

Jackets Adapt



After beginning the school year in the midst of a global COVID-19 pandemic, Jackets schoolwide are doing their best to roll with the punches. Distance learning, virtual learning, and quarantines have become the normal this year. But just as the motto goes, “Jacket Pride never dies.” COVID-19 may come with restrictions, but students all around are still learning, working, earning and enjoying whatever they can.



Reigning Regardless
On October 23, 2020, seniors Trystan Minter and Ruth Turner were announced as Homecoming King and Queen. “Once I saw how much people were helping me advertise my attempt at royalty with Ruth, I knew we were going to be victorious,” said Minter.



Pep rallies have been renovated and the students celebrated homecoming with a hallway parade.

Stings of 2020 Continue COVID 19 Ends Season Early

Reporting Assistants
Collaborators

Lady Jacket volleyball clenched a spot in the playoffs, after an amazing season of play. However, due to COVID-19 quarantine and UIL restrictions, the team had to forfeit their playoff debut.

“Ending the season this way was not the way we wanted, due to what is happening in the world,” Coach Sasha Blake said. “It’s unfortunate that it ended this way, but we are blessed that the season ended

with a win against Shadow Creek the Monday before. It was a really great game, especially for the seniors.”

The team had to work hard on the court this year, as well as off the court, to keep each other safe.

“There was a whole extra layer of practice, planning, and thinking involved. And not just about strategy, but how we were going to sit on the bus, how to take-breaks to wash balls, stay socially distant, and wear masks,” Blake said. “Running and jumping in masks were extra challenging and the players did a good job of handling the adversity of it all and being flexible and resilient.”

The team knew they could work hard and make it far this year, and even with COVID, they believed they could accomplish great things.

“It may have been upsetting at first to hear the news that we couldn’t get to the playoff game, but I couldn’t have thought of a better way to end the season,” senior Blakeli Duckworth said. “To think we got that far together, I am really just proud of us.”



Community United In Jacket Style

Once again, the MCJROTC led another Veteran’s Day event to honor military members who served this country, despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

The event started off on Stadium Dr., where MCJROTC cadets escorted veterans from all military branches to the Memorial Stadium to honor each member. The MCJROTC is led by Maj. Timothy Flynn and First Sergeant Stephen Garcia, who also sought out the participation of multiple campus organizations for the event.

“First of all, this event was hard due to plan and succeed due to the Coronavirus,” Garcia said. “I am proud of our veterans for being so willing to set an example for wearing masks and following

health precautions. They really set the example for all kids to emulate. It was well worth the stress of planning because the veterans deserve to be honored. The vets were proud of all the kids today, and not just our cadets. They were proud of how many organizations across campus participated to make today special for them.”

The keynote speaker for the event was COL Craig Newman, who is retired from the US Army. Newman also is the owner of the most recent Chick-fil-A restaurant in Alvin, Texas. He discussed all the sacrifices all veterans have made for the country. He shared with the students his own experience of service and sacrifices through his own experiences.



Telling RBG Tales

Kacie Bass
Editor

After 27 years serving as a justice on the Supreme Court, RBG died on Sept. 18, 2020, due to cancer.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg, also known as RBG, was born on March 15, 1933, in Brooklyn, New York, and RBG was taught about the value of independence and a good education.

“She was always a strong supporter of feminism and women rights,” said teacher Donna Pauley. “Somebody asked her one time when there would be enough women on the supreme court and she said nine, and I think I agree with her.”

RBG attended Cornell University and graduated in 1954. After Martin Ginsburg, RBG’s husband was discharged from the military, the two returned to school and attended Harvard.

As a woman, RBG was surrounded by a male-dominated environment in school. Working through sexism, Ruth Ginsberg excelled, and became the first female member of the

prestigious legal journal, the Harvard Law Review.

RBG taught at Rutgers University Law School from 1963 to 1972, and at Columbia University from 1972 to 1980.

In the 1970’s, RBG stood as the director of the Women’s Rights Project for ACLU, American



English teacher Donna Pauley, and some other teacher's dressed up as RBGs for Halloween.

Civil Liberties Union.

