

Terra Nova Times

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Terra Nova High School

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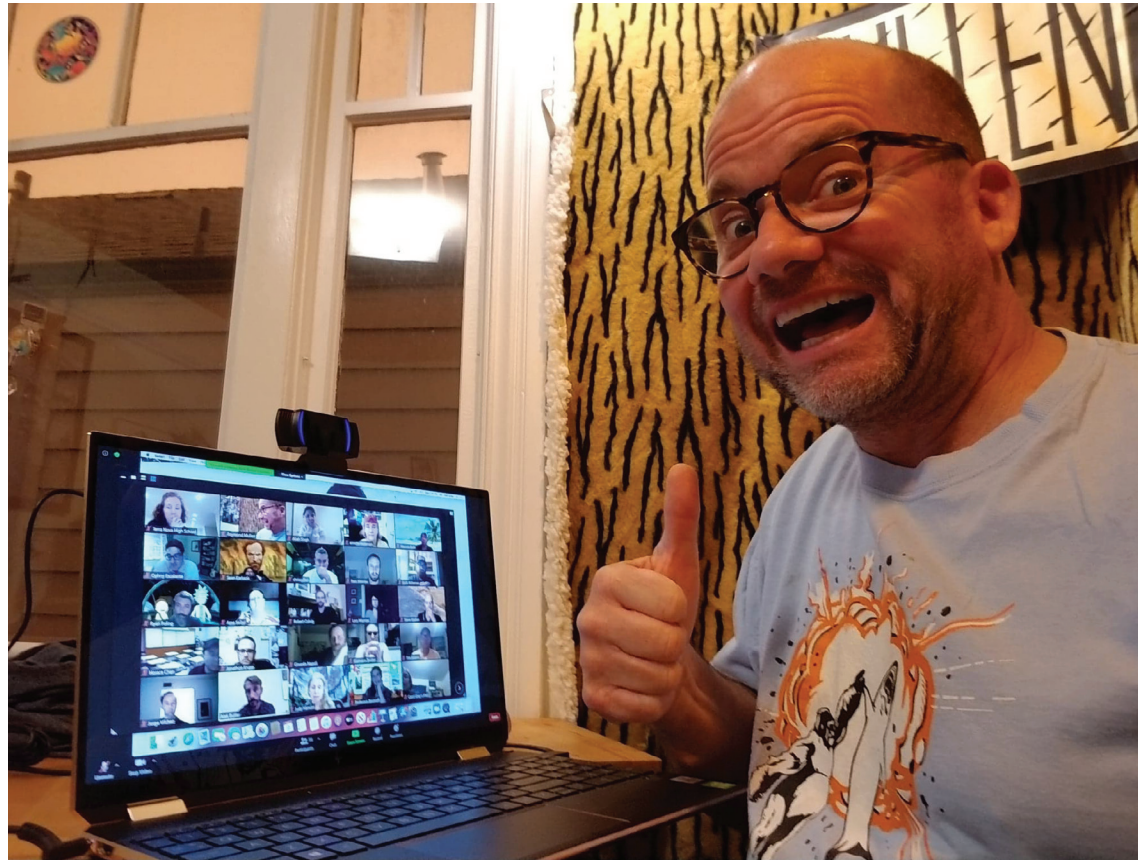
New schedule implemented for TN

By Kyle Gossage
Times staff writer

Terra Nova has a new online learning schedule, shifting from the original synchronous/asynchronous model to an all-live classes model. Students will attend each class three times a week, with periods one, three, and five on Mondays and Thursdays, and periods two, four, and six on Tuesdays and Fridays, with all periods reduced to 80 minutes, except Wednesdays, to give students longer breaks between classes. On Wednesdays, students will attend all six classes for 40 minutes each.

Though this schedule change is designed to benefit both students and teachers, as with any change, there are mixed reactions. Joshua Ababseh (11) said, "Personally, I am not a big fan of the change; after several months without school, I struggled to get used to the first schedule, and now that I have finally gotten used to it, they change it. It is definitely going to take me a couple weeks before I am used to this schedule."

