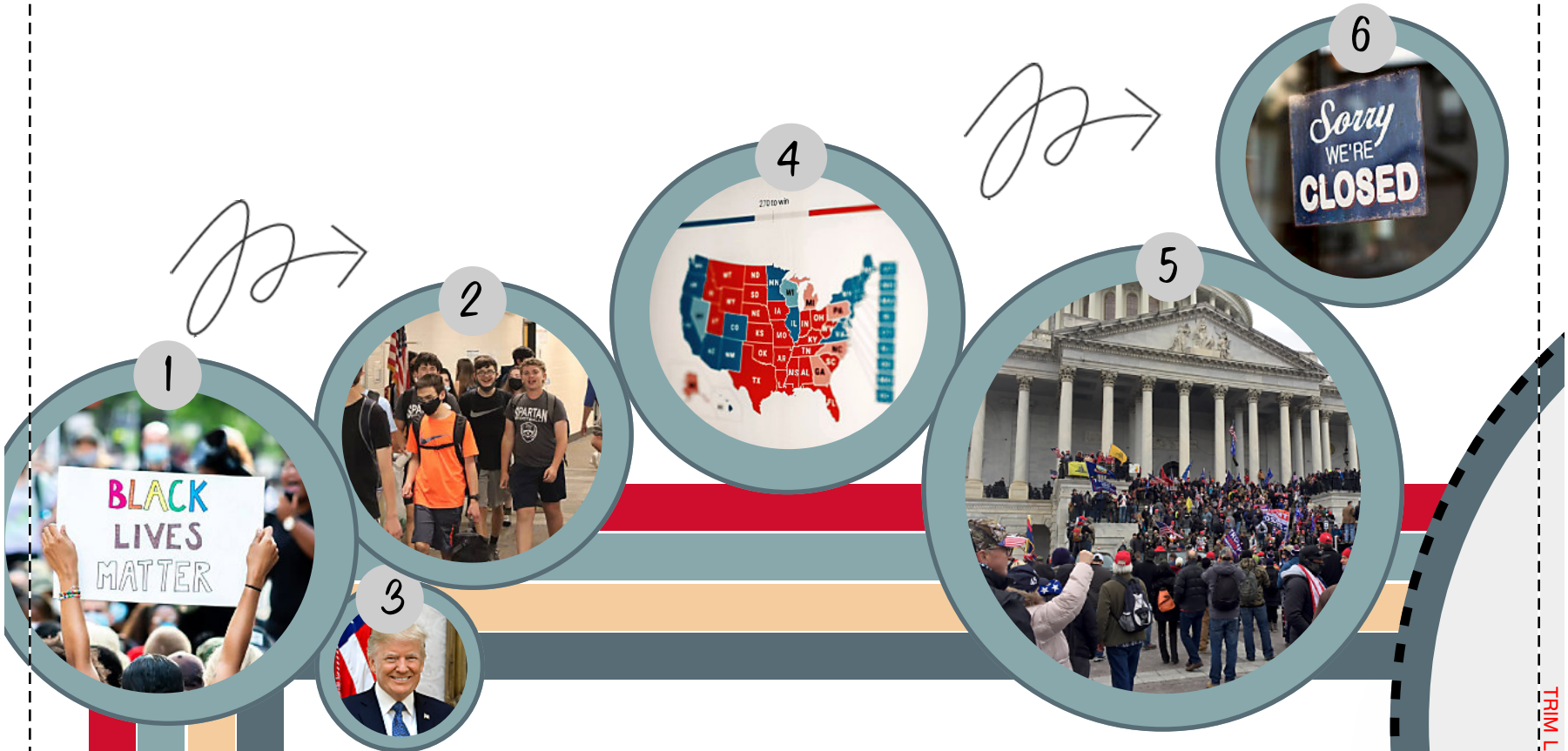


UNprecedented

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1 Over the summer, the Black Lives Matter movement became very prominent across the country. Protests and riots were sparked by the death of George Floyd, a Black man who was killed when Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin knelt on his neck for over nine minutes. Millions of people across the nation called for racial justice and an end to police brutality. It sparked a large debate around these issues and caused many people to look deeper into these subjects and their roles within them. This movement also exploded on social media, where posts about allyship and race multiplied quickly to raise awareness. Many students also became involved in charities and nonprofits aimed towards uplifting Black communities.

