



VISTA RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

Colorado Springs, CO

Ridgeline
2020

Volume
12



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2020

Volume
12



NOW YOU
SEE...

20 Ridgeline 20



now you
SEE...

august *september* *october* *november*
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SEE NOW YOU



VISTA RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

FRESHMEN: 429	RIDGELINE 2020 VOLUME 12
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JUNIORS: 382	(719)494-8800
SENIORS: 392	www.d49.org/vistaridge
STAFF: 140	INSTAGRAM: yearbook.vistaridge
TOTAL: 1795	TWITTER: @VistaRidgeYRBK

Cover: Vista students cheer for their graduating class during the first pep assembly of the 2020 school year. See the action come to life on HPRReveal.

Above: Having fun at the Zone BBQ, **Trevan Gallegos, 10**, **Gabriel Padilla, 10**, and **Jacob Odum, 10**, hang out with friends and test their knowledge at the Knowledge Bowl table.

did you **KNOW...**

that softball won PPAC for the second year in a row?
Or that cheer won for the fourth year in a row?
Or that our show choir is the Best in the West again?
Or that we had a freshman quarterback and two other Vista students playing on a national football team?

2020, it's vision; it's hindsight; it's seeing clearly what you've missed... Now you see the ways in which students are getting involved, and how people are more than what they seem.

did you **KNOW...**

that students got to examine and dissect a bear on campus?
Or that LifeSmarts qualified for nationals for the third year in a row?
Or that we have several foreign exchange students?
Or that the new gym floor was designed by one of our own classmates in his Graphic Design class?
We're going behind the scenes of the fall play, talking about the prep behind the pep rallies, and exposing our talented staff.
Now you see it!! Now you see us!

now you **SEE!**





The Show Choir performs their Arabian Nights part of their show during the 8th grade show case. **Saria Cortez, 12**, said, "My favorite part of Show Choir has been having the opportunity to be dance captain this year. That has helped me have a bond with the group all together. That bond has helped us through competitions and makes class easier to run. It's nice to have a second family to be able to see almost every day."

...august

August 1, 2019. First day of school for all students. How did we not see that coming so quickly? It feels like summer just started! We got our schedules, and just like every year, we all wanted to tinker with them to make that perfect year with the perfect classes. We spend the first week back trying to memorize our schedule and the best way to navigate from one period to the next, whether that be seeing our friends along the way or finding the least crowded stairwell like the one from the H to F hallways. We get our syllabuses, make our social contracts, pick our unofficial assigned seats in class, and off we go. For some of us, school was never that far away. Between camps, friends, summer meetings, and trainings, school was always right around the corner. Sports were practicing, marching band was rehearsing, student council and yearbook were planning. Who knew so much was going on in those 68 days? It really makes one wonder...

"how did I not
SEE THAT?"

starting off strong

Q&A with Jayden Linta, 12

What sort of things did you do over the summer to prepare for this school year, being a student athlete?

"I trained really hard for football. I went to some summer camps for football. I went to one for Vista and I went to some out of state too. We worked really hard to prepare for this season"

How did you feel about Senior Sunrise?

"I'm not going to get that chance again, so I decided to go. It was fun getting to see friends, and I thought it was a great once in a lifetime opportunity that everyone should do when they have the chance."



Jayden Linta, 12, and friends attend Senior Sunrise, starting off their last year of high school. This moment will be remembered forever as the seniors started their last year of high school together. More on page 148.



...september

Now we're getting the swing of things. We have all taken our first test and gotten into a groove with our teachers. Our brains go into auto pilot when going to classes. **Cienna Powell, 12**, and **Jaleen Young, 12**, rule the homecoming court. **Zachary Stansberry, 10**, goes flying trying to win Vista's version of musical chairs at our first ever outdoors pep rally (right)! Boys golf is going to regionals. We are winning our homecoming football game. We are being the change during Challenge Week. Sports captains tell us how their seasons are going, boys golf is attending regionals and cross country is running strong! You may be sitting here finding out about this thinking to yourself...

"I wish I
SAW THAT!"

FLIPPING OVER HOCO

Q&A with Zachary Stansberry, 10

What was your favorite part of the pep rally?