In 1980, RBG was appointed by President Jimmy Carter to the U.S Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. By 1993, President Bill Clinton appointed RBG to the U.S. Supreme Court, and was selected to fill the seat vacated by Justice Byron White.

RBG became not only the court’s second female justice, but as well as the first Jewish female to serve for the U.S supreme Court.

“I think she had a lot of spunk, and I loved that about her,” said Pauley. “I actually remember her when she was first appointed, and I was judging a book by the cover. And I looked at her and I thought, ‘Gosh, she seemed kind of like a tiny woman,’ and I don’t know. I got it in my head that she was weak and not strong enough. She ended up being one of the finest women I could think of in history.”

As a judge, RBG spoke out for gender equality, women’s rights, separation of church and state, and the rights of workers.

In 1999, RBG won the American Bar Association’s Thurgood Marshall Award for her contributions to gender equality and civil rights.

She was replaced on the court by Amy Coney Barrett.

United Nations Meet BTS

Alayna Falcon
Staff Reporter

An English speaking leader with experience as an underground rapper. The oldest who was scouted because of his looks. A multi-talented songwriter and producer with a passion for rap. The main dancer with high energy. A top modern dance student with a powerful vocal pitch. The vocalist who auditioned by chance. And the youngest, main vocalist who debuted at 15 years old. These seven men make up the band BTS, who recently gave a speech at the United Nations.

The United Nations is an international organization which aims to promote and maintain international peace, and security among the nations. To deliver humanitarian aid and promote sustainable development are two of the biggest goals of the United Nations. In order to promote said goals, they get many influential people and citizens to speak at the UN General Assembly every year.

On September 23, the seven members of the Korean pop boy band, BTS, delivered a speech at the 75th UN General Assembly about the Coronavirus pandemic.

Leader of the group, Kim Namjoon, kicked off the speech by mentioning how COVID-19 was beyond his imagination.

The group was supposed to begin their world tour starting April 11, but all their plans were put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“I felt hopeless,” fellow BTS member Park Jimin said on a youtube video showing his interview at the 75th annual UN assembly. “Everything fell apart.”

The members felt defeated and angry due to the sudden halt in their lives. But,

as time went by, and they had embraced all their emotions and comforted each other, the members decided to make use of this time.

“I was frustrated and depressed,” member Kim Taehyung said. “But I took notes, wrote songs, and thought about who I was.”

Two years ago on September 24, 2018, BTS had given their first speech at the United Nations. It was here that they shared that they partnered with UNICEF’s

END violence program to protect children and young people around the world from violence, and launched their own Love Myself campaign with UNICEF.

“After launching the Love Myself campaign,” Namjoon said. “We started to hear remarkable stories from our

fans all over the world about how our message helped them overcome the hardships in life and start loving themselves.”

BTS believes in putting yourself first and creating your own happiness in whatever situation you are given.

“I found again the people I love, I found the music I love, and I found myself,” BTS member Kim Seokjin said.

Their songs became the stories they wanted to tell each other. Member Jungkook claims that if there is something he and the members can do, if their voices can give strength to people, then that is what they will keep doing.

“For me,” college freshman Melanie Cortez said. “BTS is a beacon of hope that things will get better with time.”



Bts members meet Executive Director of UNICEF, Henrietta H. Fore.

Interviews from YouTube:
<https://youtu.be/5aPe9Uy10n4>
<https://youtu.be/oTe4f-bBEKq>



All About Tik Tok

Joshua Rackley
Staff Reporter

Is TikTok Getting banned?

That is a very popular question within the TikTok community, and the 45th president of the United States.

President Donald J. Trump signed an executive on May 15, 2019. Along many other apps, Trump is wanting to ban Tik Tok on the speculation of the Chinese government stealing U.S. citizens data.

“Yes, I think tiktok should get banned,” said teacher Sherina O’Neal. “It takes up too much time.”

What is it?

There are 850 million monthly active users on TikTok as of September 2020. Tiktok is one of

the most popular social media apps on the planet at this moment. It allows users to upload small videos clips that are fifteen seconds long to one minute. Then, the video can be shared to the whole world. The videos include lip syncing to an archive of popular songs and collaborations with other

What Will Happen to the Hype House?

users.

