

# The Mirror

New Paltz Middle School Newspaper  
Issue 1  
December 3, 2020

## Covid Updates:

By Jack Gates

Intro: We are all living through tough times right now. In this article we discuss a little bit about Covid-19, ways to stay safe, and some updates on case totals.

What you need to know about Covid-19:

- 1: Coronavirus is like the flu, but has a little more of a kick into it.
- 2: People at risk are the elderly and people with certain pre-existing medical conditions. Some of the medical conditions are asthma, diabetes, and heart disease.
- 3: So far, a vaccine is being tested on people who are volunteers. 170,000 doses will be shipped to New York by December 15.
4. Some of the symptoms to Covid are fever or chills, fatigue, shortness of breath, head or muscle aches, loss of taste or smell, runny nose, cough, and sore throat.

Ways to stay safe during covid:

Some ways to stay safe during this time period is to wear a mask when you're going somewhere besides your home, and make sure to wash your hands frequently throughout the day. If you have any of the symptoms for Covid, make sure to take a test and to quarantine at home.

Total case count: New York in general has had 712,984 cases total.

Neighboring towns of New Paltz: Orange county(1,792 cases), Greene county(117 cases), Sullivan county(217 cases), and Dutchess county(1,046 cases).

Ulster County: Ulster County has at least 3,500 cases

New Paltz: New Paltz currently has 86 cases.

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/new-york-coronavirus-cases.html>

Make sure to look up *Ulster County Covid Cases* to see for yourself (the following cases in New Paltz and New York in general may change over time).

Thank you for reading this, make sure to stay safe and positive. :)

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## How Coronavirus Affected School

By Moira Goudy and Parker Paff

Yes, sadly this ongoing virus is still going on and has affected many schools worldwide including our beloved Middle School. Some of our students are staying remote while others are going back. In this article we will be talking about what school now looks like during this pandemic.

### Online Students

You might be wondering how online students are learning and how back to school students are learning too but don't worry we will cover all that. We will start with online kids. There are 2 cohorts, A and B. The first day of this new experience cohort B students were online while cohort A students did asynchronous work meaning they did work for each class instead of being on a meet. Now you might think this is all crazy and weird but once you get the hang of it, it's actually pretty easy but just remember that this is protecting all of us while we receive a good education.

### In-person Students

Coronavirus has affected the school because every student and teacher has to socially distance and wear masks all the time except for when there is a mask break when the teacher approves. When sitting in the classroom students must have desks 6 feet apart, and the teachers have to stay socially distanced too. The lessons go on pretty normally throughout the day, you just have to remember to stay distanced in the halls when you are near people, and please stay home if you are sick!

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## Online School & How it Affects Us

By: Willa Ashton, Iliana Melissis, and Dahlia Hasleton

Any words in **bold** have a word bank at the bottom for their definitions.

As we all know online school is different for everyone so we ask you to be aware that this is an opinion piece. This type of learning can allow kids to be in very different situations, with their access to technology, to having a different perception overall on these issues. Now let's get started with the article.

Let's start with the issue of physical health. Sitting around looking at the computer all day is definitely bad for you, but it takes more of a toll on your life than you would expect. Feeling uncomfortable is the most obvious difference you can experience.

Some of the things we have noticed:

- Back and neck and shoulder straining:  
being hunched over at the screen all day can cause this

- Eye straining:  
The blue light emitted from screens is how this originates
- Feeling tired all-day  
Lack of moving around is bad for our bodies, if we aren't moving around and getting tired then it will be harder for us to sleep

Now that we have addressed these issues on physical health, here's how to fix this. Now you probably have heard this many times but here it is again: "Move around! Take a walk! Get outside" And it's true, moving around and getting outside could really help you cope with these issues. Even if it's as small as walking around your house in between classes, or bringing your device outside for meets.

But learning how to deal with your physical health is just as important as your mental health. So let's take a look at that.

