

don't CALL IT A COMEBACK

Don't call it a comeback. We didn't "come back." We were here all along. If you didn't see us, maybe you weren't looking. We were at the football games. We were in class. We didn't go anywhere. What makes you think we did? In the midst of Covid we remained the same school, still a family, still a community, still wolves. Whether we were in the building or not, this was the truth. Our kitchen was our cafeteria. Our band room may have been our bedroom. Our practice field might have been our backyard, but it didn't matter. Meanwhile, we totally missed the halls plastered with posters, pictures, and streamers. And, you can't forget the line of food deliveries from Chick-fil-A and Jimmy Johns. We aren't like every high school, our name is "Vista" because we are an array of colors displayed on a canvas.

Vista wolves were excited for what this year had in store for them, not to "come back," but to see what this year would hold. This year brought pep-rallies with people bouncing around the track, tug-of-war, and the fight to win the spirit stick. It was also our first outdoor homecoming, the first year with two lunches, a brand new administration, and even some new craziness with social media. Vista is very active on instagram and posts about all of the events. Are you following VRathletics, Cheer and Stuco? Did you catch the hit of the year, the Vista Ridge Can't Park instagram page? Learning who makes up the rules as they go kept us entertained. It's not a comeback, but we are finally starting to feel whole again.

As usual, we welcomed wide-eyed Freshman with Freshman First Day. The Seniors, after all they've been through in the past 48 months, enjoyed Senior Sunrise together not virtually. The Thursday morning Dutch runs, football games, back to school BBQ's, didn't seem so pointless this year. The fall play drew a huge crowd and felt like a Saturday Night Live skit. Life as we knew it was maskless and somewhat normal. We worked together to make the most of this year. Kids. Coaches. Teachers. Staff. Administrators. Everyone put in a little extra time and effort, whether it was during sports practices, yearbook deadlines, or theatre rehearsals. Although the times have changed, Vista has not. Whether we were in person or not, this was the truth, Vista didn't go anywhere. So, *don't* call it a comeback.



Caden Monson, 12, and Ashton Smith, 12 at the hawaii themed football game.



VRHS Marching Band performing at half time.



VRHS' student section for the first football game.



Robert Pogue, 12, Luis Delgado, 12, Jace Phillips, 12, Charlie Markentel, 11, Zachary Pace, 11, Josh Pace, Christopher Aaron, 11, and Diego Sosa, 12, gather during the first football game in their Hawaiian Gear. Sosa said his favorite events this year has been "the football games because they were fun and homecoming because it was lit."

glory DAYS



Isabella Barrientos, 9

"My favorite top two events that I have been a part of is Marching Band and Pep band."



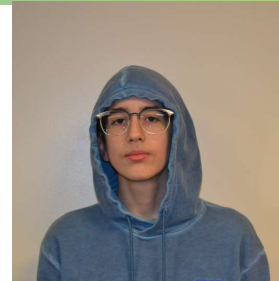
Robert Pogue, 12

"The football games because the student section is crazy, I got crowd surfed one time which was awesome, the student sectiond are just the most vivid memories."



Kira Blandford, 11

"The hawaiiin themed football game with the barbeque and homecoming because the school really participated and it wasn't cold yet so it was nice to be outside."



Christopher Sabin, 10

"My favorite classes have been US History and American Government, the teachers are really cool."

fun IN THE PACK

Each year Vista has a handful of events that students can interact in. Dances, football games, plays, spirit weeks. Despite the long awaited times to have in-person events, we were able to do spirit weeks online and have virtual pep-rallies. Every student's time at Vista is different, everyone has different memories and different moments that have been life changing. What memories will Vista students remember forever?

Brayden Thomas, 11, "My favorite memory of high school has been getting to see my friends everyday and enjoy their company while hanging out with them at lunch and having good conversations."

Mattie Junglas, 10, recalled, "Anime club has been my favorite thing at Vista because I enjoy watching anime, and when I'm bored I draw the picture."

Madison Green, 12, "This year's homecoming was my favorite because it was outside, the games they had were also really fun. I really liked my dress too."

Kayla Miyamoto, 9, said, "Marching in JROTC because I used to watch my dad march, and now I get to and it's a great experience."

Tatianna Sanders, 11, "The pep rally was my favorite because it is different, and it's fun to get everyone on the field and watching cheer, band, and listen to the music."

Whether its a dance, club or simply being in company with your friends there are always good spirits in the eyes of the Wolves.



