COVID vaccine. Some say it gives the elderly allowance to go out to the real world and not be stuck at home all day. Others feel that with the COVID vaccine, everything will be back to normal in no time. There will be more activities to participate in at school like sports and social events.

Because COVID-19 affects children and adults differently, it's important to understand whether a vaccine might work equally well in everyone. Individuals have different opinions on whether or not they would like to receive the vaccine when it's made available to them. Each KHS student and teacher will make the decision that's right for themselves, under the circumstances that they are facing.

## Late Work Policies Vary, Communication Remains Key

By Jadyn Franco  
Staff Reporter

Students at KHS have been having a hard time turning in work on time this year. This year has been hard for not just teachers, but also students.

Late work is something that students have been really struggling with. Some teachers are strict on late work, but some give students an extension.

KHS English teacher Phillip Bergstrom has a policy with his late work. Bergstrom stated, "My official policy is that I will not accept late work after one week of the due date; however, I often will be flexible if a student communicates with me about any serious or compelling reasons."

Communicating with your teacher is really important or they won't really understand why the work was late. Sometimes late work can have to do with struggles at home or something more with the students.

When asked if he thinks students take advantage of extensions Bergstrom stated, "In the

past, when I have had a much more flexible policy on late work, I believe students did take advantage of it. Since I have become more strict with my policy, I have had far less late assignments. I have learned that students will meet whatever ex-



pectation you put out there for them. If you have high standards, they will meet them. If you have low standards, they will meet those too."

It is important that kids use this as a chance to bring up their grades.

KHS Social Science teacher Carrie Friesen had a different mindset about late work.

"This year has been an exception because students have been out on extended absences due to COVID or having been in contact with someone who has tested positive. I have tried to be understanding that students have struggled with adjusting to our new schedule. It has been stressful for some families," explained Friesen.

Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and hybrid learning, it really is a struggle for some students to stay on track. They can also have a hard time with learning with all the stress they have.

When asked about how this would benefit the students, Friesen stated, "I think it is beneficial for teachers to be understanding of our students' situation this year, however I still believe it is important to teach the students the value of meeting expectations and rising to the occasion."

KHS staff and students are making the best of the difficult situation they are in. KHS administration remains extremely proud of all students for persevering through this school year.

# Biden Administration Makes Progress: Vaccines, Stimulus

By Zachery Howell  
Page Editor

Since President Joe Biden's inauguration, two weeks after a domestic terrorist attack, he has accomplished many things. Many of his accomplishments have to do with roll-backs in the Trump administration COVID-19 response.

Since in office, President Biden has signed at least 17 executive actions-- 15 of them being executive orders, most of which have to do with reversing many major Trump Administration orders and legislation.

President Biden has already ensured that America will be rejoining the World Health Organization, sending Dr. Anthony Fauci as head of delegations to the organization's executive board meetings.

There has also been a large focus on the distribution of vaccines in America, all three of the major vaccines being labeled by the FDA and Dr. Fauci as effective (Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson and Johnson).

A crackdown on certain racial equity issues has also been a point of focus for Biden. There has been a strict emphasis on condemning xenophobia against Asian-Americans in light of the an increase in hate crimes against Asian-Americans in 2020 fueled by the Trump Admin-

istration and its followers on purposefully misinterpreting the name of the virus.

Also, tackling issues related to immigration, Biden has lifted the inhumane Muslim travel ban. This also includes a stop to the continuation of building the border wall between Mexico and the US. However, this new emphasis on lifting border restrictions does not, for whatever reason, extend to inhumanely detaining



immigrant families at the border. One unaccompanied migrant girl being held for 531 days and counting.

As far as LGBTQ rights, Biden has repealed a law passed under the Trump Administration regarding the Trans Military Ban. This

was mentioned in a statement released by the White House titled 'Executive Order on Preventing and Combating Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity or Sexual Orientation.'

He also passed the highly popular \$1.9 Trillion Coronavirus Stimulus Package to ensure the economy is strengthened through uncertain times caused by quarantine and shutdowns.

Gun control has also been a focus for the new president. Biden has proposed 'common sense' gun control laws. These gun laws are meant to ban certain assault weapons as well as requiring background checks for any and all gun sales.

Biden authorized a "symbolic" military bombing in Syria on Feb. 25 in response to a rocket attack killing one Filipino contractor with the American-led militia and injuring 6 other people. According to the Pentagon, the bombing destroyed several buildings said to have been used by Iranian-backed militia groups. The bombing killed at least 22 people.