On the other hand, Kapua Wong Hin (12) said, "[The new schedule] allows me to



Ray Mullen

Mr. Mullen brings his trademark enthusiasm to remote teaching and learning.

have spend more time with teachers and ask questions so that I can better understand the concepts, I think this new schedule will work out just fine as long as the teachers give us less homework to ac-

count for the extra class time." Ms. Gutierrez, who teaches both AP and college-prep classes, said, "I support the new schedule because it facilitates more actual contact time with students...With two

80-minute and one 40-minute synchronous session, that will give my AP students more time to have access to the materials to be covered with me present to help them navigate the content... With three synchronous

sessions now, covering all the units is more "do-able." [M]y CP Chem class will also have more time interacting with the material with me on hand to help them if they have questions or need for scaffolding to meet the lesson objectives. Having more contact time not only with the teacher but also with classmates, even if it is virtual, helps lessen that 'isolation' feeling that teenagers are facing because of distance learning."

Principal Ms. Carey, who made the ultimate decision to shift the schedule, did so after extensive input from staff and students, many of whom found the "asynchronous" portion of the schedule unsustainable.

"The first bell schedule was created on the premise that we would be returning to campus and needing to keep the numbers in a classroom and on campus low...Our new bell schedule is designed to increase the access between students and teachers, while also giving teachers the flexibility to mix in asynchronous learning, which has benefits...Having the flexibility is key — it will help teachers adjust their classes as needed throughout the semester to help students be successful," she said.

Despite COVID-19, TN still scores high on APs

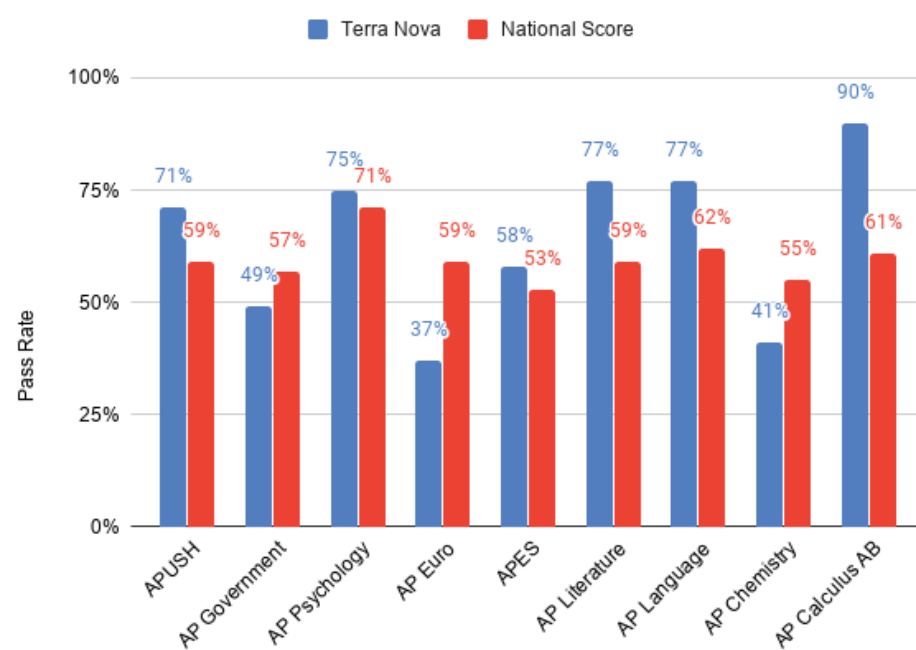
By Elliot Song
Times staff writer

The 2020 AP exams were the most controversial sets of tests the College Board has dished out to date. In the midst of the COVID-19 outbreak, the College Board attempted to adapt to the situation as best as it could by shifting the exams into modified online tests. Any AP student last year can only begin to describe the stress of having to suddenly restructure their entire way of learning in time to prepare for the new AP exams.

