

Chronicle

The voice of HR



Illustration by Alex Willman

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Letter from the editor

Delaney Atchison, *Editor in Chief*

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Safer At Home listening

It's hard to deny the fact that although this pandemic has caused a whole slew of problems, the Chronicle staff has still been able to thrive in this time of crisis. Not only have we had to write the newspaper from a virtual setting, but we've also had to deal with the recent goodbye from our 14 seniors.

In this final newsletter, Kara Lyons gives some tips from Stephenie Griggs regarding the gymless state most people are finding themselves in. Isabella Bogo also wrote an extensive review on the new and extremely popular teen show "Outer Banks."

Although most people are hurting for activities to keep them busy, Sam Hilsden wrote a review on popular albums worth checking out as music is another way to occupy the time. Check out page 7 for a look into these albums, as well as a QR code to our website for the rest of these albums. Additionally, Kofi Kessey took on a story writing about the effect of COVID-19 on prisons.

Despite these rough times, we've been able to learn and adapt in order to send out three newsletters to keep the community engaged. Because we had to adjust to a different design software and many difficult stories focused primarily on COVID-19, our knowledge has expanded and could be useful in the fall.

With not knowing what this new school year will bring, stress is high and planning for this August has been futile. Although times have changed with little to no knowledge of the future, the legacy of the seniors and this staff's dedication has consistently pulled through and will continue to for many months to come.



Seniors Noelle Harff, Jack Stilwell, Annika Rennaker, and Jennah Klein pose during trip to Colorado Student Media Association press conference at the Capital. *Photo by Erin Tuttle*

DCSEAC Shining Stars Program

Jaysen Anderson, *Staff Reporter*

Every year, DCSD staff members and schools are nominated for their outstanding services for students who are receiving special education services. This year, HR had a total of 14 staff members nominated for the Shining Stars Program.

The DCSEAC, Douglas County Special Education Advisory Committee, is a group of parents of students with disabilities and staff who want quality education for students with an IEP (Individualized Education Plan). They strive to support programming that meets the unique needs of all learners and host the Shining Stars Program to appreciate those who provide support.

The Shining Stars Program was created to show appreciation to the many schools and staff members that help out those in special education and reward those who are helping.

Vera Tejera, science teacher, said, "I am honored to be one of the teachers nominated. The impact this [nomination] has on me as a teacher is to instill a greater desire to be the best teacher I can be for my students by constantly taking classes and continuing my education."

According to the DCSEAC website, the staff members recognized are entered into a drawing for 1 of 10 gift baskets, with \$100 in value that is sponsored by Developmental Pathways. Schools also have a chance to be entered and will be selected to win prizes valued at \$250. By doing this, they reward those who are recognized for their service to those in special education.

Michele Thompson, a nominee and school social worker, said, "This pandemic has taught me a lot about the many different ways I can connect with students and I hope my work continues to make a difference moving forward."



DCSEAC Shining Star Nominations

- | | |
|--|--|
|  Bailey Allen
Affective Needs Teacher - EA |  Anna Bergard
Affective Needs Teacher |
|  Alex Canono
Moderate Needs Teacher - EA |  Jeanette DiGennaro
ISS teacher |
|  Christa Lenhart
Affective Needs Teacher - EA |  Dr. Chris Page Jr.
Principal |
|  Jesse Polewchak
Speech-Language Pathologist |  Tim Rasmussen
Physical Education Teacher |
|  Angel Spangenberg
SSN-EA Teacher |  Holly Spurlin
ISS Teacher |
|  Vera Tejera
Moderate Needs Teacher |  Michele Thompson
Social Worker |
|  Rob Uttecht
Security |  Anthony Verbsky
Math Teacher |

Source: <https://www.dcsdk12.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=220484&pageId=1189559>

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Infographic by Jaysen Anderson

COVID-19's effect on prisons

Kofi Kessey, *Staff Reporter*

The current COVID-19 outbreak has swept through nursing homes, meat processing plants, and public transportation, leaving 22 million people without jobs across the country, according to the Washington Post. In addition, county jails and correctional facilities nationwide haven't been immune from the spread of this virus.

According to an article by Fox News, "A total of approximately 16,622 inmates have been released - or are scheduled to be released shortly - due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The majority were being held on non-violent charges or were deemed to pose no immediate threat to society if released."

Some eligible inmates are slowly being released if they meet the requirements. Some of the requirements that a person has to meet to be eligible for early release and to be put on house arrest are a serious pre-existing medical condition that will increase the risk of the virus becoming fatal, no violent history or sexual offenses, and no violent or gang activity of any sort within the last year of being in prison, according to the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

Even though some of the inmates are being put in safer conditions, the vast majority are still being held in detention centers where the virus is running rampant and the supplies to protect the felons and the staff is running thin.

According to an article by ACLU, "People in prisons and jails are often denied adequate soap and cleaning supplies, making infection control nearly impossible."

There is already a shortage of masks and cleaning supplies in the free world, and these correctional facilities not only have a scarcity of those things but also a shortage of space between people.

The standard advice heard from the start of this outbreak in the US is to stay six feet apart from everyone when in public. Meanwhile, in the correctional facilities, having three feet from another person is a luxury. Michelle Means, a probation officer, said, "The supervisors of these correctional facilities are trying to find a way to construct living arrangements for the inmates that have roommates. But it is difficult to find room to meet these new regulations to attempt to flatten the curve."



Information updated on May 10th and is subject to change. Source: *The Marshall Project*. Infographic by Kofi Kessey