

HYBRID OR NOT?

With new COVID policies in play, students were given the choice to either stay in the hybrid model or go entirely online until Spring Break



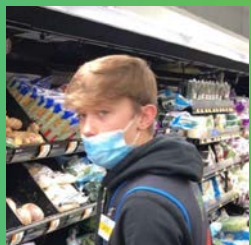
Hybrid: "It's nice to see my friends and teachers other than through a screen, and I'm definitely more positive and happy because of it," Savannah Pohl (9) said.



Online: "It benefits me staying online because I can learn to be better at managing time with work outside of the in-school classroom," Zander Dill (11) said.



Hybrid: "I chose in person because I wanted to get back to seeing my friends and I feel it's more helpful to be in class with the teacher," Jocelyn Chavarria (12) said.



Online: "I chose to stay home because of the quarantine policy at Walmart, which would have had me terminated from my job," Jack O'Brien (10) said.



1. HARMONY. Grace McCluskey (12). Overall, harmony is the most important factor to a symphonic orchestra. When all the melodies, beats, tunes, etc are working together it creates something beautiful. It's something our Trojans take lots of pride in like McCluskey, who plays the violin **2. REHEARSAL.** Kelsey O'Brien (12). Rehearsing is an important and key role when preparing for your concert. It's one thing to sit in your room and practice your cords, but it's a completely different sensation actually rehearsing in the same environment as your concert. O'Brien acknowledges that and takes the rehearsal seriously and imagines herself in a concert like situation. **3. VIOLIN.** Araceli Dominguez (9). All the different instruments have important roles in an orchestra symphony. The violin often plays the melodies, as well as rhythms and sounds. The instrument has four strings and the musician uses a bow to create the sound. In the orchestra at Longmont, the violins not the biggest instruments but



they're the most in quantity. **4. ALL ABOUT THAT BASS.** Cassidy Means (9). Bass is often one of the most overlooked instruments in a musical group. Many audience members have no idea what a bass even is. But it plays a key role in making sure that the symphonic orchestra keeps good rhythmic foundations for their concerts. **5. TUNING UP.** Leslie Hill (9). Tuning is an important part of preparing yourself for rehearsals and especially concerts. Since each instrument has an important role it's key to keep each instrument in tune as that's how you are able to keep everyone in harmony. Hill does so before starting class and also before her concerts. **6. VIOLA.** Adrian Reyes (10). In an orchestra, the viola often has a larger role, providing the middle space between the violins and the lower strings. Now this doesn't mean the viola is the most important, as they all play an important role but violas are definitely the most admired but feel no pressure the way Reyes doesn't.

photos by ashlyn rowan and aiden gaddis



A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT TUNE

Students continue to perform as an orchestra despite COVID challenges story by cole gaddis

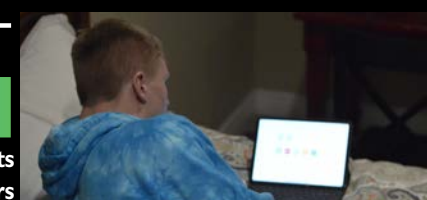
In a time where there aren't big concerts or performances, you'd think there wouldn't be an orchestra. But you would be wrong. The Longmont High School Orchestra is still up and running this year. With three class periods, different musical groups had to learn how to work together virtually. "I think the biggest difference between Orchestra online and in-person is that when online you really

don't feel like you are playing with anyone and it is hard to get a feeling of community when that happens," Erik Swanson (9) said. Seeing students take this class in a time like this shows their dedication and how much they love the arts. "The reason I chose to play the Viola is because I love music and I wanted to be a part of orchestra. It also just sounded pretty cool," Heidi Hansen (10) said.