Online school can inflict stress, anxiety, depression, and many health costs. While school can also benefit you, it is more likely to be the main cause for big issues. That's why handling school the correct way is very important. You need to keep your education while handling the weight of pressure on your shoulders. missing assignments can cause you to be stressed, and then you run out of motivation. Mental health is hardly looked upon by some government programs. That's why a lot of people like to go places where there are **free social services**. Online school specifically can lead to you giving up on a lot of things. Here are some ways you can help yourself:

1. Set up a daily routine and follow it! This helps you get grounded to your situation.
2. Practice the **Pomodoro technique**. This will help you stay focused, organized, and on time.
3. Set **SMART goals**. You've probably learned about smart goals, they give you motivation to complete your work.
4. Try to put away all distractions; put screen time limits on your phone/ device. This helps you focus.
5. SLEEP. We all have had messed up sleep schedules, but right now in these times, you need all the energy you can get so you can stay healthy.

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#### WORD BANK FOR PARAGRAPH ABOVE

- **Free social services-** Mental health services provided by the government
  - **Pomodoro Technique-** setting alarms for yourself when working i2
  - **SMART goals-** setting goals that you work on regularly to benefit efficiency
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So we have learned how to deal with mental health in school but what if we are having a hard time with quarantine in general? School could just be a factor that when not handled correctly adds on to the stress.

Although Online school is the safest option, it can be tough on all of us. One of the best things we can do over quarantine is to stay connected to our friends and family. It's easy to feel isolated or stressed during this time, but talking to someone can really help. Some ideas for staying in touch with people are speaking on FaceTime or a video chat, having a socially distanced meet or just plain talking on the phone. It might not seem like much, but these actions are very effective on your personal and mental health. Online schooling isn't all bad though, and it has many benefits. One of them is the Ability to access online resources such as websites like [Britannica](#), [National Geographic](#) and many other education websites that you would not normally be able to access during the school day. These can help you to research and study for tests, or just help you learn facts about a subject that you're interested in.

We hope this article helps you handle online school in a more comfortable way. As always, stay safe!

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## How do you feel about online learning?

-Kayleigh Pominville

I asked students a series of questions involving online learning. Here are the questions and answers:

### **How do you feel about online learning?**

"Online learning is great because I get to see everything that I need to but sometimes it's weird not having any friends around."

"I feel great about online learning."

"I think it is harder than going into school because it's harder to learn things on a screen than it is learning in person."

"I think online learning is a different experience than going into school. Now that students are going back to school (including me), I think it will be more fun and even more so for me because I am new to the middle school."

"I like online learning."

### **What do you think you could change to make online learning a better environment?**

"I think we could do more hands-on learning because all of it is online, it would be great to build a circuit or something."

"I think that teachers should only do the meet for half of the time only to explain it, so then you'll get your assignment done and then take a screen break."

"What I think could make it a better environment is if the teachers ask a question every 5 minutes to see if we understand what she/he said."

“I think that they could change the workload. Right now, I am getting different amounts of work from each class and if each teacher gave the same amount of assignments, it would be more organized and change for the better.

### **What do you like about online learning?**

“I like that we’re able to see our friends on a screen instead of getting the virus.”

“What I like about online learning is that teachers give you more time to work on assignments than they would in person.”

“That we get to ask questions on what we need help with right at that time instead of waiting for the response of them.”

“ I like the fact that I am home and I don’t have to walk from class to class with a pile of books. I have everything on my computer and on my desk. Everything is in a folder in my desktop and I am organized for school each day, without the hassle of packing up a back-pack.”

### **What do you dislike about online learning?**

“Screen time hurts my head, I think sometimes it would be nice if we had more assignments outside.”

“I don’t like that we are on a screen all day.”

“What I don’t like is that you spend so much time on screens, and sometimes it feels like it’s straining my eyes.”