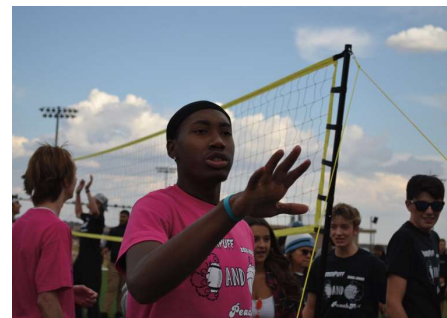
I wanna go back



The student section cheer on their classmates during the games at the Back to School Pep Rally. See page 6 for more details.



Lauren Suiter, 12, and *Gabriella Gioscia, 12*, ran the yearbook booth at the annual PowerZone BBQ to celebrate the beginning of the school year. Find it on page 8.



Gregory Wesley, 12, played in the PeachFuzz games this year. He said things got a little heated and competitive against the Junior class. More on page 10.

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Isabella Cavillo, 12, and Luis Delgado, 12, played a game of tug of war at this year's homecoming pep rally. Luis Delgado, 12, said, "The homecoming pep-rally felt like something new. I like going to football games because everyone is always hype. My favorite thing about high school has been soccer because of the bus rides to other schools, they are usually really fun, the rides back are quiet though."



Javier Torres, 12, rocked the shades at a football game. The student section took turns wearing sunglasses for a Tik-Tok Challenge. More about the Homecoming Court on page 11.



Advanced Leadership threw their annual trunk or treat for the powerzone community. There was a large community turn-out. More fall fun on page 14.



David Dougherty, 12, and Skylar Platt, 10, were a part of the cast for the fall play Cash On Delivery, a comedy that had the audience cracking up. Find more information on page 16.



pictures OF YOU

In the halls, classrooms, and at the games, people are everywhere. The students of Vista are going to work, babying their cars, flying above a crowd at a stadium, applying to colleges, and hanging with friends at games.

What would school be without our people? Last year, we found out exactly what that means. That doesn't mean we didn't hang out with our friends, because we never stopped doing that. We never stopped going to football games. We never stopped going to school, or going to the store. We wore masks and kept our distance.

This year, we don't have masks or limited crowds. We know that as we walk down our hallways pushing our way to our classrooms. This isn't about being back, because we never left. This is about students and staff continuing to do what we've always done.

Jace Phillips, 11, said, "Our school spirit and the culture our students create really makes Vista, Vista. We have games at pep rallies to get the students and teachers involved outside of actual school work which differs us from other schools around."



shout, shout, let it all out



Isabella Barrientos, 10

"I'm in marching band and I play during the pep rallies too. Basically, pep band is like marching band but you're playing songs that get the crowd hyped up."

See Sophomores beginning on page 40.



Nathan Petersen, 12

"I've gone to a few football games, and I thought they were pretty fun. The Homecoming game was super cool since we won. It just made the actual Homecoming way better."

See Seniors beginning on page 64.



Baylea Larson, 12

"After not really seeing football games last year, it's amazing to finally get back to it. It's my dream that I would be able to cheer for my brother during a varsity game."

See Seniors beginning on page 64.



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The student section watches as the wolves play the offense. Each home game featured a new theme for dressing up. The first game was Hawaiian themed.



Dylan Cary, 11

"Football games are pretty chaotic but also a lot of fun. Just the aura of the crowd cheering for our team is really cool."

See Juniors beginning on page 52.



Kimberly Yates, 12

"I have to cheer at home football games. It's different because I'm having fun either going to games on my own versus going for cheer. And yes, I can do a backflip."

See Seniors beginning on page 64.



Hector Gonzalez, 9

"I really liked how the football team played this year, all of the strategies they used were really cool to see in action. The energy of the crowd was cool too."

See Freshmen beginning on page 28.



take BACK THE YEAR

Vista takes pride in the variety of classes offered. From your basic English and Math, we have to college English classes and Math classes. There is a class for everyone. Courses are centered around future careers and helping students prepare to be successful adults such as Personal Finance. The list of clubs is never ending for students. There is a range from interests such as anime to nationally recognized clubs such as NHS. Each year brings new blossoming clubs as well like Yoga Club. Students can find their niche within clubs and academics.

Ethan Smith, 11, said, "My favorite class at Vista is the Private Pilot Ground School class. I'm training to be a pilot and it gives us great information and I have a lot of fun in that class."

Nicklas Toves, 12, said, "Life Management or Sociology were my favorite classes because teachers have a big role in making classrooms comfortable and those teachers were very open and honest."

Zoe Edginton, 10, "I really liked athletic training because I liked studying the anatomy of the body."