THERE'S JUST SO MUCH

As the school year hits its last stretch, seniors become fatigued. Better watch out, because if you have these symptoms, you might have senioritis



1. Having five or more missing assignments
2. Doing online class from anywhere but your house
3. Been accepted into college
4. Stayed up till 4 AM with an intent to work on a paper and getting nothing done
5. Fallen asleep during "In-Person" class

Job # 07344 School Longmont High School

Special Instructions

WORK ORDER

5

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Job # 07344 School Longmont High School

Special Instructions

MORE MATCHES

AP Bio students work to cram a semester's worth of labs into one Friday session



"I personally find this field of science very interesting and there's always more to learn about and it is the study of life," **Bruno Gallegos (11)** said.



"I personally have had a difficult time getting my plants to grow but that's just one of the challenges of doing biology labs," **Alex Hunyadi (12)** said.



"The first lab was about Gel Electrophoresis. We tested DNA from multiple samples and compared them to a fake crime scene sample. Then the growth of E. coli under different circumstances," **Lacey Napoli (12)** said.



"I think I like working in a group better because if you don't know how to do something you always have someone to help you and it makes the lab more fun and easier at the same time," **Skyler Seybold (11)** said.



DOMINATE FROM A DISTANCE

The Debate team prepares for their virtual matches against unknown opponents at Longmont High *story by ella jackson*

The stress and chaos of forensics debate is rampant, especially with the debates being online due to COVID-19 restrictions. Between preparing notes and trying to get links to work, it was especially hard for students like **Mia Novick (11)**. "I just think the reliance on technology this year is really hard, and it's just kind of awkward when you're in the middle of a speech and your technology cuts out," Novick said. In addition, many of the sign-in links failed, causing multiple people to miss their debates and in some cases, get disqualified overall. With the challenges of this year, there is also the addition of anxiety and stress before debates for students. "I usually handle the stress before a debate match by checking over my cases and thinking about things I'm going to say, especially in 1v1 value debate, I don't have time to write down my initial case word by word,

so I write my main ideas and speak out loud like I'm presenting," **Alex Desmond (9)** said. Despite the setbacks of debate this year, there are other reasons to stay committed to debate such as potential career paths. **Caleb All (11)** is interested in following where Debate might take him. "I have an interest in a future career as a lawyer so I thought taking Forensics would be a really good way to get familiar with speech," All said. The debate team's results were great this year with **Bernie Hund (12)** winning his second consecutive humor State Championship. **Caleb All** and **Lauren Roberts (11)** also had incredible tournaments and made it to Lincoln-Douglas Debate semifinals before both losing their rounds there. The team fought hard for their places and can't wait to start up Debate again next year.



1. COMEDY COMES NATURALLY. A very enthusiastic **Bernie Hund (12)** practices his comedy skit before his match. Hund has a natural sense of humor, which has helped him win this portion of debate in the past. "Speech and Debate is my sport, that's the thing I'm really good at and I pride myself in being good at it," Hund said. **2. PRE-DEBATE JITTERS.** **Luke Riddle (9)** nervously prepares for a debate against an unknown opponent. Riddle has only been in debate for one year, but is really enjoying it so far. "I feel better after a debate because I don't know if they are new and an easy round, or the number one kid in debate," Riddle said. **3. RUNS IN THE FAMILY.** With seeing and hearing the ins and outs of the Debate program from his family, **Alex Desmond (9)** is ready to compete. "I have family ties to this debate program, and a sister who placed nationally, so I have experience with the system, and I am a very competitive person which makes debate really fun for me," Desmond said. **4. LIFE LONG SKILLS.** **Eva Holwick (11)** applies



the skills she's learned in Debate to her other classes at school. She has used her debate skills to form stronger arguments outside of school too. "I would definitely recommend Debate because it has helped me learn how to talk faster and articulate speech, and it also helps with quick thinking," Holwick said. **5. TECHNOLOGY TROUBLES.** The debate tournament relied completely on technology this year, and **Mia Novick (11)** had some difficulties with entering her debates. "I think the technology is hard this year because everything is online, so it's just kind of awkward when you're in the middle of a speech and your technology cuts out," Novick said. **6. ORGANIZATION IS KEY.** **Ben Howard (9)** has a specific way of color coding his notes during a debate. This technique helps Howard develop the strongest speech possible to oppose his opponent's argument. "I have a blue pen that I use to keep track of arguments, a green pen to label my opponents' arguments that are weak, and a red pen to label my opponents' strong point," Howard said.



