

# The Warrior Chronicles

## New Egypt High School

### The Class of 2020 Parades Their Accomplishments Around Town

By Abby Whetzel



Last Thursday, June 18th, New Egypt High School Class of 2020 graduates gathered in their vehicles in a town wide parade throughout New Egypt. Much like the teacher parade hosted this past month, students decorated their cars and took to the streets of New Egypt to honor their recent accomplishments and of course, graduation. “It was a really great experience and something I feel would be a great benefit for the school to add in the years to follow for all its graduating classes, pandemic or not” Senior Class Vice President Alex Pavljuk recalls.

The idea to host the parade was a student driven idea, presented by leaders within the senior class in partnership with their class advisors Ms. Smith and

Ms. Weaver. The idea was presented to administration and was quickly brought up to Chief Maroney and the police department.

As the event began, students gathered in the school parking lot around 4 and embarked on an arranged parade route starting and ending at New Egypt High School. With help from our local police department, the parade route was carefully crafted to ensure the safety of students and all participants.

The parade lasted around an hour and a half and continued into several neighborhoods throughout New Egypt. Several spectators were seen with signs sitting on their porches and front lawns cheering on the graduates as they passed by. The town-wide participation in the senior parade was yet again another show of unity this month as the Class of 2020’s traditional graduation ceremony was postponed. Alex Pavljuk notes, “it was a great morale boost for the young kids in families watching us as we parade by their houses, they can see themselves in us.”

Seniors were encouraged to decorate their vehicles with signs, ribbons and streamers. The parade was another way administrators decided to honor the achievements of Class of 2020 during the pandemic. Principal DeMarco adds, “The Class of 2020 has missed out on so many memories. The important aspect of the parade was to have community members show their support of this class. I thought the seniors did an incredible job of decorating their cars to show our town the next stage of their journeys. The parade gave the students another memory and another reminder that we are all behind them.” Congratulations Class of 2020!

## A Senior Celebration: Quarantine Edition

By: Sydney Orndorff

While the end of senior year for the NEHS graduating class of 2020 is not the most ideal situation, leave it to the NE community to make the best of it! In order to honor the hard work the seniors have brought forward throughout their high school career, Facebook parents with children in the NE school system became sponsors for them. As their sponsor, the parents followed the Facebook form the seniors had filled out and accommodated their gifts based on their interests. The gifts are personal to each senior, making light of this difficult graduating experience. The number of sponsors can vary based on the specific senior, some students having one designated sponsor, and others having two or three.

Senior Mya Nyguen provides some insight on the gifts the seniors have received, "for me, I have gotten candy, gift cards, balloons." Some senior sponsors have even gone as far as to, "give pizzas with 2020 written on them, college apparel, items for college dorms, and accessories for their cars!" As Mya demonstrates, the creativity shown by the parents participating in this is certainly appreciated by the seniors.

The effect that these congratulatory gifts have had on the seniors goes beyond the material items they are receiving. Senior Mackenzie Normile explains it as, "I really like that for most of us it is a surprise so it keeps us guessing and there is not a set number of days to receive our gifts. This really makes it a surprise because you could wake up to a new gift and not know who it's from." This provides seniors with feelings of positive recognition and ample excitement of being unaware of their givers. Mackenzie also cleverly adds, "It also shows how sweet and caring our Warrior community is." As Mackenzie perfectly said, the Warrior family will remain supportive for one another, even in trying times like these. Thank you to the parents involved in making the NE seniors feel as special as they deserve to feel, and congratulations to the Senior Class of 2020!



Photo Credit: Mackenzie Normile

# Balance and Comfort in The Face of The Pandemic

By Alex Pavljuk

(Photo courtesy of @selfdistancingcooking)

Throughout this 80 plus day quarantine, many individuals across the country and especially in our community have tried their best to face adversity with positivity and comfort at the most natural and basic level as we remain relatively isolated. Some of these things have helped the community like a local hero who has been sewing masks for community members, or a rogue painter who beautifies downtown. It seems like we've all found something to grasp onto in this very trying time. For myself, I have always loved cooking and making food and consuming food. So, at the beginning of quarantine, I began something to pass the time as we pushed forward into the unknown.



