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TRITON VOICE

Triton High School

Triton's Student-Produced Newspaper

February 14, 2020

New Classes Offered for '20-'21

By Liam Murray & Derek Cotter
Staff Writers

Triton is bringing 12 new courses into its repertoire of classes for next year. Here is the scoop on details of those classes, what they'll contain, and how they were chosen.

In December, Principal Patrick Kelley asked all teachers for suggestions for new classes and after they were formally proposed nearly all were recommended to run next year. The 12 new classes will be in the course selection guide given to students this spring, and depending on if enough students sign up, they could find themselves in a new class next year.

Among the new classes are:

- Creative writing
- Travel literature
- Memoirs: "everyone has a story"
- American studies
- Immunology
- Chemistry in the community
- American history through film
- Jewelry design
- Spanish conversation class
- CP Statistics
- Senior projects

Each of the potential new classes were proposed by Triton teachers, and if they get enough sign ups each will be taught by the teachers who proposed them. The idea of the course comes from the idea that teachers can, on a large scale, gauge the general knowledge of students on different subjects and when they notice a lack of understanding they can propose

courses to bridge those gaps in our understanding of subjects.

Kelley made it clear that his intention with these new classes is to truly cater to what Triton staff believe the student body needs and would enjoy.

"All the classes that were suggested we are trying to find a way to make them happen so we can give everyone an option that they would enjoy," said Kelley. "We were really trying to make sure all the teachers proposing these classes were passionate about them and truly wanted to teach them as well as we wanted to make sure our students would take them."

If the most important factor in solidifying new classes is whether or not students will take them, it's important to know how interested students are in each of these new options. Even if a student liked all the new classes.

So we asked around Triton to hear a few students' opinions on the new classes. The classes with the most interest were Spanish conversations and chemistry in the community. The Spanish conversations course discussed with students last year and is likely to be one of the classes that will have a good number of sign ups next year.

The *Triton Voice* also asked students what they would like their teachers to know when they start teaching these new classes. One anonymous Triton student said, "don't just assign busy work for homework, give us something that will help us and we will learn from."

Any tips that students have for the teachers who are bringing these new classes are helpful. These

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Coronavirus Contagion Continues

Virus has killed hundreds:
What does it mean for America?

By Sophia Mailhoit
Staff Writer

With over 1,300 people dead and over 50,000 people infected across the globe, novel coronavirus has become the talk of news outlets all over the world.

"In the last week it became a very big topic. The hospital I work at is a very small hospital part of a big system," said Sara Harrison, a registered nurse at UTHealth East Texas Carthage. "Our 'mother' hospital actually had a potential scare and they quarantined half of their emergency room."

According to The World Health Organization, "Coronaviruses (CoV) are a large family of viruses." Illnesses including Middle East Respiratory Syndrome and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, are all part of this larger family, however some strains can present as just a common cold.

Trump Impeached, History Made

By Nick Pagliarulo
Staff Writer

"When history books are written about this tumultuous era, I want them to show that I was among those in the House who stood up to this lawlessness tyranny," said Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives.

On Wednesday, February 5, the democrats fell short of the two thirds majority to remove Trump from office. The final 52-48 vote to acquit him of abuse of power, and 53-47 vote to clear Trump on his other charge of obstruction of Congress capped the months-long trial against the president.

On Wednesday, December 18, 2019, history was made when it was announced that Donald Trump had been impeached on a formal vote by Congress, becoming just the third US president to be impeached. All the way back on September 24th, 2019, a formal impeachment inquiry was launched in response to Trump trying to interfere with the 2020 election.

Article one, which was a charge of abuse of power, stated, "Trump was corruptly using the levers of government to solicit election assistance from Ukraine in the form of investigations to discredit his Democratic political rivals," as mentioned in the New York Times. This article was passed with a 230-197 count.

