

# 2020-2021 YEAR IN REVIEW



## ENVIRONMENTAL RECORDS

**WILDFIRES** Over the summer, California saw nearly 10,000 individual wildfires, a record high for the state.

**SNOWSTORM** In late February, Texas was hit by a heavy winter snowstorm. Because snow is unusual for the state, the power plants were not equipped to handle the cold temperatures, and many people went without electricity and heat.

**DERECHO** A severe storm, known as a derecho, occurred in Iowa Aug. 10. Thousands were left with no electricity and WiFi for weeks. The derecho also caused over \$82.7 million worth of property damage and destroyed 10 million acres of corn and soybean crops.

*Photo used with permission.*

## A NEW ERA

**VIRTUAL EVENTS** After the start of school, many traditional events, such as MLK Day, National Honor Society Induction, club meetings and parent-teacher conferences moved to Zoom due to safety guidelines. Additionally, the show choir performance, orchestra concert, fall play and SPIT had a virtual audience for their performances.

**CHANGE OF PLANS** Across the state, many events were canceled or postponed until further notice due to COVID-19, including Iowa City Pride and the Iowa State Fair. Locally, Iowa City West did not have a homecoming dance, and spectator restrictions were in place for all home sporting events in the fall and winter. West held an outdoor prom May 1 on Trojan Field.

**NEW PROTOCOL** Once hybrid students returned in person Oct. 5, 2020, they were required to wear masks, walk on designated sides of the hallways and sanitize hands when entering classrooms. Staff arranged desks in rows facing the same direction, limited cafeteria seating and closed the library to adhere to social distancing as much as possible. *Photo used with permission*



## BLACK LIVES MATTER



**PROTESTS** Following the killing of George Floyd by former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin May 25, 2020, protests erupted across the country calling for racial equity. Chauvin was later charged with second-degree murder and third-degree murder and manslaughter. A trial began on March 29.

**ACTIVISM** Students joined millions nationwide in BLM protests, the largest movement in U.S. history, including over 3,000 participants in Iowa City alone. Students also used social media, including Instagram accounts like @blackaticcsd, to highlight the experiences of students of color in the district.

**CHANGE** A Black Student Union was also implemented at West for Black students to discuss their experiences and promote self-esteem. The district implemented curriculum changes as well, adding an ethnic studies course this year and an African American literature course for the 2021-2022 school year. These courses will include a more diverse approach in teaching students about African American history, with topics such as intersectionality, oppression and empowerment. *Photo by Caroline Barker*

## GOVERNMENT

**RIOTS AND IMPEACHMENT** While Congress voted on whether to certify election results for Joe Biden in two states, rioters led a violent attack on the Capitol Jan. 6 on unfounded claims of election fraud. Former President Donald Trump was charged by the House of Representatives with incitement of insurrection. Ten Republicans went across party lines, a historic amount of bipartisan support for an impeachment trial. To be convicted, a two-thirds majority of the Senate is required, and Trump was later acquitted by the Senate which voted 57-43.

**INAUGURATION** President Joe Biden was sworn in Jan. 20 as the 46th president of the United States. Vice President Kamala Harris became the first woman, Black and South Asian vice president in U.S. history.

**DEATH OF RBG** Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, known for her advocacy of women's rights, passed away Sept. 18, 2020 due to pancreatic cancer. Despite Ginsburg's request to stall nomination of a new justice until after the presidential election, Trump nominated Supreme Court Justice Amy Coney Barrett, who was confirmed by the Senate 52-48. *Photo by Alyssa Skala*



## RETURN TO LEARN



**VIRTUAL LEARNING** The ICCSD welcomed students back to school two weeks later than usual and 100% remotely due to high coronavirus positivity rates in Johnson County Sept. 8. Students were offered the option to attend school in a hybrid model at their home school or to opt for a fully online learning model with courses taught by teachers throughout the district. At West High, 55.3% of students were enrolled in the hybrid model and 44.7% were enrolled in the online learning model at the beginning of the year. Mitch Gross was named West High interim principal Aug. 17, and the interim title was officially dropped from his title March 23, making Gross the fifth principal in West's history.

**IN-PERSON LEARNING** Gov. Kim Reynolds signed a bill that required all Iowa schools to offer 100% in-person learning Jan. 29. Because of this, the ICCSD modified the hybrid learning model to a fully in-person learning model Feb. 15, prompting in-person students to attend school five days a week. At West High, 50.8% of the student body enrolled in the fully in-person learning model while 49.2% enrolled in the online learning model for the third trimester. *Photo by Alyssa Skala*

## TROJAN HIGHLIGHTS

**FOOTBALL** The football team won the Boot against City High for the fourth consecutive year behind senior Graham Goering's opening kickoff return for a 96-yard touchdown Sept. 4.

**BOYS CROSS COUNTRY** The boys cross country team finished 11th at the state meet alongside an 11th place finish from Alex McKane '22 Oct. 30.

**SWIMMING** The combined girls swim team of West and Liberty finished second at the state meet Nov. 14. The boys swim team placed third at the state meet Feb. 13 behind a state title in the 200 medley relay of Boyd Skelley '22, Jordan Christensen '22, Holden Carter '24 and Luke Nichols '21. Christensen finished sixth in the 200 IM and second in the 100 breaststroke. Kirk Brotherton '22 placed fourth in the 50 freestyle and fifth in the 100 freestyle.

**BASKETBALL** Pete Moe '22 scored 41 points against City High Dec. 18, just one point shy of the school record for the highest points scored in a single game. The girls basketball team punched their ticket to the state tournament for the first time since 2018. BJ Mayer's squad defeated Waterloo West 65-63 in the state quarterfinals and fell to Johnston 47-52 in the quarterfinals. Meena Tate '23 led the Trojans in the quarterfinals with 21 points in her state tournament debut. *Photos by Alyssa Skala*



STUDENT LIFE **49**

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