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## **Hybrid Learning Interviews**

**By Sadie and Emma**

**Mr Mead:**

### **Are you happy about going back to school hybrid?**

It was extremely nice to see everyone again. I have stayed away from everyone since March, even my own family. Unfortunately, I am currently back home in quarantine because of an exposure.

### **Should we have gone back earlier?**

Cases of the virus continue to rise, and as of right now, the number of cases in Ulster County are higher than they were in the spring. I’m not sure everyone getting together even earlier would have been the best idea.

**How do you feel about the cases in Ulster County rising?**

It is extremely scary. It is as if as a whole, we are not taking this pandemic seriously. Previous generations were asked to go to war for our country and had no problem doing it. This generation is being asked to wash their hands and socially distance, but are having a difficult time with that.

**How do you feel about being taught with a group of small students or teaching a small group of students?**

Teaching a small group of students allows me to work even closer with each and every student.

**How do you feel about the holidays and people traveling then coming into school?**

This is also a scary situation. I keep hearing that people are tired of the pandemic, so they are getting more laid back about their approach to safety. I don't believe it is too much to ask for people to wash their hands, stay home, and wear a mask if they have to go out.

**What was an advantage of doing school online?**

It allows students to work at their own pace. Instead of having to complete an assignment within a forty minute class, now students can do it when they most feel comfortable. Many students have learned about procrastination and its effects during this pandemic.

**What is a disadvantage of teaching online for a long time?**

I personally have a low tolerance for screen time. This has been an overwhelming amount of time spent on a screen.

**Do you like learning/teaching online or in person during the pandemic?**

I like teaching in person. Interacting with students is who I am and why I became a teacher. Unfortunately we are in a pandemic where we might be looking back at the decision to put a large number of people in a building during the winter as a mistake.

**Bella:**

**Are you happy about going back to school hybrid?**

Kind of, I mean I'm scared because people are still dying, and it's like not much better than it was in March and April.

**Do you agree with the plan for Covid Safety in New Paltz schools?**

I mean, it's okay, I think I would stay remote until at least February or March because it's getting scarier.

**Would you change anything about the plan and what would you change?**

I would change the fact that people are in school and remote and it really isn't convenient for anyone, and I think I would have everyone remote for a while.

**Should we have gone back earlier?**

No definitely not.

**How do you feel about the cases in Ulster County rising?**

I'm definitely scared, because people still aren't taking it seriously even after being in quarantine because of it for 9 months.

**How do you feel about being taught with a group of small students or teaching a small group of students?**

I think it's good because we get more 1 on 1 but I feel bad about the people who are online because they really don't get much attention.

**How do you feel about the holidays and people traveling then coming into school?**

This is one of the more scarier parts, not only traveling but with Thanksgiving just happening, obviously people got together, family or not, I think it's super scary especially if they enter a state with high-rising cases, and I think they should not be able to enter the school for an extended period of time.

**What was an advantage of doing school online?**

An advantage was that we were safer and not exposed to other people

**What is a disadvantage of teaching online for a long time?**

A disadvantage of online school was that we couldn't socialize with anyone

**Do you like learning/teaching online or in person during the pandemic?**

Honestly I don't like either, I really don't like online learning at all, but in-person isn't safe so I would choose online because of the fact that's a lot safer and I can stay with my family, but it's nice to see my friends and teachers in person.

**Ruby:**

**Are you happy about going back to school hybrid?**

I think it is a great and safe way to get back to some sort of normal. I have really enjoyed meeting my new teachers and getting to know them as well as seeing all my friends.

**Do you agree with the plan for Covid Safety in New Paltz schools?**

I'm not very educated on what's going on but from what I know, I think they're making the best out of it and doing a great job!

**Would you change anything about the plan and what would you change?**

Again I think they are doing their best and we should trust the process!

**Should we have gone back earlier?**

I think it was good to see how other schools were handling it before we went back. I also think that if we had gone back earlier we would have been out by now.

**How do you feel about the cases in Ulster County rising?**

I feel like with all the holidays people are forgetting that we are in a pandemic and just because they don't like it they try to go back to normal, which is causing the rising. I believe we just have to trust the process and be patient.