Tiktok has 315 million downloads around the world, and one hundred million monthly users. With the growing number of users joining the app everyday, in the month of October in 2020, it got one hundred four million downloads alone, and the number will continue to

grow.

Microsoft has confirmed that it has held talks with the Chinese technology company ByteDance to acquire its trendy social app TikTok in the U.S.A.

Walmart and Oracle are also some of the companies jostling to buy TikTok.

Is Microsoft Buying TikTok?

Tiktok came out on Sept. 20, 2016.

It has made over one billion dollars. It is owned by ByteDance another company based in china, ByteDance was founded March 9th 2013. Those companies are both owned by Zhang Yiming.

There has been talk from the Microsoft and the Chinese technology company, ByteDance, about

Microsoft buying TikTok.

“A lot of people on the app were against Trump getting rid of TikTok,” said student Kacie Bass. “But I feel like banning the app is unnecessary. Especially since an american company is trying to buy the app; there shouldn’t be a problem any more.”

What will Biden do with TikTok?

As of November 6, 2020, former vice president, Joe Biden, won the 2020 presidential election.

Biden has already said that he will have more than one executive order to undo some of the many that president Trump has put forth.

Who is the New President of the United States of America?

Kacie Bass
Editor

Who Were the Final Candidates?

The United States presidential election of 2020 was held on Nov. 3, 2020. Voters was given the chance to re-elect the 45th President of the United States or elect the 46th president. Joe Biden was announced the winner.

Donald John Trump, born on June 14, 1946, in New York, is the 45th President of the United States of America. A representative of the republican party, Trump is going for a second term as president. A little bit of history behind the now president of the United States, he started off as a well-known businessman.

Joe Biden, also known as Joseph Robinette Biden Jr., was born on November 20, 1942, in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

Biden Wins Election

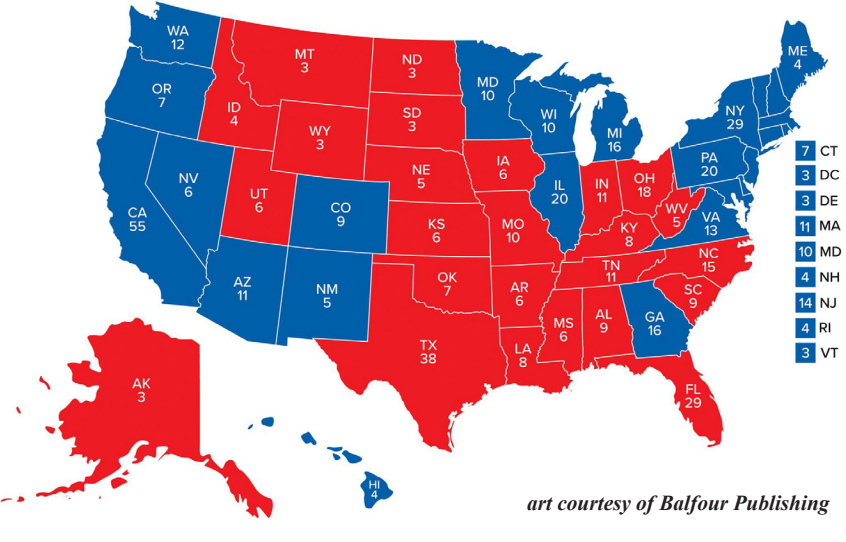
Biden served alongside the ex-president of the United States, Barack Obama, from 2009–2017 as vice president. In 1972, Biden was elected into the U.S Senate. As a representative of the democratic party, Biden is running for president against Trump.

The election ended with Biden as the projected winner, with more delegates (306) to Trump’s 232. A projected 161 million Americans cast their votes to

make their voices heard in this election.



Donald Trump (Left), and Joe Biden (Right).



art courtesy of Balfour Publishing

According to data from the Associated Press on Dec 4, Biden has earned 306 electoral votes, and Trump has earned 232.

Feature

Pandemic of Change

Ruth Turner
Staff Reporter

When Coronavirus first appeared, no one could have guessed how much of an effect it would have had on things that seemed so unchangeable and constant.