2 Across Iowa and the country, most school districts started their years in a hybrid format, where students attended school every other day. This was an unprecedented schooling format, and one that drew mixed opinions from students and teachers alike. Many teachers were apprehensive about returning to in-person instruction during a pandemic, along with the increased workload that came along with managing multiple streams of students. Students struggled with not being able to see friends and teachers every day, leading to many permeating feelings of stress throughout the hybrid model.

3 This school year also saw many political "firsts." Former president Donald Trump became the first president in American history to be impeached twice. In early January, he was impeached for the second time during his presidency by the House of Representatives for allegedly inciting the insurrection on Jan. 6 (see #5). This impeachment was the most bipartisan impeachment in American history, with 10 Republicans joining Democrats in voting for the impeachment. A following trial to determine whether or not Trump would have to be removed from office did not have time to occur before Joe Biden took office at the end of January.

4 One of 2020's most defining moments was its presidential election in November between candidates Donald Trump and Joe Biden. In the midst of a very polarized America, the race was close and full of tension and anger. Both candidates toured throughout the country, making many stops in Iowa that many students attended. In the end, Joe Biden won the tight race. California congresswoman Kamala Harris became his Vice President, the first woman to ever assume this role. Biden's election was followed with many claims of electoral and voter fraud by Trump supporters, which sparked unrest and were eventually debunked.

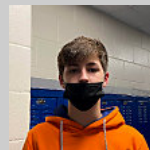
5 Leading up to the inauguration of newly-elected president Joe Biden, the capital building experienced an insurrection of magnitude that had not been seen in recent history. Citizens protesting the results of the election forced their way into the Capitol building and the Congress chambers, posing for photos throughout the capital building and breaking into the office of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. The insurrection caused fear among many elected officials concerning their safety and sparked concern among the public. Multiple arrests were made of those involved in the break-in, and Congress has continued to examine the incident and its possible ties to elected officials.

In 2020, Dictionary.com named "unprecedented" the word of the year – and that word definitely rang true during the 2020-2021 school year. This year, we saw unprecedented presidential races and political turmoil; we saw unprecedented virus destruction but also unprecedented scientific advancement. Even at PV, students made their way through a very new and different year, from hybrid to masks to lunch table dividers. In this yearbook, we wanted to capture how unprecedented this year was and how resilient the students and staff have been through it all. The title and theme of this year's book is "UNprecedented" – a tribute to all of the newness but also containing a prefix that will highlight different things students have achieved despite it all. Below is a timeline of some of the biggest and most important events that have shaped the country and our lives this year.

UNprecedented but UNified

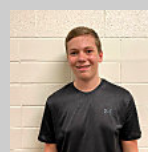
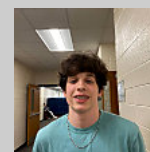
The spirit of these Spartans is UNbreakable. Here's how they showed their resilience amidst the COVID-19 global pandemic.

"Hybrid was interesting because half the school was here and it was rough not seeing anyone."
Carter Ahnquist, '24



"It was hard to keep up with all of my assignments and my grades went down a lot."
Molly Albrecht, '24

"My relationship with my family is really good because I can talk to them about anything."
Carter Amerine, '24



"Being away from school gave me the opportunity to decide on a future profession; computer programmer."
Gavin Ancelet, '24

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6 Throughout the year, many small businesses struggled from closures due to COVID-19. Many businesses had to permanently close their doors following lockdowns that diminished customer flow, causing widespread sadness and frustration among many communities. The government passed legislation during the pandemic to distribute funds to small businesses due to the intense loss of business faced by all.

7 During the winter months, the FDA gave emergency-use approval for Moderna and Pfizer COVID vaccines, with Johnson & Johnson following closely behind. Vaccine distribution started with the most high-risk individuals, but by April had mostly opened up to all adults. Pfizer soon extended their vaccine to anyone over the age of 12, with approval for younger children expected to come over the summer.

8 In mid-May, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced that fully vaccinated citizens no longer have to wear masks or social distance in most indoor or outdoor settings. This prompted a flurry of excitement and relief across the country, as the end of the pandemic and a return to normalcy were in sight. Not long after the CDC's announcement, Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds signed a controversial law banning mask mandates across the state, leading all Iowa business and PV to become mask-optional for the remainder of the school year.



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