Article two, which was obstruction of congress, stated, "Trump was in the unprecedented, categorical and indiscriminate defiance of subpoenas," issued by the House according to *NBC News*. The reasoning for this article was to punish Trump for his actions of withholding documents and to not allow key administration officials to testify. This article was then passed with a 229-198 count.

One month later Senators now began their probe of Trump's dealings with Ukraine. On Friday, January 31, the impeachment trial headed for a vote to determine whether the Senate was to hear from wit-



Nancy Pelosi formally speaking at the impeachment inquiry on December 18, 2019 (courtesy of NBC News).

nesses over allegations. It had already been reported by the *Washington Post* that "Senate appears ready to reject witnesses," in the title of their latest article covering impeachment. Later that night, the Senate won by a 51-49 majority to block witnesses.

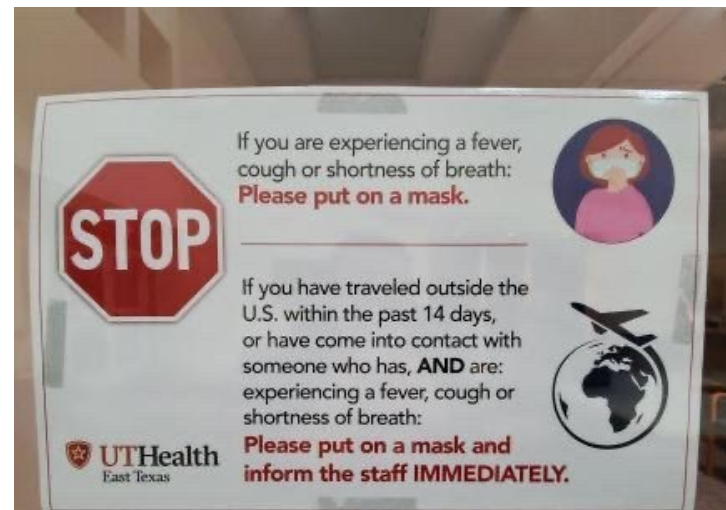
Some Triton students felt that when the impeachment was first introduced to the public in early September, it was a setup by the democrats to remove Trump.

"This probably has been one of the biggest wastes of time in American history, it's not a proper removal of office, it's a witch hunt," said Brycen Cray, Triton junior.

"I feel like the democrats plan was to just get a one up on Trump," said Leonard Dobson, junior.

After the impeachment inquiry had come to a conclusion, many were not surprised by the end result. Some students such as Riley Gagnon, junior, thought that the impeachment was going to be beneficial.

"I believe impeachment (of Trump) and removal from office are a necessity for the benefit of the American people."



A sign in UTHealth East Texas Carthage telling people to be aware of symptoms (photo by Sara Harrison).

Coronaviruses are zoonotic. This means that they can be transferred from animals to humans. There have been documented cases of animals like civets and camels infecting humans with various different strains. Then the virus mutates and humans can pass on the virus to each other.

The first report of the novel coronavirus was on December 30 2019 came from Doctor Li Wenliang who has since died from the virus himself. Wenliang sent a warning to fellow doctors in the area, but was told by police to stop "making false comments."

The virus can present differently on a case by case basis. Some people will experience no symptoms or very mild symptoms, while others may become extremely ill and even die. The actual symptoms include a fever, cough, and difficulty breathing.

In the U.S those who have been infected with the virus had either recently visited China or had been in close contact with someone who had visited China. All of those with confirmed cases of the novel coronavirus in the U.S are in quarantine and being monitored.

"At this point in time the risk of contracting the coronavirus [in the United States] is very low, said Nadine Marcheterre, the nurse at Triton, "Around here the main virus we should be worrying about is the flu."

With the novel coronavirus having just been discovered within the last month there is currently no vaccine. Without a vaccine the only way to stop the spread is to be vigilant about prevention.

"At our hospital they have put signs on every entry door with symptoms to look out for and to notify staff immediately," said Harrison, "If [someone is showing] signs they are immediately placed in isolation and all staff who would have had contact will wear proper protection."