Chandler Platt, 11, said, "Security Plus was my favorite class because Mr. Hunt made it fun and I learned a lot. We spent a lot of time restoring computers and their hardware."

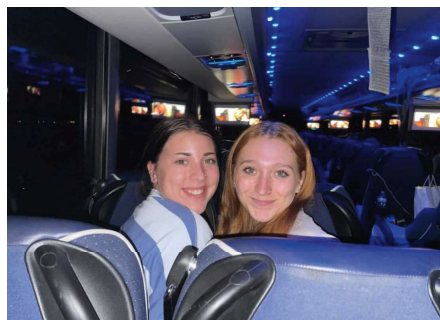
Ava Pogue, 12, said, "My favorite class is honestly my off period, because you get a break from school, and I have time for myself."



manic monday



Mr. Gaddis' 5th period science class conducted an experiment involving flames. More on page 108.



Darcy Bridges, 12, and *Rhiannon Wall, 11*, on the bus on their way to this year's annual show choir competition. More on page 134.



The social studies department is always trying to find a way to make learning fun, including doing activities inside and outside the classroom. More on page 110.



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Kaycee Slawson, 12, and Alexander Blouin, 12, and Amelia Makowsky, 11, on the Charter Bus to Nebraska. Kaycee Slawson, 12, said, "Performing the day and night show was the best part. It was exciting, the back of the bus is where the party happens. We play music, watch movies, and get ready for the show."



The Ridgeline editors, *Phillip Hoosier, 12, Gabriella Gioscia, 12, Madisyn Manka, 12, Madeline Hale, 12, Lauren Suiter, 12, & Jacob Odum, 12 and Morgan Hampton, 12, (not pictured),* took a bonding trip to Dollar Tree after their yearbook camp in Castle Rock. See more on page 124.



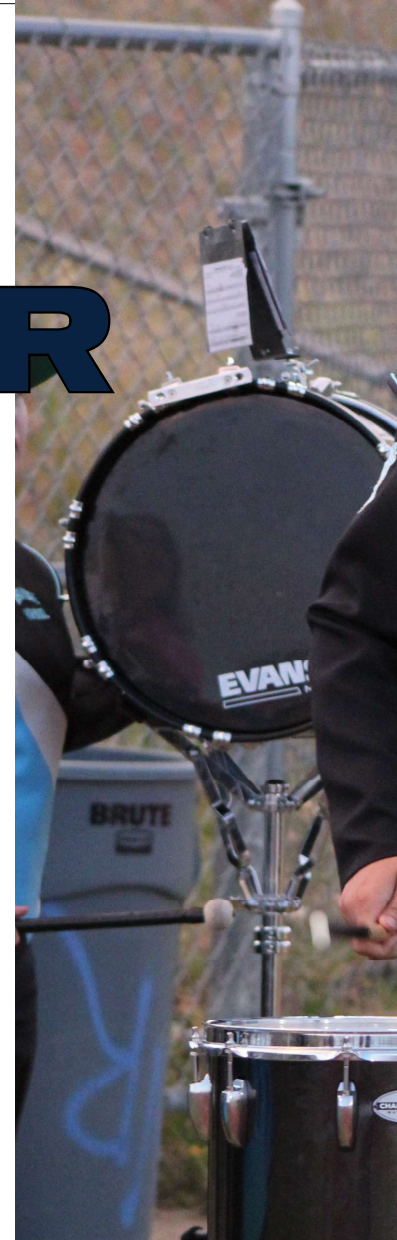
Reagan Vrana, 11, is in Ms. Levis' first period Anatomy & Physiology class. They started their first dissection of a mink to add to their muscular system unit. See more on page 108.



STUCO enjoyed their annual Thanksgiving filled with good food and lots of fun memories. See more on page 122.

never SURRENDER

Basketball. Soccer. Football. Sports are a major part of Vista life and student life in general. The student section shows up to every game to make sure that no team is left without support. While cross country and golf might not pull an audience, the students congratulate them in the hallways and over the announcements. Marching keeps the crowd moving with music for dancing, stomping, and cheering. For the past six consecutive years, cheer has won the PPAC cheer competition. Students pack the stands for a home game, and drive to the opponent's school to cheer for VR. Cheer, in conjunction with football and basketball games, get the crowd moving with chants like "WE ARE VR!" The drum line builds suspense as a player shoots a free throw. Sports as a whole give students the chance to cheer for their classmates, and for players to build lasting relationships with their teammates. Sports never left though. The ball was still being kicked, still being caught, pitched, and the drums still played. Sports never slowed down, never left. The crowd may have been smaller, but that just meant they had to be louder.



hit me with your best shot



The Varsity football team pushed through defensive lines to end the season with 7 wins. Read more on page 142.