For at least the first 100 days of Bidens' presidency, it is to be expected for his administration to continue to address institutional-racism, climate change, and the COVID-19 response. Only time will show his true intentions as President of the United States.

## Super Bowl LV Solidifies Brady's GOAT Status

By Madelyn Wiest  
Staff Reporter

On Sunday, February 7th, 2021, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers won the 55th Super Bowl at the Raymond James Stadium in Tampa Bay.

The Buccaneers beat the Kansas City Chiefs, 31-9. The Chiefs scored the first field goal in this Super Bowl making the initial score 3-0.

This was the first time that these two teams have played in the NFL Super Bowl. Both teams have played in the Super Bowl. For the Kansas City Chiefs, this was their fourth time playing in the Super Bowl, and for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, this was their second time playing in the Super Bowl. This was also the 17th time that Florida has hosted the Super Bowl.

This year's game was entertaining for many football fans and even just people who watch it for fun. KHS Emilie Parker stated, "I think it was a good game, pretty clean, no one got seriously hurt. My team didn't win, but it was still a fun game."

The game was not super close as the Buccaneers started taking the lead before halftime. The Chiefs fought hard and kept up the intensity, but never quite caught up to their score.

Even through the COVID-19 pandemic, 2500 people still attended the Super Bowl. Within those 2,500 people, 7,500 of those were vaccinated health workers. All of these people were socially

distanced all around the stadium. There were 30,000 cardboard cutouts in the stands throughout the stadium, making it feel more full.

"Players, coaches and staff from the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and the Kansas City Chiefs are being tested twice daily," read a quote from the Becker's Hospital Review article called "COVID-19 precautions + the Super Bowl: 7 things to know."



More safety precautions that were taken for the Super Bowl were that "Every attendee will receive personal protective equipment, including a KN95 mask and hand sanitizer," the same Becker's Hospital Review article states. Furthermore, most parties that have been held for the Super Bowl did not happen this year.

Even though this year was a little different compared to the previous years, the halftime show was still performed.

The Weeknd performed at the Pepsi LV Super Bowl halftime show this year. This popular Candian singer-songwriter's birth name is Abel Makonnen Tesfaye and his stage name is Tesfaye.

On the topic of the halftime show, KHS Freshman Bridget Harrell said, "I thought the halftime show was a little bizarre." Many different bands have played during the halftime show at the Super Bowl, but none were quite the same as this performance.

Instead of using just the stage for their performance, The Weeknd also used the stands. This has never been done before, but because many fans cannot crowd around a stage in the field, it created many different and unique options for a Super Bowl halftime show.

Another performance during this Super Bowl was the performance of the National Anthem. "The Star Spangled Banner" was performed by Jazmine Sullivan and Eric Church.

This year's Super Bowl may have been different in many various ways from previous years, but fans still got to watch the Super Bowl and experience it all the same. The game between the Kansas City Chiefs and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers made for one unforgettable Super Bowl.

# Indoor Sports Allowed, New CIF Youth Sports Guidelines

By Summer Mejia  
Staff Reporter

With COVID-19 restrictions, KHS sports have not been able to proceed as they would any regular year. Since sports were not on the table when Kingsburg High returned back to school, fall and winter sports were to be pushed until February. This including; Football, Girls Tennis, Soccer and Basketball to name a few.

For example as Girls Tennis was pushed to the Spring sports, this posed a problem for the Boys Tennis team. Boys Tennis is a Spring sport, with the girls team practicing and playing at the same time, some complications came. As any normal year there would be the same two coaches for each season, However, this year, the coaches each were assigned a team. Unable to give each team the usual attention and preparing as needed.

Along with the different layout of sports, games and players were also affected by the CIF (California Interscholastic Federation) guidelines.

Boys and Girls soccer is usually played as a Winter sport, however this year it became a

Spring sport. For Boys and Girls Soccer, according to the CIF guideline, only Varsity players are allowed



to play in games. Same rules apply to Girls and Boys Tennis.

For both boys and girls Tennis, only Varsity players are allowed to play in games and travel to away games. This is a way to limit the risk for all teams.

For a while, besides Immanuel in Reedley, KHS was one of the few schools that had gone back to in-person schooling. Making it hard to commence sports, seeing as other schools were not in session at the time. However, some schools have started to return to in-person schooling, allowing sports to slowly start.

"We are very excited that our Outdoor Athletics Events have begun. It is great to see our student-athletes

competing on the field, Coaches are having the opportunity to coach, and spectators in the stands," stated KHS Athletic Director Scott Hodges.