So how did we at Terra Nova do this year on the AP exams? Though our scores may not be up to par compared to last year, we performed exceptionally well in comparison to the global pass rate. In APUSH, TN students achieved a 71% pass rate, compared to the national percentage of 51%. In addition to last year's AP Lit and AP Lang class both notched a pass rate of 77%, scoring much higher than the national averages of 59% and 62%, respectively. Also, we must have a round of applause to last year's AP Calc AB class that attained a pass rate of 90%, scoring almost 30% better than the national pass rate of 61%.

Even with multiple classes going above and beyond the national average,

Terra Nova and National AP Score



Elliot Song / Terra Nova Times

Despite the disadvantages, TN still managed to beat national averages.

we have to acknowledge the difficulties preparing for the 2020 AP exams for students and teachers alike. Principal Ms. Carey said, "Even teachers and administrators were experiencing this online test process for the first time, and we weren't well equipped to prepare students at a

high level." Teachers were being forced to change their carefully planned out academic year because of the forced quarantine, and instead of preparing for exams, students were adjusting to distance learning and finding out that their internet wasn't as good as they thought it was.

Students were left to study mostly on their own at home, which impacted those new to AP the most. Kyle Zheng (11), who took the AP Euro exam last spring, said, "With COVID-19 forcing us to quarantine ourselves everyday, it gave me an opportunity to better manage my time and study more for exams. Unfortunately, it had the downside of cutting down the time we get with our teachers, which is a very important aspect, since our teachers are the ones that give us information and help support us on the AP exams. Because of this, even with some extra time to study, having to self study made it multiple times harder and more stressful than it would've been."

AP Psychology and APUSH teacher, Mr. Willemse agreed that the challenging circumstances dramatically impacted students. "I know that motivation and self-discipline were major hurdles to prepare for the AP exam [...] But there were also other factors outside of students' control. Some students had to carry extra burdens. For example, some students found themselves working more or taking care of siblings, which made it difficult to prepare for their classes and the exam," he said. Despite the obstacles, Terra Nova's AP scores were respectable, although a little short of the standards we as a school hold ourselves to every year.

Welcome our newest Tiger staff

Mr. Pofahl rounds out our administrative team

By Luke Avery
Times staff writer

From anthropology, to yoga, and then to teaching, Steve Pofahl has ventured through a long list of unique occupations, the most current being our new vice-principal. Growing up in Antioch, California, Pofahl established his studious pursuits at San Francisco State University where he obtained a bachelor's degree in anthropology, the study of human societies and cultures and their developments. After college, he followed a career path in yoga instruction before beginning a career in education.

Mr. Pofahl earned teaching credentials in social science and P.E. and then spent ten years as a Westmoor High School Ram, initially teaching and then becoming the Dean of Students. He decided to transfer his leadership skills from one position to the other by applying for a vice-principal role at Terra Nova, a position vacated last spring after Mr. Feague left to teach elementary school.

Pofahl said, "I [wanted] to apply



Luke Avery / Terra Nova Times

Mr. Pofahl is excited to start the new year in his new office

for this because it could be some positive growth and a way to experience new things and meet new people."

Ms. Carey is thrilled to have Mr. Pofahl as part of the team. "I couldn't be happier," she said. "He has a strong

resume of experience serving our district as a teacher, coach, athletic director, dean, and VP. He has already helped us get this school year off to a good start. I'm looking forward to having him at TN for a long time."

While serving as vice principal, Pofahl will simultaneously be earning his administration credential online. Speaking of the online life, he recently got married, and due to COVID, his wedding was on Zoom. The newlyweds live in Vallejo, meaning Mr. Pofahl commutes 45 minutes to work. Away from school, he enjoys numerous hobbies. "I love Gardening and cooking, but everything feels different with COVID. I'm gonna be honest with you, I feel like everything's around the house," he said. To avoid being cooped up inside, Pofahl sporadically finds entertainment through sailing.