**How do you feel about being taught with a group of small students or teaching a small group of students?**

I think it is a nice way to learn because everyone has the questions, concerns, and ideas talked about.

**How do you feel about the holidays and people traveling then coming into school?**

I personally think it is not smart to go somewhere not only put yourself at risk but put others in school also. But if you are being safe and smart I think it's ok!

**What was an advantage of doing school online?**

We get to be from the comforts of our own home and we are being safe.

**What is a disadvantage of teaching online for a long time?**

There are a lot of disadvantages but what I find hard is we don't get the same attention as we do in school and it is very hard to communicate with teachers and classmates.

**Do you like learning/teaching online or in person during the pandemic?**

I personally like being back in school but it was smart to take time off for our safety.

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## The Pros and Cons Of Online School

By: Deanna Boothe

Online school also known as ( Virtual School) is typically a mix of video recordings or live lectures supplemented with reading and assessments that students can complete on their own time.

### Pros

Many would say online school is not so good. There are some good things about it too. One of the main topics is **Self Direction**. Students choose when and where they complete schoolwork and are able to determine their own pace. Next topic is **24/7 access to course materials**. With online school, written lectures are available throughout the courses of the semester, so going back to review course material is always an option. Last but not least **Location Flexibility**. With online schools across the world, students can now take classes from a different state or country without leaving the comfort of their own home. This also increases diversity among fellow students, as classes may be composed of people with different backgrounds from around the world. **Do you think that online school is good?**

### Cons

Although it can be said that online school is for the better. There are some cons to it. The main topic is **Stigma**. Although online school has gained popularity over the past few years. There is a common



misconception that online school is easier than traditional school. Is this true? Let's find out! Online school is no easier than traditional school. Next topic is **Responsibility**. In online school, the time management is in your court, Which translates to increased responsibility on the student to get work done in a timely manner so as to not fall behind. Last but not least **Less Teacher time**. Students in the classroom will get help from the teacher but online kids don't get the attention they do. **Do you think online school is bad?**

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## Interviews with Ms. Perez and Ms. DeFalco!

By Lila DiSciullo

**My name is Lila DiSciullo and I have the pleasure of introducing you to two new teachers in our school this year!**

**Here are the questions I asked our new library media specialist, Ms. Perez!**

**Q: What were you doing before you came to New Paltz middle school?**

A: Before coming to New Paltz I worked as an elementary school librarian in the Warwick Valley school district. I also worked in youth services at a public library. Transitioning to working with middle schoolers has been really interesting and fun!



**Q: What is your favorite part of teaching here?**

A: I enjoy how creative and vibrant the New Paltz community is. Everyone seems to be very passionate about what they do and the students are responsive and eager to learn; even in these unusual circumstances!

**Q: Where are you from?**

A: I am originally from Monroe, NY. I now live in a very friendly and cute little village called Cornwall on Hudson.

**Q: Are you excited to go back to school hybrid? What are some pros and cons of going back to school from your opinion?**

A: I am definitely excited to meet my students in person! I teach digital media classes in the library. Seeing everyone and getting to have that personal connection is something I am definitely looking forward to. It's also been great to meet my colleagues in real life as well. This has been a very unusual way to start a new position so I'm grateful to get out from behind the screen. Providing great library services and resources in this very different environment will be a challenge that I am happy to take on.

**Q: Do you have a favorite sports team or like playing any sports?**

A: I love outdoor activities like hiking and kayaking. I also enjoy horseback riding. I volunteer two days a week at a center for equine therapy. We help provide social experiences and occupational therapy while

giving riding lessons to children with autism. Volunteering is very important to me, so combining my love for horses and helping kids makes for a really rewarding experience.