"I would have to say being a part of the games. I ended up doing the musical chairs game, and I had Benjamin Case, 12, pick me up while I had the ball. I still won somehow."





Amelia Makowsky, 9, and a student from Banning Lewis perform with Color Guard and the Marching Band during halftime at a football game.

...october

October already? Wow, that went fast. First quarter is already over and most of the month we spend on fall break. It's a good thing too, because I'm pretty sure most of us are ready for a break. October is not just about break though. Football is on a winning streak, and we shut out Cheyenne Mountain 54-0. Softball is the reigning PPAC champ for the second year in a row. Marching Band is still planning on performing their routine one last time even though their final competition was canceled. To top it off, the snow days are starting to pile up. Our two week break was extended a few more days by having a snow day the Monday that we were supposed to come back and then another one that Wednesday! Advanced Leadership is moving their Trunk or Treat into the halls because of the weather. It feels like everyone is still out of town or not ready to return from break. It really leaves those of us around asking...

"did anyone else
SEE THAT?"

with flying colors

Q&A with Amelia Makowsky, 9

How did you first hear about color guard, and how did you get involved?

"I saw people tossing flags at the Thanksgiving parade, and I thought it was really cool. When I heard Vista had something like that I decided to join. It was a lot of work at first, but it's super fun, and everyone is really nice."

How involved is color guard with marching band, and what is your favorite part of color guard?

"We don't practice with marching band on Mondays, but other than that we are with them practicing on the football or baseball field. My favorite part are the tosses because they are super cool, even the small ones."



Baylea Larson, 10 and Madison Warner, 12, are performing their routine for the winter pep rally one last time before they head up to perform at state.

...november

It's November, which means everyone is ready for another break. First semester is flying by! The Spanish classes celebrate Dia de los Muertos by decorating sugar skulls and making a cemetery to commemorate the dead. Theater is preparing their first production and getting ready to put a show on. The Friday performance was canceled due to another snow day. So, everything was moved to Saturday. With audience seating issues and fire alarms going off, the show needed to and still did go on. Coed cheer won PPAC championships and grand champs for the fourth year in a row. Cheer is the first sport at Vista Ridge to go back to back to back to back. Finally, Thanksgiving break, people were traveling to see family and looking forward to the last three weeks of the semester. Right after break we were surprised with yet another snow day and a two hour delay. With all of these crazy things happening you gotta ask...

"how did I not
SEE THAT?"

Flipping over success Q & A with Kimberly Yates, 10

How does it feel to be PPAC champions again and the first sport to do that four times at Vista?

It feels good! It was rough at first but we pulled it off and won PPAC as well as the grand championship! Becoming the first sport to have a 'four-peat' feels great!

Being a part of the legacy of winning PPAC four years in a row, how is that going to impact next year?

Well, I think each year it puts more pressure onto us because we all want to keep that going. So, we have to work harder each year, but I also think it keeps us motivated.

...december

We just got back from Thanksgiving break and all of the winter sports are starting up. The band programs and the choirs are getting ready to perform their winter concerts. The dance off is a highlight of the winter pep rally and, of course, the seniors win it. Spirit Week is Christmas themed, and everyone is so festive decked in their holiday apparel. Vista students are helping NHS by raising money and collecting food for the canned food drive. Finals are approaching, and teachers are cramming in last minute content and study sessions. Before you know it, it's Christmas break! Then, we can all take a breather. We're so ready to spend time with family and celebrate the holidays! Winter break is coming up so fast, it makes one wonder...

*"how did I not
SEE THAT?"*

ENDING WITH A SLAM DUNK

Q & A with Maliyah Carter, 11

How is your season going?
What have people missed
these past few games?

"JV went on a three game winning streak, and even though Varsity is struggling we are coming together as a team. We have a rival game coming up soon which we are all excited about."

How are you looking to end
this season?

"I am hoping that we have a better winning streak than last year. I am hoping to improve my stats as well as the team's stats since I am the JV captain."