*Self Distancing Cooking* as I named became a second Instagram account to me. I dawned on this new alter ego to present and show off all of what I have been creating throughout quarantine. I started with banana bread, and then eventually moved on to homemade pizza and breakfast sandwiches of the like. It became a way for me to show off my interests in a way that a lot of my classmates never really got to see while we lived what were our previous lives. The food may not look *Bon Appetit* test kitchen quality all the time, and it might not look as good as Andrew Rae's *Binging With Babish* can make it, but for me, and my peers, it was good enough and is fun enough for me to continue doing.

Granted, in a normal, and more standard setting, a first-person article about something that one of our staff writers, especially myself, is doing wouldn't be something we'd be posting all that quickly. However, come on! It's a pandemic and we aren't in school to cover what we really would, so give us a break and take this simple little project that I put together and do something yourself! Create something, be something, grow throughout this pandemic, and better yourself in some small way then when you entered. Do what you need to do to be yourself and share it with those around you because every little thing that can make you happy will bring a smile to someone you may not think it would have. Like Eli Villipart, a fellow classmate of the senior class, he has taken this quarantine and created a score that could be used in video games called *Welcome To My World*. Anyone of us can do something great and share it with, if not the world, those that have known you since kindergarten.

Stay safe, stay healthy, and please even if it's just for a little longer stay home! I know things are starting back up and the beaches are opening but please keep in mind that we are not completely out of the woodwork yet. Follow our state's guidelines and do our part so we don't end up here again!

