

social distancing yearbook edition

Yearbook Staff Completes Their Book in COVID-19 Quarantine



Mrs. Choate



Kami Seago '20



Daizie Johnson '20



Madi Dohrmund '20



Kenzey Wogomon '20



Alyssa Broer '22



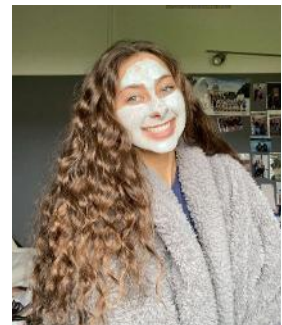
Kathy Truong '21



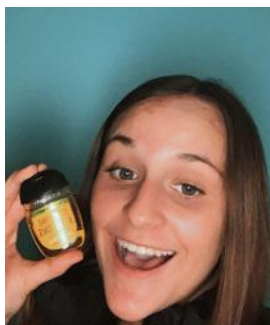
Carter Wheeler '20



Shonda Nguyen '21



Kennedy Wink '21



Abigaile Paper '22



Grace Trimble '21



Dyvon Solis '20



Sara Melville '21



Sam Petri '20



Mason Boland-Lopez '20



Bailey Emery '22



Angel Alderman '21



Khloe Schlemmer '21



Kylee DeVore '22



Roman Reese '23



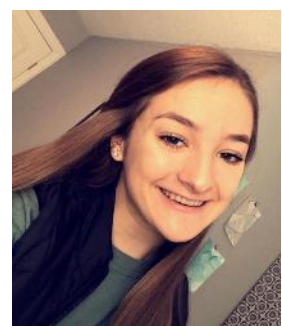
Kylee Harper '22



Lauren Keeney '20



Carleigh Argenta '22



Ella Heath '22

a message from the EDITORS

At our 2019 Spring banquet, Mrs. Choate announced the editors for this year's book. We were so excited and couldn't wait to get the ball rolling during the fourth quarter of that year! Unfortunately, I had a required class during that time so we had to use the summer to get on the same page and brainstorm ideas together. We also used the summer to get the whole staff together and practice forgotten skills over the long break. After that, we split into groups and went around the Quad Cities to sell ads for the book. This year was our most successful year selling ads. With Cobham's generous donation, we were able to purchase another long lens for our cameras. This meant higher-quality photos, especially during football games and choir concerts when you can't be up close and a better book overall.

Although I have been in Yearbook since sophomore year, there was still a lot to learn. Being an editor is all about teaching while still learning yourself, especially this year with a brand new staff. While they caught on fast, the editors had to work twice as hard because of a small staff. With the editors being drowned in work, we also made sure to commemorate West's 60th anniversary. Because of the importance of the anniversary book, we wanted it to be perfect. We started the year with a diamond mindset for the theme, because of West's diamond anniversary. After changing our minds and revamping templates about a million times, we finally settled on a triangle theme.

In October, the staff went to IHSPA (Iowa High School Press Association) and proceeded to find out that last year's book, *Soaring High*, received 11 awards. This concluded in everyone celebrating and hungry for more.

After eight months of hard work, March came along. With the entire book due on the 31st and spring break being in the middle of the month, it was grind time. On March 16th, the superintendent Dr. Robert Kobylski announced that school would return April 13th because of COVID-19 concerns. This meant everyone had to step up and finish the book from home. It took a lot of early mornings, late nights, and coffee in between; but the book is finally done. We could not be more proud of each other for working independently and creatively. I love our yearbook family and I cannot wait to see the staff and book continue to grow.

Madi Dohrmund

I am one lucky girl. I was given the unbelievable position of Editor-in-Chief of the Shaheen yearbook for 2020. What an honor. I loved my time as Editor-in-Chief because it was the positive constant I had during my senior year. From the moment I heard my name announced for this position, the wheels in my head immediately began to spin on how this book could be special. How could we hit a home run with this edition and make it something that was outside the box? I wanted it to be a stand out. I wanted it to be different than any other year. I wanted it to have the Kami Seago touch. The skills I have learned this year are going to follow me throughout my adult life. I have learned to use my voice, and to lead an incredibly talented team while also relying on their strengths and opinions. The connections I have made this year have been inspiring and life changing.