January

Happy New Year! 2020 has officially started, and not only is it the start of a new year, but it's the start of a new decade. Winter sports, including wrestling, are in full swing and it's now official that there are separate boy and girl wrestling teams! The eighth grade showcase is happening and all of the clubs and sports are welcoming the incoming freshman for the 2021-22 school year. During this showcase, show choir is putting on a performance to entice undecided students to come to Vista. AFJROTC is volunteering on a daily basis to help the community and are also preparing for the military ball. Teams are winning P.T. competitions and taking home trophies. All of these events are happening so quickly and it's just the start of the new year. It makes you wonder...

"What will I
SEE NEXT?"

pinning the competition

Q&A with Benjamin Therien, 12

How is your season going? What has been a highlight of this season?

"It's been going great. I have had no injury's all season and I've been very healthy. A highlight of my season is that I have been ranked top 10 all season and managed to place 8th at Metros."

What impact has wrestling made on you?

"It has taught me to never give up and focus on what I'm doing. It has shown me to strive to be the best at everything that I try."

Emily Miller, 12, Adrianna Vannelli, 11, Laina Skaggs, 11, and Kylee Patterson, 12, are in anatomy class and they are dissecting sheep brains to further their knowledge of anatomy.



...february

February is already here! Winter sports, like boys basketball, are coming to an end and wrapping their seasons with their senior night while spring sports are starting up. Valentines day is here. Love is in the air and ASL students are out and about signing Valentine's grams. Students in child development are starting to take home the babies for this semester and are getting a feel of what it is like to be a parent responsible for a child. Anatomy is dissecting sheep brains. This month brought another snow day followed by a two hour delay. This was after a crazy bad snow storm where half of the student body went home early due to weather as well. Student council and the principals were running passes throughout the day because the office was packed with parents picking kids up. If you were still at school you might be thinking to yourself...

"how did I not
SEE THAT?"

A CLOSER LOOK

Q&A with Adrianna Vannelli, 11

How do you like Anatomy?
What was it like dissecting a sheep brain?

"I like anatomy a lot and I like learning about different parts of the body. Dissecting the brain was scary but it was really cool."

Why are you taking the class?

"I'm taking the class because I want to be a cheer coach and it will help me with injuries and to be more informed about the body. It will also help me when I take sports medicine in the future."

Cooper Gorospe, 12, Dakota Warren, 12, Dylan Ayotte, 12, Sam Nguyen, 12, Gabriel Alejandro, 12, Judiel Almacen, 12, Miles Gibbs, 11 are accepting their first place award for the talent show after performing as "Four Guys and a Couch."



...march

March is here and spring sports were off and running, including girls golf and track and field, but now we've been told we're taking a break due to the Coronavirus. The talent show is amazing with act ten, "Four Guys and a Couch," stealing the show and winning first place. Spring break doesn't feel so much like a break, but more like self-quarantine with everything shutting down to stop the spread of the virus, and there's talk of possible eLearning days in our future. The stretch between winter break and spring break is the longest stretch throughout the school year and one of the hardest as well. Unified basketball beat the varsity football team and are on a ten game winning streak! Yearbook is finishing up this book and hitting the final submit button. March is going by so fast with the news changing each day. It makes one wonder...

"What will we
SEE NEXT?"

showing your talent

Q & A with Cooper Gorospe, 12

Why did you choose the act "Four Guys and a Couch?"
What is the significance in doing it with these six guys?

"I've always loved performing music for people. So, it seemed obvious to me that I had to do it. Playing with those six other guys changes everything though. They provide so much energy, talent, and friendship that means the world to me."

How is it being in the talent show all four years and finally winning first place?

"It's been crazy. I never did the talent show to win, but winning with my best friends was an unforgettable experience. After four years, my hard work paid off, but more importantly, our hard work paid off."

Seanne Knapp, 9, a unified basketball team member is shooting a three and celebrates by running across the court and high-fiving his teammates.