## Passion Project Highlight Article

By Abby Whetzel

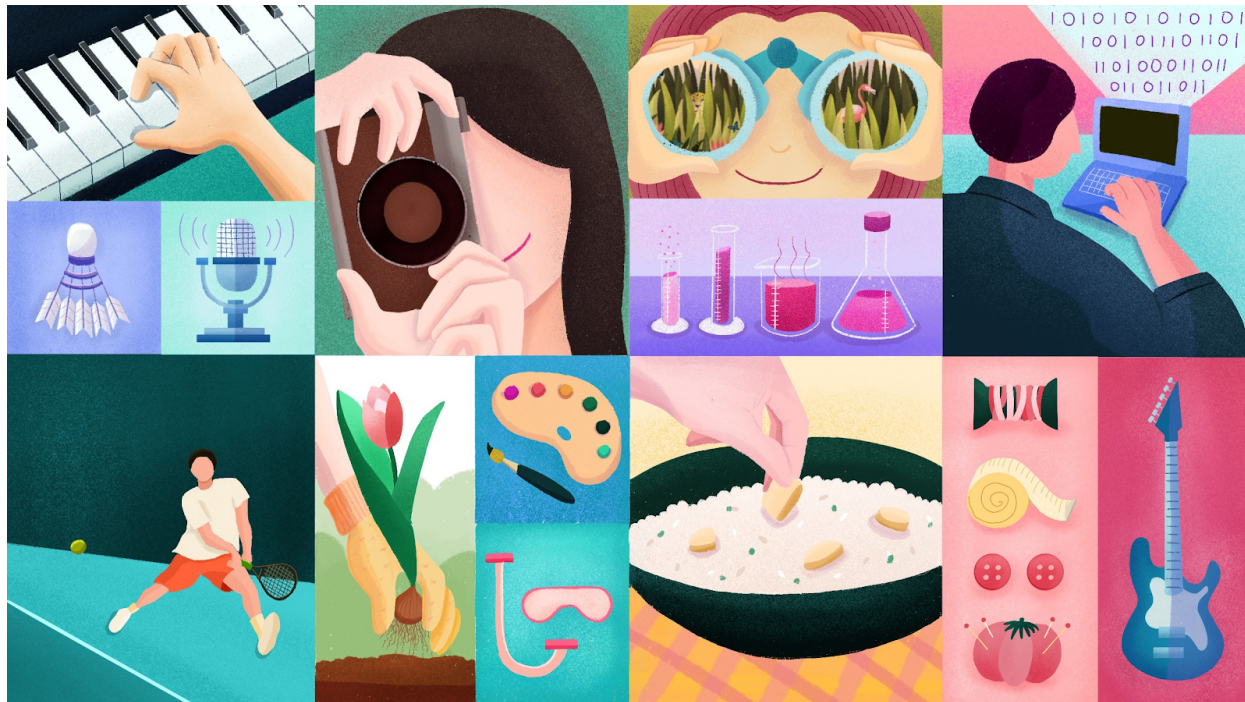


Photo Credit: prototypr.io

As a final remote learning project, English Teacher Mr. Hughes has presented students with the annual “Passion Project”. The project is intended to grant students an opportunity to work on something they have always wanted to accomplish and explore a variety of their personal interests including baking, painting, playing various instruments, creating music etc. The project features several checkpoints in which students create “blog posts” featuring the unique approaches they took in ultimately creating their passion projects. Taking aim at individuality and curiosity, the Passion project left students with a central sentiment, “This project is yours, and it is whatever you make it! Make it powerful, profound, and amazing!” I have taken the time to highlight some of the eye-catching passion projects going on inside Mr. Hughes Sophomore class, and I hope you can be inspired by how these students have chosen to spend their free time during quarantine.

Starting off our list is Ricky Trapanese who has made it his mission to fix up the rec fields here in town. He expresses his concern for the current condition of the New Egypt Recreation fields by explaining how it was where he originally learned and played baseball throughout his career. In his original project pitch he conveys, “I can speak for everyone when I say the rec fields are a special place at New Egypt I hope to make a difference [throughout the project] by showing people how to preserve their own parks and properly care for them” in hopes to bring the community together by revamping a popular symbol of New Egypt Recreation Sports.

Nick Surdo began his project with a broad idea of inspiring others and learning new things during quarantine. However, as the project progressed he moved onto teaching himself how to play guitar. Luke LaCava also began with multiple ideas for his passion project. He first presented a possible layout for a home gym, but quickly shifted his ideas to taking on a new hobby: baking.

Much like Nick, many students chose to take on projects with a more musical background. Christi Schwarze taught herself and made videos teaching others how to play guitar and Ashton Sempervive taught himself several songs on ukulele through compiling a series of tik-tok videos. On the same note, (no pun intended) Brendan Palma was among students who explored a musical passion through producing, writing a song(s) and even creating a music video to go along with his creations.

Haylee Schmick and Emily Luna each took their path in creating unique pieces of artwork for their passion projects. Haylee began her project with intentions to make step-by-step videos to teach other people how to paint their own pieces of artwork. Similarly, Emily Luna touched more on the mental health benefits of painting and other creative practices. She acknowledged a newfound need for tactics that could alleviate stress surrounding the current issues going on in our world. Through this, she too began creating step-by-step painting videos to teach beginner artists how to paint with a special aim on alleviating the stress of our everyday lives.

A majority of students used their time to delve into their passions. Michaela Weber took her passion for basketball and turned it into a unique opportunity for others to participate in her sport. Michaela created a series of short at home challenges centered around basketball that any person can try. Annie Witham, used surrounding inspiration to teach herself to sew and embroider by hand. Mallory Joiner took advantage of our current situation and used her time in quarantine to photograph the changes in our world before and after COVID-19. Sam Menaker explored his passion for editing through creating his own video detailing how to create an original movie poster using Adobe.

Evidently, the implications of the “Passion Project” have reached far beyond Mr. Hughes’ classroom, he adds, “I had students planting gardens, creating fitness plans, learning to cook foods from all over the world, taking up instruments, making tutorials on YouTube, developing video game message boards, researching tattoos, exposing gender inequities, learning about embroidery, and even developing plans for initiating a Medical Academy at NEHS. I was so proud to be able to teach a student body with so much ambition and drive. It truly was one of the highlights of virtual teaching for me.” The project even took aim at prominent needs within our community brought on by the global pandemic, he explained, “I had a student whose project was based on helping elderly people get groceries. That was a direct response to the pandemic. And at the end of the day, what life is all about: what can any of us do to make our world a little better?”

Let me remind you that this project is not limited to the sophomores in Mr. Hughes English class and that anyone, anywhere can take on their own version of a passion project. In the words of Mr. Hughes, “I think perhaps the most important aspect of the Passion Project was the opportunity it gave students to figure out what they are passionate about and then figuring out how they can use those passions to benefit others. When we talk about cultivating happiness in life, I do think that the sense of satisfaction that comes from what we do for others is really an ingredient to a fulfilling life.”