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OPINION

At Triton, Fun Comes at a Cost School District Should Lower Student Fees

By Paige Volpone
Staff Writer

\$4,200: That is a lot of money to a high schooler.

But as a Triton High School three-season athlete, that is the price we and our parents pay to play for four years. And some families with multiple kids on our high school’s sports teams are paying even more.

Playing a sport costs \$350 per season at Triton. In some circumstances if you have multiple kids playing there is a cap on how much families pay.

At Newburyport High School students pay different prices depending on the sport. Some sports require more money so they can play with more referees or equipment, such as in football or in hockey where a team has to pay for a home rink. With all things considered it makes sense, but here at Triton everything is the same cost for every sport.

Some schools such as Newburyport also have fees that include what some people would call the team swag. Teams get sweat suits and backpacks. However, most of Triton’s teams either have to run fundraisers or pay with students’ own money for items such as these. We are paying a lot of money and not to getting an equal amount in return.

It is not just athletic fees that Triton High Schoolers have to worry about. We also have to pay for parking spots. Students here can pay \$180 up front for a back lot spot or some side lot spots. Or they can pay a dollar a day to park in the side or front lot. Over the years we go to school, this can be a lot of money. Even seniors still have to pay \$180 when they are not even in the school for that many days. Some students hesitate to pay and try to slide by on the fly by not trying to pay and find open spots when they can.

Students also have to start saving up for prom, class dues, and senior week events which all adds up as a lot of money.

Superintendent Brian Forget has brought up reducing student fees over a 3-4 year time span to cut down the cost of fees for students. This would help the upcoming classes worry less about money. Everything from clubs and activities to athletics and elementary instrumental fees are included in the Forget’s four-year plan to eliminate them.

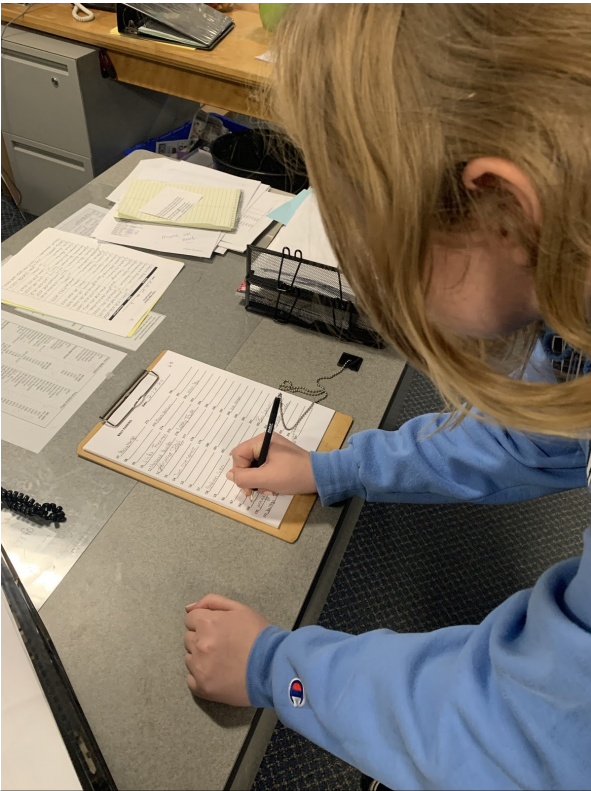
“The fees would adjust for all students, every year. So all students would pay 25 percent less in 20-21, and then another 25 percent less (50 percent less than today) in 21-22, etc.” This play would cut down all costs so students don’t have to worry.

Still, the money from the fees continues to be needed for our school. Athletics need it to pay referees, busses, and the coaches. The parking lot money is needed to help plow out the school along with salting it. Each year, the school committee sets a budget and increases for all costs are paid mostly by higher assessments to our member towns, Newbury, Rowley, and Salisbury.