...april & may

Now this...this is new. In the middle of spring break, we all found out that we were not coming back to school until at least April 20th, and that we would be doing eLearning for several weeks. Why? Because of the Coronavirus pandemic. Spring sports have been canceled all across the nation after barely being able to practice. SATs and PSATs have been postponed. AP Exams are going to be online. End-of-the-year activities that seniors look forward to like prom, awards, sunset, and trips are all either virtual or canceled. April then turned into a full month of eLearning when the governor extended social distancing and a statewide shutdown until April 30th! Next, the district announced students would not be returning to school in person for the rest of the year, leaving seniors wondering how graduation would work? With the last two months being filled with Zoom video calls, recordings of teachers from their homes, and class on your couch while in pajamas, there's something odd going through our minds at a time like this...

*"i can't believe i'm gonna
MISS THAT!"*

THREE-POINTERS & HIGH FIVES

Q&A with Coach Allender

How did this season go? Why did you get into Unified basketball?

We have had a very successful season and have had many victories. Coaching is a lot of fun and I enjoy watching other students get involved, make friendships, and work on basketball skills.

How has Seanne Knapp done? (Pictured on the left) What has been a highlight?

Seanne has done well and made several three pointer in our games that have helped lead the team to victory. When he makes a three pointer he celebrates his success.

...freshman

As a freshman there are many changes from the middle school setting to the high school setting. As a high schooler, you start to become an adult and start to venture out into the world. You meet new people and gain more freedom. When you go to your first high school class that has more than just freshman in it, you realize that you are no longer secluded to just your grade level. You branch out and meet people you never thought you would have met before.



Q & A with Braden Gosnell, 9

How has high school been for you so far?

It's been good. It's a different environment than middle school. People are more open and it's a more relaxed setting."

How was your first pep rally?

It was pretty cool and different. The energy was great! You would never see anything like that in middle school.

...sophomores

During Sophomore year you start to get into the swing of things, and you're no longer the new kids. Your second year of high school puts you sort of in a weird spot. You are not brand new to the school, so you know where everything is, and you know about everything. However, you're in an odd middle ground. You aren't a junior preparing for the SAT. You're not in your final year getting ready to start full time work or college. If you have to be stuck in the middle somewhere, at least you're here with Vista. Enjoy the ride!



Q &A with Coby Gardner, 10

How is sophomore year going and how is it different from your freshman year?

Sophomore year is going good. I understand things a little bit better, and I have the flow of things down.

How are pep rallies different as a sophomore than when you were a freshman?

As a freshman you are more closed off, but as a sophomore you are excited about things. You want to be like an upperclassman, and you want to be apart of it all.



..juniors

Junior year is one of the most important years of high school. You are now an upperclassman with underclassman looking up to you. You start taking harder classes and preparing for the SAT. Even though this is one of the most stressful years of high school, it is also one of the best! You are now able to drive and get a job. You start becoming a little more independent. You can leave campus during lunch and go drive around with your friends. Junior year is flying by, and so much is changing. You're probably thinking to yourself...

"how did I MISS THAT?"

Q&A with Mia Muse, 11

How is Junior year so far? How is it different from your past years?

"Junior year so far has been the most difficult and stressful year, but I love being able go off campus for lunch and just being an upperclassmen in general."

How was the homecoming bonfire?

"The homecoming bonfire was really good! It topped all the past years and brought the student body together. I think everyone had a lot of fun."



...seniors

Seniors, it is the last time that you will ever walk these halls. The last time you will say hello to the security guards walking into the school in the morning and the last time you will walk out of the doors to the student parking lot. It is the last time that you're going to have a home game, the last time that you're going to play on that field, and the last time you're going to see these people. We are all starting to move on to bigger and better things like applying for college or trade school, going into the military, working more, and waiting for the day that seems to never come: graduation. We have been preparing for this day for four years. Through all of the rehearsals and senior meetings we are finally here. Time has gone by faster than ever it seems, and it makes one wonder...

"What will I miss
SEEing?"

Q&A with Zayden Davis, 12

How is your senior year going so far? What has been a highlight?

"My senior year is going good, and I'm excited it's almost over. A highlight has playing football and getting ready for track season."

How do you feel about it being your last year in high school?

"I feel great, and I am excited because it means that it is the start of a new chapter in my life!"

A photograph of two women in athletic wear pushing a large blue exercise ball on a track. The image is framed by a large, stylized blue and white graphic that resembles a splash or a cloud. The text "...staff" is written in a white, cursive font in the upper right corner of the image.

