

SEWING FOR A CAUSE

BY MAKAYLA LEE

Amid this pandemic, the spring has brought out new interests in the members of the Mount Vernon school district. These new interests have formed to be hobbies, allowing some students to have taken their down time a step further into actively helping others.

Like others, I have been sewing masks for the community's grocery store employees, family, friends, other community members, and for the retirement center Methwick in Cedar Rapids. I have made multiple types of masks but the most recent type was inspired by Jo-Ann Fabric, a store offering several resources to create these masks.

At first it was a struggle to find all the supplies since there seemed to be a shortage of elastics in stores. Even the free packages to make masks at Jo-Ann's came to an end due to the shortage. But now there are upcoming ideas of alternate designs and a restock of products in stores. I love the designed mask packets offered at Jo-Ann's for free. I feel that



Katie Edwards

their design has a better fit and their template is already made for you in children's, teen's, and adult sizes.

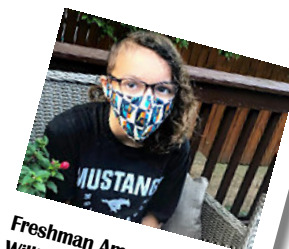
Apart from myself, other students have helped our community. Freshman Amara Williams made masks for her family and continued her line of help by donating the rest of her fabric to her neighbor who often makes masks for others.

In addition, senior Sadie Player also takes part in donating her masks to her family and friends. With the help of her church she has also contributed masks to factory workers.

Like her peers Junior Kathryn Edwards makes masks of her own. Kathryn said "We ended up donating about 50 masks to Mercy Hospital and we made a couple extras for our family and grandparents."



Sadie Player models a mask she made. She gave masks to family, friends, and factory workers.



Freshman Amara Williams wears a mask she sewed.

How We Helped

HOW DID YOU USE YOUR TIME TO ASSIST OTHERS?



WORKING WITH AMERICORP AT OLIVET MISSION IN CEDAR RAPIDS IN HUNGER PREVENTION AND PANTRY WORK.

Jackson Brus '20



RAISED OVER \$9,000 FOR THE LEUKEMIA AND LYMPHOMA SOCIETY.

Paige & Shannon Beck '20



MAKES BRACELETS TO SELL AROUND THE MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY. BARKALOW IS DONATING THE PROCEEDS TO THE BLACK LIVES MATTER MOVEMENT.

Ellie Barkalow '22



TO BUILD A FIRE

Nathan Murphy ('20) works with his dad to build a stone fire pit and foot path in June. The work required lots of heavy lifting and following directions.

CHAMPIONSHIP LANDSCAPING

Sophomore Anna Hoffman poses in a skid loader as she helps her family with landscaping around their new home in Stonebrook. Volleyball coach Maggie Willems posted photos on Twitter of her team members wearing their iconic pink state champion T-shirts doing activities at home to maintain social distancing this spring using the hashtag #StateChampionsStayAtHome.





MAKING MASKS

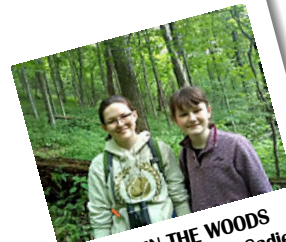
During the outbreak of the Corona Virus, senior Makayla Lee spends time crafting her own homemade masks using fabric and a sewing machine. Masks can help to prevent the transfer of COVID-19 from one person to another.



TIME WITH SIBLINGS
Jaegen and Cooper Bechtold make a fudge peanut butter recipe from their great grandmother.



HELPING THE PLANET
Freshman Michael Briesemeister picks up trash by the new Lester Buresh Community Center with his brother.



HIKING IN THE WOODS
The Player sisters, Sadie and Margaret, hike in the Bixby State Preserve.

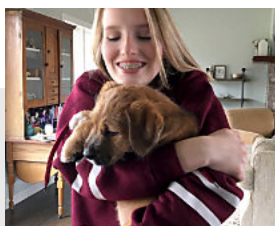
TIME WITH SIBLINGS



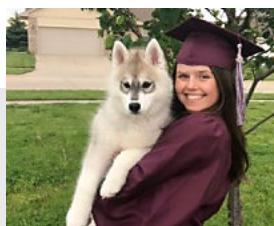
Junior Maxton Moellering helps out his younger brother with math as students learn through online opportunities fourth quarter.

ADOPTING NEW PETS

DURING OUR STAYS AT HOME, FURRY FRIENDS MADE IT BEARABLE



Lucy Maddock '23
Charley



Reilly Gross '20
Neka, Husky



Ryne Moeller '23
Eddie, Miniature red poodle



Evan Wilch '20
George, Beagle