**Q: What is your favorite hobby?**

A: My favorite hobby is making art. I love to draw, paint, carve, and wood burn. Watercolor and oil painting are two of my favorite mediums. I also work as a researcher for a company that does public ghost investigations at historical sites throughout the tristate area. Anything spooky or mysterious definitely catches my interest! Lastly, I am a huge trivia nerd. I was a contestant on Jeopardy a couple of seasons ago (spoiler alert: I did not win) but it was a ton of fun and an amazing memory to have made!

**Q: Where did you learn to make such awesome websites and be a Library Media Specialist?**

A: I absolutely love graphic design and making websites. I find it really fun to choose the perfect color scheme and layout that will best showcase helpful resources. I have had a lot of really great mentors in the past who have encouraged me and given me guidance on how to be a helpful, welcoming, and fun Library Media Specialist.

**Q: What is your favorite book and author?**

A: As a librarian I have a lot of favorite books! My favorite book of all time has always been *The Phantom Tollbooth* by Norton Juster. As a child it really gave me a true love for reading and introduced me to the power of language and curiosity. My favorite form is the short story. I think an author who is able to engage the reader and evoke emotion in a brief format is truly a master of their craft. I have a pile of books at home that I'm ready to get cozy and dive into now that the weather has gotten so chilly.

**Here are the questions I asked our new Home and Careers teacher, Ms. DeFalco!**



**Q: What were you doing before you came to New Paltz Middle School?**

A: Graduated college!

**Q: What is your favorite part of teaching here?**

A: Everyone is helpful, welcoming and kind!

**Q: Where are you from?**

A: Poughkeepsie

**Q: Are you excited to go back to school hybrid? What are some pros and cons of going back to school from your opinion?**

A: I am excited to meet students and faculty! I am a little sad we won't be able to do hands on activities that we would normally be able to do.

**Q: Do you have a favorite sports team or like playing any sports?**

A: I played soccer in highschool and I went to a Juventus soccer game before!

**Q: What is your favorite hobby?**

A: Cooking recipes and enjoying them!

**Q: Where did you learn to be a Home and Careers teacher?**

A: I went to SUNY Oneonta and am now in Grad School at Suny New Paltz

**Q: What is your favorite book and author?**

A: That is a tough question! I am currently reading *The Hate You Give* by Angie Thomas.

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## Eating Disorders

By PO

Eating disorders are an issue that is very important. There are two main types of eating disorders, Anorexia Nervosa and Bulimia Nervosa. Anorexia Nervosa is an extreme fear of body fat and gaining weight. People with Anorexia tend to eat too little and end up starving themselves.

Some symptoms of it include but are not limited to are, avoiding food and meals, eating food in very small amounts, and over-exercising. There are many consequences of Anorexia. This is some of them, your heart rate slows down, and hair and nails become brittle (fragile), also the body will lose muscle.

The second major food disorder is Bulimia Nervosa. It is caused through gaining weight which then causes binging and purging. Binging is when a person eats a lot of food at one time. Purging is when they drink a lot of liquids to make food come out of the body quicker.

Some symptoms of it include but are not limited to, self induced vomiting, depression, and being uncomfortable about eating around others. There are also many consequences of Bulimia. These are some of them: Swollen cheeks, heart failure, and damage to the kidneys.

These two eating disorders are large problems that need more attention and should be dealt with right away.

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## What makes a Dinosaur

By Emmett DeGrassi

You might not know much about dinosaurs, but I'm here to help!

**Pterosaurs**

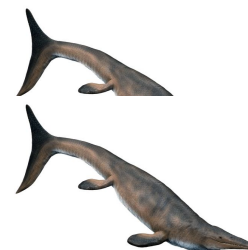
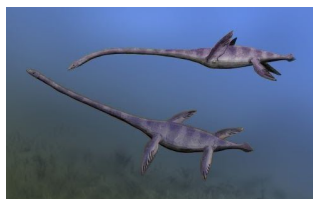


Have you ever seen a picture of these guys?