Cheer has won the Pikes Peak Athletic Conference for the sixth year in a row. At two competitions, they won the most spirited award. Read more on page 144.



Softball took bases and scored home runs during their Autumn season. Read more on page 150.



who? what? when? where?

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Ethan DeLuca, 12, laying down a beat on the drums during a pep rally.



Golf players swung their clubs and held their breath as the ball rolled into the hole. Read more about a Vista student competing at the state level on page 154.



The girls basketball team shoot and score during their season. Read about the three new coaches on page 162.



From competing at the state level to competing at Lady Hornet Classic Tournament, the wrestling team pinned their opponents to the ground. Read more on page 164.



Augustin Rivera, 11, shoots for a point during his junior season in basketball. As a junior on varsity, 'Auggie' is ready to see what the next season has in store.

don't

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don't call it a comeback, because we never left. We practiced our sports. We finished our assignments. Our teachers created lessons, and we took notes. We went to games and cheered on our teams. We went to state and took the title of "Champion." We started the Silver Moon Concession stand. We woke up early and got the parking spot we wanted. We never left; we've been here the whole time.

We saw what our school had in store for us. Our basketball team made it to the sweet 16. We didn't expect homecoming to be outside, or be the largest turn out for the event in Vista history. We didn't expect the formation of a new band called Myelin at the talent show. We can't call it a comeback because we never left. We're not going anywhere, so *don't* call it a comeback.

crazy

TRAIN



Anthony Hall, 9

"Honestly I'm looking forward to not being a freshmen. Not being the youngest in the school is definitely a big plus."



Alex Ruffalo, 10

"I'm looking forward to the cyber security path that I'm going to take. I want to join the Air Force and continue cyber security through it."



Alissa Parsons, 11

"I just got a promotion at my work, a gymnastics gym, which is fire because after high school I'm going to go to a teaching pathway."



Georgia Ahrens, 12

"After high school, I'm going to a four year university to pursue an education that would teach me how to do my part for the fight against climate change."



don't **CALL IT A COMEBACK**

Don't Call it a Comeback, Volume 14, was produced by the Ridgeline staff at Vista Ridge High School in Colorado Springs, CO and was printed by Jostens in Kansas City, KS. The account was serviced by Kati Knisley and Michelle Gainey. The cover was designed by the Ridgeline Editing Staff and incorporated a five color image printed on a matte cover with UV gloss. An important design element for this book is bright colors, triangles, gradients, and dots with a five color scheme throughout the book of pink, blue, green, yellow, and navy blue. The 2022 volume has 216 full-colored printed pages with supplement included. All body copy is set in Craft Gothic Semi Condensed 12 point font, captions and photo numbers were in Craft Gothic Semi Condensed 9 point font, names were accented in *alden hand* font. Headlines were Craft Gothic Heavy Condensed 48-60 point font and Alden Hand 55-60 point font. Layouts were designed on Adobe InDesign and submitted via Josten's Monarch software.

Our inspiration for this book was the late 80s and early 90s. We felt this design was on trend with the rise of comeback fashions, music, tv show, and cinema. Song lyrics are used throughout the book as headlines and sub-headlines. Our title comes from the song Mama Said Knock You Out. The first line states, "Don't call it a Comeback, I've been here for years." After the challenges over the past two years, we felt it was important to remind everyone, we have always been Vista. The Editor-in-Chief Gabriella Gioscia and Editor-in-Chief Phillip Hoosier worked with Advisor Andrea Adams and the editing staff to design this book and motivate this staff to bring this loud and vibrant book to life.

For your listening pleasure scan the Spotify code on this page to jam out to the tracks that kept us going as we created this book. (Vista Ridge does not own and is not affiliated with these songs.)

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Clubs & Academics Editor: Madeline Hale
People Editor: Morgan Hampton
Reference Editor: Madisyn Manka

A NOTE FROM THE EDITORS

Dear Yerds,

We made another incredible book! Phillip and I could not be more proud of the dedication and work you all have put into this book this year! As a staff we captured the memories of the 2022 year. From Freshman to Senior year, Phillip and I have been apart of four volumes of the Ridgeline Yearbook, and we could not be prouder of the final volume we've created. Yearbook has quickly become a part of our lives as we see parts of yearbook no one else sees: our secret candy stash, pizza work nights, and secret santa Christmas parties! It has truly been a pleasure to be a yerd for the past four years. We are going to miss this class, this group, and these books.

Your Editors,
gabby & phillip