To make an incredible yearbook, you go through tough struggles and proud moments. Our staff was so young, yet that was one of our strengths. They brought new insights and fresh perspectives. We used pictures from the past and present which made the work intense, but oh so rewarding. Using a triangle design throughout the book was a new concept. It was painstaking but our awesome vision can be seen throughout the book. We worked through the 2020 Corona virus quarantine. This put our passion to the test. We did not want this yearbook to be anything less than fantastic just because we were not face-to-face in a classroom. It is amazing what a group of determined people can do during tough times.

My takeaways from being Editor-in-Chief are life-changing and make me incredibly proud of what I and we have accomplished. I have grown so much and become the leader I did not know I could be. Guiding our new staff, making the 60th anniversary concept come to life, designing features never used before, and being in charge of something that will be in print forever, are a few of my most proud accomplishments. I was thinking about what I loved the most and frankly I have loved the good, the bad, and the magnificent. Starting from a blank page and getting to a finished beautiful product feels spectacular. I have worked with the most amazing people and I am a forever fan of every single one of you. I love and live to be creative and thinking up theme and design elements and seeing them come to fruition has been an experience of a lifetime.

Upon finishing this beautiful book, my heart is heavy and bursting at the same time. We have overcome many obstacles which made us grow in our craft, but that is what is going to live on forever in this yearbook. My four years of yearbook will be some of the best memories I will take away from my time in high school. I am grateful. I am proud. I am forever a Shaheen yearbook staffer. Once a staffer, always a staffer.

Kami Seago

Creating this book has been a whirlwind of emotions. We began constructing ideas for West's 60th anniversary book last Spring and struggled to depict which design and theme ideas to carry through until we finally came to a decision. The pressure was on for us to capture West's past and allude to the future, as this reigns the first anniversary edition to the *Shaheen* yearbook. What generally sparked our ideas for the design was taking each book off of the shelves and shuffling through the history of West High. Our goal remained to make this diamond anniversary special. This year's staff was primarily new recruitments and we have seen them grow immensely after each deadline. While deadlines approached rapidly, we were cut short in the process of meeting our final deadline due to the Coronavirus pandemic; forcing us editors and our staff members to finish the anniversary book from home under quarantine. Talk about moving forward, right?

I believe that West's 60th anniversary is a huge deal, considering we have never seen a book recognizing the celebration of its opening. The premise of our book was to recognize tradition, staff, students, and a new era of West High School. I had the opportunity to assist in taking an aerial photo of West, which was extremely cool to compare that to photos from 1960. As we view changes now, in another 60 years we can only imagine another set of differences in West!

Regardless of the stress surrounding deadlines, staying late after class, timely photo assignments, and over-viewing each detail of this yearbook, I am extremely proud of myself and my peers as I take a step back to witness the finished product. Although I was only on the yearbook staff throughout my junior year prior to becoming co-editor, I loved every single second of creating yearbooks and am sad to say goodbye. I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to create a stellar new edition of the *Shaheen* yearbook for myself and my 2020 classmates to look back on and cherish West as our home for the last four years. Once a Falcon, always a Falcon.

Daizie Johnson

page CREDITS

Angel Alderman: 22, 48, 60, 130, 132, 136, 140, 154

Carleigh Argenta: 20, 68, 76, 78, 130, 140, 150, 162

Mason Boland-Lopez: 12, 132, 144

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Kenzey Wogomon: 10, 48, 48A, 162

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Adviser: Katie Choate

Editor-in-chief: Kami Seago

Co-editors: Madilynn Dohrmund & Daizie Johnson

Walsworth Sales Representatives: Jim Straub and Kaitlin Haynes