Things as normal as greeting friends with a hug is now dangerous. Places that were once safe havens, like friends' houses, are now hazardous. It seems that almost everything has changed, especially school. Just last year, if someone had shown up to school with a mask on, it would have violated the dress code, and they would have had to take it off. I am not on campus to comment on the changes, but several people can and want to express the disappointment this year has brought.

Senior Eric Odom said that this year has not had any positive changes. The pandemic has created so many hurdles and changes, and everyone is feeling the pressure.

"It kinda felt like we were all given the short end of the stick this year," said Odom.

Librarian Kimberly Hamilton on campus, said that she missed seeing the smiles of the students.

"Everyone is in a mask, and you never get to see their entire face. Sometimes it can be hard to understand people too because you cannot see their mouths moving, and their voices are a little muffled. The campus and the library is a lot quieter this year," said Hamilton.

Paul Summa, a history teacher and Academic Decathlon coach, agreed that the school seems eerily quiet at times, especially after school when the courtyard clears out quickly. However, Summa said that the thing he hates most is not seeing all of his students every day like in a regular school year. Some of his virtual learners, though, are still able to join in on classroom discussions through Google

Meets.

"Even though I have never met some of them in-person, I still get to 'see' them virtually during class time," said Summa.

Hamilton also said that she likes how the majority of people on campus are showing compassion for others who may have weakened immune systems by cleaning their areas, and flipping their keyboards to indicate that that area needs disinfecting. However, she misses all of the students who are not on campus, and having the luxury of not being afraid of contracting COVID.

"It is a good thing that Bath & Body Works makes such wonderful smelling anti-bacterial hand gel scents," said Hamilton.

Student Kali Lewis expressed her displeasure at the school's health policies by comparing its safety measures to those of other schools in the Alvin area, and says she would like to see

mandatory temperature checks.

Michelle DeLeon, the campus advanced academics specialist, said that COVID has pushed everyone out of their comfort zones.

"The innovation and application of technology in the classroom are completely different today than one year ago," said DeLeon. "Teachers are continuously evolving their instructions, and creatively seeking ways to ensure students are receiving equitable instruction, but despite best efforts, there are still problems.

An important factor, according to DeLeon is the communication changes between teachers and students. Working virtually presents new challenges.

"Asking for help becomes a little more difficult because you can no longer simply raise your hand if you are a virtual learner," said DeLeon. "Teachers are spending more time than before answering emails to help students complete assignments."

Virtually, A Senior

Shelby Bukowski
Staff Reporter

The Changes A Year Can Make

To say that this school year has been different from the previous ones would be an understatement.

I was looking forward to my senior year because it would be my last one here at AHS. But, if I had known it was going to be like this, I wouldn't have been as excited.

I no longer get to see my friends and eat lunch with them, or attend clubs and have fun, or walk around the campus.

But in retrospect, I'm not risking getting sick and furthermore not risking getting my family sick.

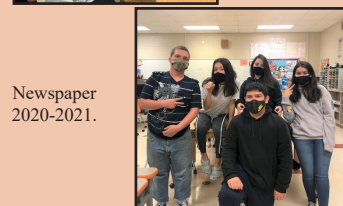
At times, I'll feel unmotivated to do my assignments since I have the freedom of turning off my computer and playing with my dog, or doing something else that I'd consider to be more fun. But as boring as online school can be, there are still some pluses to it.

I'll feel more confident answering questions since I can just type it in the chat box, or I rarely have to keep my camera on. When I am working on assignments, I can listen to music whenever I want.

As someone who gets anxious talking to people, this year with the advantage of not interacting with people face to face, I've found myself emailing teachers quite a bit when I'm having troubles with assignments or about schedules, and etc.



Newspaper
2019-2020.



Newspaper
2020-2021.



Homecoming
2019-2020.



Homecoming
2020-2021.



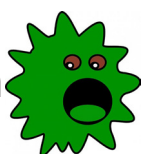
Class
2019-2020.



Class
2020-2021.

The Gernbustars of Alvin High

Report Assistants
Collaborative Reports



Custodians have had to change their entire work ethic by making sure the spread of germs has declined.

"A lot has been added to their list like cleaning the cafeteria tables after each lunch alongside refilling hand sanitizer and restroom soaps," said AHS principal Karen Taylor.