Although COVID-19 has created a barrier between the students and administration, Pofahl is still making an effort to be introduced into the Tiger Family. He stated, "...While normally I would talk to [students] in the halls, now it's much harder to get in contact. Now I have to send an email, find out a good time for the schedule, and set up a Zoom call. This year, there are just new challenges in communication we all have to overcome to make a better learning environment for our students."

Amandeep Kaur brings warmth and caring

By Natasha Valdez
Times staff writer

With her knowledgeable and caring personality, Amandeep Kaur will make an amazing addition to Terra Nova faculty as our new school psychologist. As a well-rounded woman with a passion for spending quality time with family and friends, trying new recipes, and reading, Terra Nova is lucky to welcome a new member to our school's support system.

Kaur was born and raised in India. She and her family moved to the United States in 2004 and have been living in Fresno, CA since then. She attended CSU, Fresno, where she graduated with a bachelor's degree in psychology. Kaur also attended Fresno Pacific University to complete PPS credentials in school psychology and Masters of Arts in school psychology.

She has previous experience as a substitute teacher in the Fresno Unified School

District for K-12 students. Kaur said, "This job really helped me understand what was happening inside the classrooms, different school systems, different teaching styles, and different ways to connect and build relationships with students." She has always had a passion for studying the human mind, and this helped her to be a successful school psychologist.

Kaur loves to support students academically, socially, behaviorally, and emotionally. In describing her job, she said, "I provide assessment, support, and intervention services to students, families, teachers, and other professionals to create a safe, healthy, and supportive learning environment. Basically, I am available to provide support to teachers, students, and families in many areas."

As a person of color, Kaur loves to represent herself for who she is. As a first generation American and person of color, she wants nothing but to inspire, motivate, encourage, and be a



Courtesy of Amandeep Kaur

Ms. Kaur is a welcome addition.

role model to students. Representation is crucial in all aspects of life, and Terra Nova was a school that Kaur felt has diversity within the faculty. She strives to build connections and long-lasting relationships with the students, families and staff of Terra Nova.

In her free time, Kaur loves to spend quality time with her family. She has a seven-year-old niece, three-year-old nephew, and four-month-old nephew. Kaur also loves animals and plans on adopting some in the near future. Reading, cleaning, and working out are activities in Kaur's daily routine, but apart from that, she cherishes her relationships with loved ones, and has a true passion for her career. She loves making her students feel secure and happy, and strives to make a difference in Terra Nova's student body.

If you need to reach her, please call the main office at 650-550-7600 or email akaur@juhsd.net.

Nathan Batchelder: from Massachusetts to Virginia to California

By Shayla McCann
Times staff writer

With the 2020-21 school year in full effect, you might have seen Nathan Batchelder teaching on your Zoom screen, or perhaps he is a fresh face. Terra Nova's English Department newest addition is Batchelder, and he is dedicated to making this year great.

Batchelder grew up in Massachusetts — home of the New England Patriots, as well as the basketball team, the Boston Celtics. When discussing his familial teaching pattern,

Batchelder said, "My grandparents were both teachers, and it was just a natural thing, and I knew that was something I wanted to do. I've always liked working with kids." He comes from a long line of dedicated and helpful lineage.

During his high school career, he played a variety of sports, from varsity soccer, to varsity basketball, and even varsity sailing. After high school, he attended George Washington University in Washington DC, for his undergraduate degree and a graduate degree.

Despite this being his first year at TN, he is a seasoned vet-

eran teacher; since college, he has been teaching for 13 years. This school year, he is teaching English 11, English 10, and English 9 classes. Get ready for an exciting year, freshies, sophomores and juniors!

In his free time, Batchelder enjoys gardening and doing woodwork. Working on vintage machines is another skill and hobby of his that serves as a side job.

Batchelder also has a family that started when he met his wife in New Orleans, Louisiana, later moving to Virginia with her. In this time, he also worked in Washington, D.C.

for a bit before relocating to his wife's home turf of NorCal.

In addition to his journey with his wife, they have just welcomed a baby girl, which is a ray of sunshine to the somewhat dark year we've all had.