photos by Lydia Chou and Ella Jackson

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DRIVE IT DOWN THE COURT

Girls Varsity plays Silvercreek on Febuary, 6th story by eli andersen

The Varsity Girls are used to the screams and cheers from the parents and student section when they face off against a classic rival. "It's super fun to play rival games, and games get super emotional," **Hailey Seamons (12)** said. Even though the usual hype from the crowd was missing, the girls still beat Silver Creek 42-27. "It was definitely different playing a crosstown rival with no fans. I miss the crowd and seeing friends and family at the games," **Annika Olson (12)** said. Despite the crowd not seeming to affect a game physically, they can have a huge impact on the final outcome. "I think that the

crowd feeds into the energy and definitely affects the way the players play," Seamons said. "Having a crowd watching always helps keep the energy and our adrenaline high and motivates the team. Not being able to have fans really makes each player have to dig deep and encourage one another," **Kate Roehrs (11)** said. The lack of crowd turns it into a whole new game where the teams that adapt will do better. "We have to rely on our teammates... not a crowd. At the end of the day whichever team pushes through that adversity and plays as a team is most likely to win," Olson said.

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1. **Sarah Wormke (12)** prepares to pass the ball to her teammate in the game against Silver Creek. The team managed to get their first win of the season. "It felt good. We had played a few harder teams earlier in the season so getting our first win over our rival was really nice. We couldn't wait to get the energy going for the rest of the season," Wormke said. 2. **Megan Leick (11)** scores with a minute left to secure the lead for the team. "And even though we were up, we weren't up by a whole lot, so I [went for the] shot," Leick said. 3. **Ella Pears (9)** makes a basket against Silvercreek off of a rebound. Despite the difficulties of this season Pears still managed to make it on the varsity team "It felt really good to get our first win of the season and we had a lot of fun doing it," Pears said. Jumping in the air, 4. **Talya Klusack (11)** makes a basket. Normally, the stands are packed for a game against a crosstown rival like Silver. Despite the empty gym, the Girls came together to earn their win over their opponent. "The most challenging part of the game was the lack of spectators. It felt really weird to play without fans. But I think a large part of why we won is that we worked well as a team and we all worked really hard to get our first win of the season," Klusack said. 5. **Savannah Pohl (9)** leaps into the air to return possession back to her team. As a freshman on the varsity team, getting her first high school win was a big deal. "It felt great because we had been working hard and although we hadn't had a lot of practice, just coming together as a team for that game that was great. Especially me being a freshman, my first varsity win, that was really cool," she said. Following an assist from Wormke, With her toes behind the three point line. 6. **Christine D'Epagnier (10)** sets up to go for a jump shot. With 5 minutes left in the final quarter, the team had to make a final push. "We all decided to dig deep and remember that we are wearing our town's name on our jersey, so we needed to represent what we were about," D'Epagnier said.

photo by matthew cash

FLY LIKE AN EAGLE

Senior Jaedyn Brown is among the first wave of girls in Colorado to earn their Eagle Scout rank



After just two years of being in Boy Scouts, **Jaedyn Brown (12)** has earned the rank of Eagle Scout. This rank is awarded to only the most committed and hardworking Boy Scouts, and it can take many years to complete all the requirements. After going through different options for her project, some of which would not work for the time she had, she talked to Agape Safe Haven. "Agape Safe Haven is a homeless shelter program that helps homeless residents get back on their feet," Brown said.

"What we decided on was for me to clean up their backyard that was filled with giant piles of tree limbs, wooden planks, and other debris. Then I would create a plan for, and build a nice sized garden," Brown said. Brown worked with a lot of people; both supportive and discouraging, throughout the project. "I believe that the people around me definitely helped me with this accomplishment," Brown said. "It definitely wasn't easy to get Eagle, but earning it that night made it all worth it."