If you haven't, now you have! These animals are Pterosaurs. Pterosaurs are **not** dinosaurs. As a matter of fact, neither Pteranodon, Dimorphodon, nor Quetzalcoatlus are examples of dinosaurs. Here's why: Pterosaurs are not dinosaurs because they flew and their front limbs stretched out from the side of their torso. Although they are distant cousins, they aren't dinosaurs.

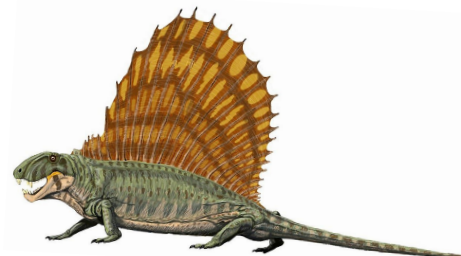
### **Mosasauridae and Elasmosauria**

These animals are not as well known, but are still popular. They, like Pterosaurs, were also not dinosaurs. Rather, they are swimming reptiles. There are a few dinosaurs that swam, but a lot of dinosaur-in-water theories have been debunked. For example, sauropods were once thought to be in water all the time just so their legs could keep their huge bodies (all 176,370 pounds!) standing.



### **Dimetrodon**

The Dimetrodon was also not a dinosaur! This animal wasn't even a reptile but a synapsid! The Dimetrodon lived before the dinosaurs in the permian period. A synapsid isn't quite a reptile, although they aren't direct ancestors of any living mammal. They were, however, more closely related to mammals than any other prehistoric reptile; they even had whiskers!



### **Dinosaurs are still around us**

Yes, as crazy as it sounds, dinosaurs are still alive today! They're all over! Just look up in the air or in a tree. Birds are dinosaurs! Today's birds evolved from theropods. To understand, however, what makes a dinosaur a dinosaur, it's important to remember that dinosaurs had an upright stance and a hole in their hip socket. The friends mentioned above (like the Pteranodon and Mosasauridae) did not.

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## **Global Warming**

By Anya Weinstein

### **What is Global Warming?**

The meaning of global warming is pretty straightforward, it means the whole globe is warming up. You might be thinking that this isn't a bad thing, everyone wants it to be hot when it's cold out. However, a hotter climate means many animals including polar bears and penguins are in danger of losing their homes.

### **How do we know global warming is real?**

Well first, how do we know anything is real? Because science can prove it. In this case, people have seen declining glaciers and ice sheets from space. In fact, Greenland lost about 279 *billion* tons of ice each year between 1993 and 2019.

## Is global warming the same as climate change?

Yes and no. Though they both have to do with the planet warming up, global warming and climate change are a bit different. Global warming is a *part* of climate change and describes the gradual heating of planet Earth. Climate change is a more broader thing and includes melting glaciers, sea water rise and melting ice in Antarctica, the Arctic, and Greenland.

## Can I do anything to help?

The best things to do are pretty simple. One major thing is to stop burning fossil fuels. Fossil fuels are another name for a natural gas like coal. More things include not eating as much meat, turning off lights and composting uneaten food.

## Sites:

[NASA/Climate Change and Global Warming](#)

[Wikipedia/Climate Change](#)

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# 3 Mouth-Watering Oreo Desserts

## Ordinary Oreos too boring? Try these recipes!

By Anya Weinstein

freeze until hardened. Store in the freezer.

### Oreo Cake Pops

#### Ingredients:

1 (14 oz.) package Oreos  
8 oz. cream cheese, softened  
1 tsp. vanilla extract  
2 cups bittersweet chocolate chips, melted

#### To make:

Blend the Oreos finely in a food processor. Put all the Oreos, the cream cheese, and the vanilla in a medium size bowl and mix until it forms a blob. Line a sheet pan with parchment paper. Roll the "dough" into multiple ½ inch size balls. Freeze for ½ an hour. Once done, dip the balls in the chocolate and

### Oreo Milkshake

#### Ingredients:

8 scoops vanilla ice cream  
8 Oreo cookies  
Scant 2 cups milk  
Whipped cream  
Chocolate syrup (optional)

#### To make:

Put ice cream and milk into a blender. Once mixed, add the Oreos and blend until smooth. Pour into four glasses and top with whipped cream and chocolate syrup. Makes four servings.