Batchelder's dedication to working with students and helping them achieve greatness is in his blood, and Terra Nova will greatly benefit from his teaching. "We are so lucky to have Mr. Batchelder," said Mrs. Jenkins, the English Department Chair. "We still miss Ms. Stockler, but we are so glad to have someone with Mr. Batchelder's experience and great sense of humor."



Courtesy of Nathan Batchelder

Mr. Batchelder is happy to be in Northern California.

NBA players take a stand

By Miguel Valdes
Times staff writer

Millions of fans across the world watch and enjoy the NBA every year. Recently, with the issue of police brutality and the Black Lives Matter movement becoming a focal point in the country, NBA superstars and the NBA itself have had to take a step back and realize that some things are bigger than basketball, such as the recent deaths of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor. The NBA is doing its part to make sure their players are being heard and letting the world know that there are problems bigger than a game.

Commissioner Adam Silver allowed players to choose statements promoting social justice on the back of their jerseys as the league restarted in Orlando. Silver told the New York Post, "First, let me say that I wholeheartedly support NBA and WNBA players and their commitment to shining a light on important issues of social justice. While I don't walk in the same shoes as black men and women, I can see the trauma and fear that racialized violence causes and how it continues the painful legacy of racial



Karen Valdes

The NBA has taken huge strides in their fight for social justice and equity.

inequity that persists in our country."

The NBA's decision to support their players proves that they stand with People Of Color and are fighting for equality right beside them. The fanbase of the

NBA has also helped spread the message.

Aside from the NBA advocating as a whole, individual NBA superstars have also taken action and spoken out about the inequality in America today. After

George Floyd's death at the hands of white police officers, multiple athletes have used social media platforms such as Twitter in order to spread awareness and demand justice. For example, NBA stars Donovan Mitchell and LeBron James have made and reposted tweets relating to the BLM movement. Along with promoting the movement over social media, there are a number of NBA stars who were involved in the protests that took place across the country, including Stephen Curry and Damian Lillard, who were among peacefully protesting around the country following Floyd's death. Damian Lillard, honoring Breonna Taylor, chose "Say Her Name" for the back of his jersey.

Having highly respected athletes speak out on social issues draws attention to the movement and creates a bigger audience, and the NBA had the entire sports world's attention when the Milwaukee Bucks refused to take the court after the shooting of Jacob Blake in nearby Kenosha, WI. The Bucks's leadership led teams and players worldwide to step away from the court or the field to pay attention to the police violence that Black people face in America.

NFL prepares for season amidst pandemic

By Jack Gillen
Times staff writer

The NFL's season opener is right around the corner, as the Kansas City Chiefs will host the Houston Texans on Sept. 10. This raises concerns around the country, as many worry that COVID-19 could easily spread throughout the league, especially after seeing it happen in the MLB's return. Experts such as Dr. Anthony Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, are particularly concerned about this issue because a full-contact sport with 22 people in close proximity makes it easy for COVID-19 to spread. When asked if football should start again in the fall, Dr. Fauci said "Unless players are essentially in a bubble — insulated from the community, and they are tested nearly every day — it would be very hard to see how football is able to be played this fall. If

there is a second wave, which is certainly a possibility and which would be complicated by the predictable flu season, football may not happen this year."

Despite Dr. Fauci's concerns, the NFL is moving ahead with their own system. Many of the players have complained via Twitter that they do not feel safe, and others have even opted out of the entire season, forsaking their normal salary. Nevertheless, the NFL's positive test rate throughout training camps has stayed at an astonishingly low percentage of .017% out of 59,000 tests. However, suspicions have arisen after 77 false-positive coronavirus tests at a contaminated lab in New Jersey. This has led many NFL fans to speculate whether there was an actual contamination or if the NFL is trying to cover up how many people are infected with the coronavirus. All 77 tests came back negative after the individuals were retested, and the lab said



Jack Gillen

Nobody wins if COVID-19 takes the field this season, something fans and critics fear.

that the false positives were "caused by an isolated contamination during test preparation in the New Jersey laboratory."