If a student or a staff member gets in contact with COVID, they will be sent home and quarantined for a certain amount of days. The, the custodians have to work hard every day to ensure that students are safe.

"There are many obstacles for us like communicating with the students and staff, but with all the new COVID adjustments, there have been even more challenges for us to face," said custodian Julia Cruz.

When a student comes to school with symptoms of any kind that can be related to COVID, they are sent to the nurse's office,

and then they are sent home. Then, the custodians are sent to retrace the student's footsteps and clean everything. In every classroom that the student attended and even the nurse's office, the custodians have to sanitize the entire room.

"We clean every door knob, each restroom, the cafeteria, and we sweep and mop the entire school. There are many new tasks to complete around the school," said Antonia Delgado.

The custodians assure that everything is clean and safe for the public to learn, and work. The goal is to make the school a safe and clean environment.

"We appreciate the custodians for helping us keep this wonderful school clean, and keeping up with the many tasks that need to be done around the school quickly

and efficiently," said MCJROTC First Sergeant Garcia.

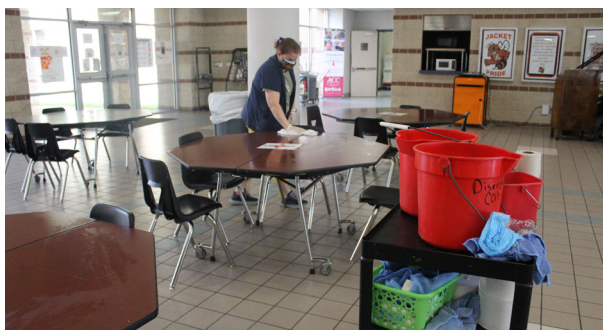
As much as COVID-19 is a serious topic, staff members have been able to see the positive during this pandemic. The custodians wear a sanitation backpack and go around the school spraying a cleaning solution. The sanitation backpack resembles the backpacks in the 1984 film Ghostbusters. The staff members have gotten together and got Ghostbuster masks for

the custodians.

"We thought it would be a creative idea that could be put into a gift for our COVID fighting custodians," said Garcia.

Behind the seriousness of the pandemic, and the fun of the Ghostbuster masks, the school is really appreciative of the custodian's hard work.

"We are very thankful for them. They're the front line in keeping everyone on campus safe," said Taylor.



Custodians spraying rooms while wearing their "ghostbuster" backpack.

2020 Yearbooks

Only 50 Left!

Don't miss out on this memorable book.

See Mrs. Luna in main office, or Mrs. Tompkins in LK 129 to purchase.

Books are \$80 cash.

jtompkins@alvinisd.net

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balfour.

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Food Distribution Site

Operation Hours
Saturday, December 5
11:00a-1:00p food is gone

Alvin High School
802 S. Johnson St., Alvin, TX 77511
(Parking Lot at AHS Football Stadium)

AQUÍ PARA USTEDES

HORARIO DE DESPENSA DE ALIMENTOS

Sábado 5 de diciembre
11:00a-1:00p se acaba la comida

Alvin High School
802 S. Johnson St., Alvin, TX 77511
(Estacionamiento de Fútbol)

Opinion/ Feature

Opinion: A Virtual Learning

Alayna Falcon
Staff Reporter

Life was going relatively smooth. Students were finishing the third nine weeks of school and teachers were getting ready to take a break from their rowdy students. Teens were starting to make plans to have fun on Spring Break while their parents were preparing to have their kids home for a whole dreadful week.

What no one knew was that it was going to last way longer than just a week.

In Dec. 2019, the first COVID-19 case was discovered in Wuhan, China and soon after spread epidemically. On Jan 20, the first Coronavirus case came to America. Then, as of March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic. This meant time for quarantine.

"I had to stop seeing my friends and loved ones," substitute Abigail Falcon said. "I had to learn to start budgeting because I was unemployed for a while, so that sucked. I had to stop going out as much, like going to the movies or to the gym. I had to start taking more walks because I have been more stressed. My anxiety went up."

Due to the pandemic, many people had to go through major obstacles and lifestyle changes. This includes, but is not limited to unemployment, budgeting, stress, social distancing, and

working from home. But the biggest change for most people was, and still is, having to wear a mask everywhere you go.