...staff

Teachers aren't always what they seem. We see them in the classroom and sometimes in the halls and every once and a while we see them outside of school, making everyone feel awkward. We often forget that they live their own full lives outside of Vista. Some are life-long learners taking grad classes. Some have hidden talents. Some are working a side hustle to help pay the bills. With all of us so focused on our own classes, you have to ask yourself...

*"how did I
MISS THAT?"*

What's it like being the new assistant principal? How do you like Vista?

I enjoy being the new AP! It is hard getting to know your faces, but I'm looking forward to building relationships with everyone and watching students succeed. I love Vista's school spirit and how everyone interacts with each other.

How was your first experience at a Vista pep rally?

It was really cool experiencing my first pep rally, especially the first outdoor pep rally! I love the energy and how loud it was. It was so much fun getting to compete with Mrs. Shell and getting to act like kid for a bit.



...reference

You know how you need to get those group photos from all of your clubs and sports? And you know how there is almost always one person telling you what to and how to pose to get the best photo? That's us. **Emily Sipes, 12**, our reference editor, works with **Cassidy Queen, 11**, and **Lillian Davis, 11**, to get every photo, every name listed, and every person accounted for. This is their section, and if you missed club photo day, you might be wondering...

"how did I

MISS THAT?"

Yearbook students **Danielle Brown, 12**, **Emily Sipes, 12**, **Karissa Martin, 11**, **Jacob Odum, 10**, and **Phillip Hoosier, 10**, attended Rocky Mountain Journalism camp on the CU Boulder campus in July of 2019. During camp this group began planning this yearbook.



Danielle Hayes, 11 steals the ball from Coach Emily and works to take it down field during practice. Danielle said, "I was four when I first started playing. My parents put us into a lot of sports. Soccer seemed more fun than the other sports. The best part of playing for Vista has been the bonds we make on the team. Without that I wouldn't have met some of my friends."



now you
KNOW...

that 4 Guys and a Couch won the talent show.
And that there are summer camps for both sports and clubs.
And that we now have a girls wrestling team.
And seniors won Powderpuff and sophomores won Peachfuzz.
And that the girl next to you is a twin.

2020 is seeing clearly what you've missed... Now you see the ways in which students got involved, and how people are more than what they seem. We are talented. We are unique. We are survivors. We are Vista.

now you
KNOW...

that sheep brains were dissected in anatomy.
And that the girl in front of you is a competition-winning opera singer.
And we have a record number of painted parking spots this year.

So much has happened this year, it's hard to catch it all. It really makes you wonder, "How did I not see that?" Makes you say, "I wish I saw that!" Makes you ask, "What will I see next?" But now you know. Now you see it. Now you see us. Now you see it all.

now you
SEE!

colophon



Now You See... Volume 12 of the Ridgeline Yearbook was produced by the yearbook staff at Vista Ridge High School in Colorado Springs, CO and was printed by Herff Jones, Inc. in Kansas City, KS. The account was serviced by Rebecca McGrath. The cover was designed by the Ridgeline Yearbook Staff and incorporated a four color processed image printed on a silk touch flannel base. The 2020 volume is 208 full-colored printed pages with supplement included. All body copy was set in AHJ Urbano Light 12 point font, and captions were in AHJ Urbano Light Condensed in 10 point font. Headline fonts included AHJ Urbano Bold in 36 and 48 point fonts and AHJ Vaughn Hand in 60 and 42 point fonts. Layouts were designed and submitted via the eDesign online software. Our inspiration for the theme of this year's book was seeing through illusions and seeing past first impressions. An important design element throughout the book is the colored ink clouds that flowed organically through the pages showing scenes from the school year. The original ink clouds were taken by Photo II students. The four vibrant colors green, blue, purple, and pink carried throughout are equally important as they signify the retiring grade level colors. These colors are used as a design element, making the different categories of content stand out from one another and making them easy to find. The Editor-In-Chief, Danielle Brown, and Editor-In-Chief, Madison Copple, worked with Adviser, Andrea Adams, to keep the staff working and bring our colorful book to life.

Adviser: Andrea Adams
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