Fans could also be vulnerable to COVID-19. Depending on the state in which they play, some teams are opening their stands to a limited number of fans, potentially spreading COVID-19. Other teams

are not allowing fans at all, saying the risk is too great.

Being world-class athletes does not make people invincible, as proved by future Hall of Famer for the Denver Broncos Von Miller, who fell ill with COVID-19 earlier this year. Lots of players in the NFL have underlying health conditions, like Miller who has asthma, and

many of the long-term effects of COVID-19 are damage to the heart and lungs. It is yet to be seen how a high intensity sport like football will affect those who have battled COVID-19. Barring some last-minute unforeseen circumstance, the Texans and Chiefs will take the field tomorrow night at 5:20 PM. Who's ready for some football?

Wild world of sports: The lockdown phenomenon of marble racing

By Luke Avery
Times staff writer

With COVID-19 delaying popular sports, people have been turning to some more obscure and lesser known sports to get their fix. One of the most surprising sports to take over during the pandemic has been none other than Competitive Marble Racing.

After existing in relative obscurity, Competitive Marble Racing has made it to the big leagues, with COVID-19 boosting its popularity, leading to nearly 400,000 people watching the league fi-

nal on Youtube. Since marble racing has no real players, no match has to be postponed or cancelled due to illnesses. Along with a public endorsement by "Last Week Tonight" host John Oliver, marble racing has become a fun pastime for many citizens all over the world. Oliver raved during one of his shows, and said, "Let me introduce you to Jelle's marble runs. They are based in the Netherlands, and they are a competitive marble racing league that is, to put it mildly, absolutely fantastic."

Labeled by Sports Illustrated as the "Sport That Can Save Us From Losing Our Marbles," Competitive Marble Rac-

ing is much more than meets the eye. Dutch craftsman Jelle Baker designs intricate racetracks, such as the Marbula One, on which various marbles race to grab first place, all to the riveting commentary of Greg Woods. Each marble is unique, as each one has their own backstory and drama, as well as their own fan pages. Almost as exciting as the action itself are the dramatic storylines that follow the ups and downs of the wild world of Marble Racing, including some scandal. A recent break-up shocked the community, as the head coach of the Oceanics Tide was fired for trying to sabotage the Minty Maniacs, an event that has been

coined Marblegate. He was replaced by Lagoon, whose inspirational and tough-love teachings helped them win their next big race. Truly a comeback story for the ages. San Francisco local Sabina Surmaitis said, "Marble racing was an amazing pastime for COVID-19, and its creative and interesting take on modern sports made me forget about the pandemic we live in. The community was really funny, because people take their marble team way too seriously. I even saw people betting on the next race."

A growing fanbase and humorous marble backgrounds, might just make Competitive Marble Racing a household name.

CALIFORNIA BINGO: CAN IT GET WORSE?

<p>MURDER</p>  <p>HORNETS</p>	<p>FIRE</p>  <p>TORNADO</p>	 <p>ASTEROIDS</p>	<p>WILDFIRES</p> 	 <p>COVID-19</p>
<p>ALIENS</p> 	 <p>KANYE FOR PRESIDENT</p>	<p>BLACKOUTS</p>	 <p>LIGHTNING AND THUNDERSTORMS</p>	<p>RABID DINGOS</p>
<p>HWY 1 TRAFFIC</p> 	<p>WW3</p> 	<p>FREE SPACE</p>	<p>TP SHORTAGE</p> 	<p>BAD AIR QUALITY</p> 
 <p>COVID CASE SPIKES</p>	<p>TSLNAMI</p> 	<p>"COVID 15" (QUARANTINE WEIGHT GAIN)</p>	<p>NON-MASK WEARERS</p> 	 <p>BEACH CLOSURES</p>
<p>LOW STORE CAPACITY</p>	<p>TIKTOK BAN</p> 	 <p>EYE STRAIN</p>	<p>EARTHQUAKE</p> 	 <p>BAD WIFI</p>

LET'S HOPE NOT