Yes, our money in fees does go somewhere necessary, but with about half the upper-classmen paying for parking lot fees, there is a feeling of unfairness. As athletes, we do understand we need transportation, but we have the mini-busses to help cut down on the cost. Still, not all teams can fit on the buses, so did our money get wasted?

Our athletics boosters still raise money, but that money could go towards paying for coaches, refs, and buses.

Students understand the need for fees, taxes, and budgets, but cutting the costs down slightly for high schoolers would do a lot to make school more affordable.



Emily Hoggard signing for a side lot parking spot (Volpone photo).

‘The Houston Astros set a Terrible Example for Young Athletes Like Me’

By Katherine Quigley
Staff Writer

In the 2019 World Series the Houston Astros competed against the Washington Nationals. However, the success of the Houston Astros is now under investigation for cheating. Young athletes are supposed to look up to these players as role models. The Astros and other coaches involved in the cheating scandal have set a bad example and creates a bad image for the MLB.

Though speculations started in early January, the cheating actually began back in 2017. Red Sox manager Alex Cora, previously the bench manager for the Houston Astros in their 2017 season, crafted the idea to use a center field camera to steal signs from opposing teams. When the coaches acquired the signs, they used devices to tell the batter what the pitch was going to be. The advantage of knowing what pitch is going to be thrown is that the batter will know the speed and location of the pitch. Because their batters were well informed about each pitch, their home batting average of .472 and their away batting average was .134. “I couldn’t imagine stealing signs,” says senior softball player Kelly Sharkey, “I wouldn’t feel good about winning, especially at that level. Last season we won the Cape Ann League championship; if we had cheated to get there, it just wouldn’t have felt like a win.” The significant difference in the batting averages spoke for itself: the Houston Astros were cheating.

The consequences for the Astros cheating was forfeiture of their first and second round picks in the 2020 Draft and being fined \$5 million. “I feel like the Astros should have more punishment,” says senior varsity baseball player MarkAnthony Glickman, “they are a disgrace to the MLB and don’t deserve the honors that they got.” The manager Jeff Lunhow and field manager A.J Hinch were suspended for the 2020 season as well, but were soon fired after the suspension was publicized.

Evelyn Pearson is a Junior at Triton High School and plays for the boys JV baseball team. “At my age we look for role models that play in the MLB or college level,” says Pearson, “The Houston Astros set a terrible example for young players like me, and I think it was stupid of them because from an athlete level I wouldn’t be proud of winning a game by cheating. Plus the consequences that come with it after aren’t worth it.”

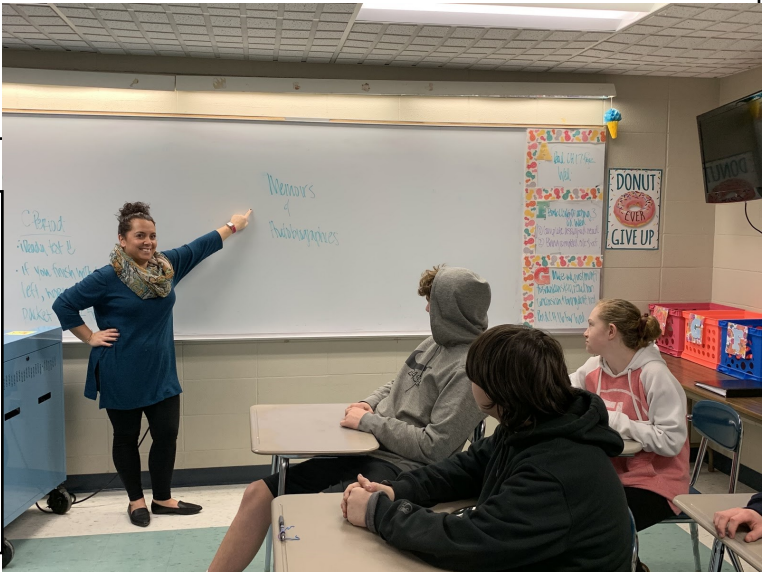


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new classes are something different for not only students, but teachers too.