Currently, Kingsburg-Fresno County is located in the purple tier. This means the county is widespread. For KHS sports this means several things. Since Kingsburg High returned to school when they were in the red tier (substantial), sports were able to start practicing even when they were moved to the purple tier.

While other schools were still online, KHS was able to practice, preparing for when schools

would return. As schools are returning, sports are as well, with guidelines of course.

When any sport that is commencing, as of March, new requirements were added. When a player is not playing the actual sport, they are to remain a distance of six feet and wear a mask. When they are playing, a mask is not required.

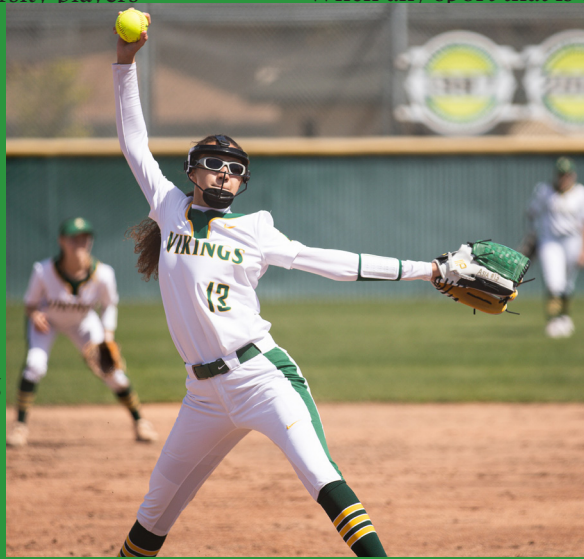
Indoor sports, such as basketball, have even deeper guidelines for future scrimmages. Along with wearing a face covering when not participating in the sport, there is a limit of how many people can be inside the gymnasium. This meaning that players must limit their amount of family and friends from attending games.

"We hope to begin Indoor Athletic Events soon," stated Hodges.

As for games away from KHS, more precautions must take place. Normally, teams would take a bus from KHS to the location of the game, however this year is not the same.

To comply with guidelines, teams must provide a ride to and from the game. Meaning a minimum of 2 vehicles per team. This means that the team should get a specific van or parents and coaches must step up and provide transportation.

Although this school year at KHS was very different from past years, the Vikings persisted and have worked with what they got



## KHS Athletes Compete Through Club Leagues

By Lauren Berry  
Staff Reporter

The athletes at Kingsburg High have hoped for a normal sports season and finally got the chance to play.

Many sports teams such as volleyball, football, and water polo have started to play as club teams. Like KHS, many other students in surrounding schools have also begun playing club sports.

Due to COVID-19, school sports seasons were pushed to start in late March. Many sports such as volleyball, football, and others are sports that would be played in the fall, are now being played in the spring.

With all the sports being played as spring sports this year, many students are juggling multiple sports at one time. Some athletes had to make the difficult decision of choosing between what sport they wanted to play. KHS Freshman softball and volleyball player Addison Murguia, explained, "Since the volleyball season got cancelled I was super bummed, but I was glad we were at least able to do something for softball."

She continued, "I'm glad CIF is letting us have a season and I can't wait to play again!"

According to Murguia, KHS volleyball

players are competing through club teams. Although guidelines would allow a school season, it is not being planned as of right now.

At the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year, athletes thought it wasn't going to be possible to have a sports season. Murguia elaborated, "I think it has just taught me to be thankful that we are slowly getting back to normal which is better



than never. We are even able to practice and play again since some schools don't have the chance to do that right now."

With this year being different from all the other years, it can be difficult to stay positive throughout this sports season. KHS Sophomore Claire Toliver plays volleyball. She said, "I'm

trying to remain positive by keeping a positive attitude on and off the court. Advice I have for my teammates would be to just stay positive and keep working hard."

With this year's sports being postponed until spring, athletes were unsure if there was going to be a CIF season. KHS Senior Volleyball Player, Ellie Movsesian, explained, "I'm not really expecting a CIF season just because we got to have our own club season and many of our teammates have moved on to other sports."

She continued, "I've been trying to remain positive by just enjoying these last games that we have had and taken advantage of the playing time we have had."

Sports being played during a pandemic has taught athletes many valuable lessons. Movsesian interpreted, "COVID-19 has made me realize how much I have taken for granted. It definitely discouraged me in the beginning with our fall season being cancelled but it has been so fun getting to play with my teammates again."

This sports season will definitely be different from the rest, but athletes are grateful that KHS is giving them the opportunity to play.