"I think they're good," Falcon said. I don't have a problem wearing them at all. It is good to prevent myself and others from getting sick. Also, I don't have to put on much makeup anymore, so that is a plus."

In order to not catch the virus, along with having to wear masks everywhere they go, some people go the extra length to keep themselves, and their families safe. This includes carrying Lysol and hand sanitizer everywhere.

"I have to carry my Lysol with me everywhere because I don't trust people," parent Lara Rocha said. "I always spray my seat at church before I sit there because I don't know where people been. They are crazy if they think they're gonna get me sick."

Because of the ongoing increase in COVID cases, online school became an option this year. For some, this has been better for them because they can do their work self-paced. For others, it is the complete opposite.

"I can't go to school, and it's my senior year," senior Alissa Cortez said. "I'm unmotivated. I'm lazy. This is my last year, and I just want to get over it. At this point, I'm just trying to get by."

MCJROTC Cadet Captain Trenton Parker Attains Coveted Legion of Valor Award

Josh Rackley
Staff Reporter

This year Cadet Captain Trenton Parker was awarded the Legion of Valor award which is a bronze cross of achievement.

The award is given annually to one cadet from each Marine Corps region who has just completed their junior year of high school and demonstrates leadership potential.

"I didn't even know the award existed, but when I read into it. I was grateful," said Parker.

Parker is also involved in National Honor Society, swim and water polo. He was awarded the position of captain on both teams.

The MCJROTC also got the MCRA Naval Honor school award as the top MCJROTC unit in region 5.

They competed against twenty-four other schools in their region.

"The process of obtaining the honor can be accredited to the kids buying into the program, and truly listening to how we are building our organization," said First Sergeant Marine Instructor Stephen Garcia. "We were honored to be named a Naval Honor School for the past two

years, but this year we were ranked number one out of sixty-five schools."

In MCJROTC, students are involved in many activities. Physical Training, also known as PT, the raising and lowering of the flag, competitions, and armed and unarmed drills.

The Marksmanship team shoots at targets with pistols as competition.

Cadet Parker is the first senior to be chosen as the commanding officer for the program. He is also the commander for the Armed Drill team

Every year, cadets have to have thirty hours of community service hours. They can get those by doing flag detail at the home football games, and by doing other things throughout the school year.



MCJROTC students standing to honor Veterans.



Cadet Trenton Parker.

Photography Tips 101

Emily Bates
Staff Reporter

Journalism and publications classes are a great place to learn photography and writing skills. Here are some tips for easy ways to improve your own phone photography. "If you love taking photos, please consider joining our publications team," yearbook and newspaper adviser Jessica Tompkins said. "Yearbook and Newspaper classes are a fantastic way to learn design and photography skills."

1. Use gridlines to balance



2. Set your camera's focus.
3. Focus on one subject.
4. Embrace negative space.
5. Find different perspectives.
6. Play with reflections
7. Use leading lines.

8. Look for symmetry.



9. Keep an eye out for repetitive patterns.
10. Avoid zooming in.
11. Capture small details.
12. Use natural light.

14. If you use flash, only do so during the day.
15. Consider a mobile tripod.
16. Set your camera app's exposure manually.

17. Take Candid.



18. Be non-conventional.
19. Make 'em laugh.
20. Clean your phone's lens.

21. Use flattering poses.



Big Win Caps Football Season

Staff Reports

The varsity football team ended their season on a high note on Dec. 3, after a 21-10 win against Dulles. The win was emotional and happy for the team, after a tumultuous year. "After all our hard work, finally winning just felt great," junior Gavin Guthrie said. "All the adversity and doubt from the season, we finally over came it."

Coach James Gage said he is incredibly proud of the players and coaches.

"2020 has been an eventful year, and our kids had the opportunity to quit eight weeks ago when things got difficult," Gage

said. "But they stayed with us, trusted us and gave us their best efforts."

Winning against Dulles broke a multi season losing streak that began on Oct. 27, 2017.

"2017 was a difficult year on and off the field," Coach Chad Strban said. "I could not be prouder of this group of young men who learned more than just football this year."



Alvin High School

the Clarion



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