Some of these classes will be full credit classes and some will be half credit, single semester classes. Something different, however, is that the new American studies class will count towards an English class and a history class credit. The class will be taken during two separate periods, but will be co-taught by an English teacher and a history teacher.

At right, English teacher Ms. Erin Dempsey points to a new class proposed, “Memoirs & Autobiographies. Classes such as this one are set to run next school year as long as there are enough students who sign up for them (Murray photo).



A Global Emergency: Coronavirus & Catastrophe

By Emily Hoggard
Staff Writer

After meeting on Thursday, January 30th, the World Health Organization declared corona virus a global emergency.

The coronavirus is an RNA virus that causes a variety of diseases. In humans, the virus is usually a mild respiratory infection or the common cold, however rarer forms are lethal. Although no vaccine is currently available, new efforts are being made by China and other countries to contain this new coronavirus and keep it from spreading into more countries.

“Coronaviruses are zoonotic, meaning they are transmitted between animals and people. Detailed investigations found that SARS-CoV was transmitted from civet cats to humans and MERS-CoV from dromedary camels to humans. Several known coronaviruses are circulating in animals that have not yet infected humans,” says the World Health Organization on their page about 2019-nCoV.

The virus is primarily spread through sick people coughing or sneezing onto a surface. Then, when another person comes into contact with that surface and rubs their eyes or nose, they can become infected. Symptoms, including a fever, cough, and shortness of breath, can appear anywhere between 2 to 14 days after exposure. On December 31st, 2019, China reported to the World Health Organization that there were an alarming number of pneumonia cases in Wuhan. The virus was unknown. It wasn’t until January 7th, 2020, that the disease was identified as coronavirus and named 2019-nCoV.

In Wuhan and other cities throughout China, markets sell live animals for consumption, which are held in unsanitary cages along the streets. This is a suspected reason as to how the virus is being transmitted from animals to people. 2019-nCoV is suspected to come from bats, which is a delicacy in China. Doctors also think that pigs have an involvement in the coronavirus transmission, similar to the porcine deltacoronavirus (PDCoV), which was identified in 2012 in Chinese pigs.

“China is definitely not telling the full truth in regards to how bad the coronavirus actually is,” says Triton junior Jacob Forrest

With a population of about 11 million people in the city of Wuhan, and 1.386 billion in China, it has been difficult to contain the disease, and coronavirus has already spread to more than 13 countries. More than 1,300 people around the world have died, and there have been over 50,000 cases. China has begun quarantining the city of Wuhan, where the outbreak has been worst.

Maggie Rand, a junior at Triton Regional High School, works part time at Anna Jaques Hospital in Newburyport. “There’s a sign in all the hallways and lobbies warning patients to notify their nurse or doctor if they’ve been to China in the past two weeks. It’s definitely pretty scary,” Rand says.

Other countries have made plans to prevent the coronavirus from spreading into them. Russia has closed sections of its border with China and is only accepting limited visas, and Australia plans to quarantine any citizen who has evacuated from Wuhan onto a remote island for at least two weeks. On the morning January 30th, a cruise ship stopped in Civitavecchia, a port in Italy, was placed on lockdown after it was suspected that a passenger had contracted coronavirus. Later that day, the lockdown was lifted and all passengers were allowed back on and off the ship. The WHO has gone as far as advising Americans to avoid going to China, and asking nonessential US government personnel to cancel or postpone any trips to China.

This new strain of coronavirus is starting a panic throughout the world, and many speculate what the outcome of coronavirus will be on the world.

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The closest case of the novel coronavirus to Triton, was in UMass Boston after a student came back from China and was diagnosed with the virus. The student is under quarantine until health officials say otherwise.

Bottom line if you are in the U.S the likelihood of you actually being infected with novel coronavirus are very slim. However if you have recently traveled to China or have been in contact with someone who has, and if you feel sick, go to the hospital. Doing this will not only be for your safety but for the safety of those around you.