### Oreo "Pie"

#### Ingredients:

3 ½ cups vanilla ice cream  
Oreo cookies  
4 tablespoons butter, melted

#### To make:

Crush Oreos in a food processor until fine. Measure out 1 ½ cups of it and put in a medium size bowl. Add the butter to the crushed Oreos and mix with your hands. Press into the bottom and sides of a 9-inch round glass dish. Freeze for 10 minutes. Once the 10 minutes is up, put approximately 3 ½ cups of softened vanilla ice cream in it. Freeze then slice into pie shapes. Store in the freezer.

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# The History of Thanksgiving

By Anya Weinstein

## What is Thanksgiving?

Thanksgiving is a holiday celebrated only in the U.S.A. and always falls upon the fourth Thursday of November. It is usually celebrated by having a large gathering with family and friends, and eating pumpkin pie, turkey, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, and gravy.

## When did Thanksgiving start?

The holiday officially started in 1863 or the middle of the Civil War by Abraham Lincoln. However, the Plymouth Settlers (Pilgrims) and the Wampanoag Native Americans were the first people to celebrate it in 1621.

## Who were the Pilgrims?

The Pilgrims were a group of settlers who came from England but sailed to America to find religious freedom. They came on a boat called the Mayflower and landed here on November 11, 1620, after sailing for 66 days.

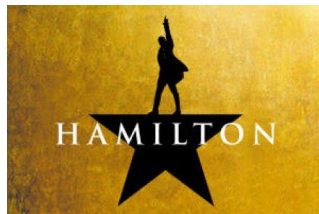
## Why did this holiday get created?

Thanksgiving was created to celebrate being thankful for everything. After the Pilgrims came to America, they suffered a very bad winter, and only half of them survived. The Native Americans helped them by showing them how to hunt well, and grow crops using fish as fertilizer. After their first harvest, the Pilgrims and Native Americans had a feast together to be thankful for all the food they had.

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## Hamilton on Disney+: Should You Watch It?

By: Lila DiSciullo, Sadie Lauchaire, and Emma Schwarz



As you may know if you have Disney+, On July 3rd the 2016 musical sensation “Hamilton” was aired. Hamilton is about American History. It tells the story of Alexander Hamilton, The Schulyer Sisters and more people from history. There are a total of 50 songs and the musical consists of 2 hours and 50 minutes.

Our opinions on this musical are these 3 facts. Lila's opinion is that Hamilton is not for everyone because the whole thing is basically singing but if you like music you will like this show. Sadie's opinion is that when you are watching you get historical facts out of it when you are having fun. Emma's opinion is Hamilton is a great show to watch because you can learn through songs while you are watching it. In conclusion Hamilton is a good but long watch and if you like music and musicals you will enjoy it.

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## Why Wizard101 is the Most Underrated MMORPG of All Time



By: Bodhi Stevens

So, I know all of you are probably thinking, “WhAt abOuT CIUb PeNguiN aNd AniMal JaM?!?” We'll get to that. First of all, what's an MMORPG? A MMORPG is a Massively Multiplayer Online Role Playing Game. Second of all, what is Wizard101? Wizard101 is a 2008 MMORPG where you are inducted into the Ravenwood School of Magical Arts in order to stop Malistaire, a former teacher at Ravenwood, from causing destruction to the Spiral (the fictional galaxy in which everything takes place). As you journey between different worlds such as Krokotopia, Wysteria, and Marleybone, each with their own special themes, you complete quests, level up, and fight evil bosses. Now that you know what Wizard101 is, we can talk about why it's so good.

First of all, the worlds are awesome. Aside from dungeons, this is the main way the developers keep you playing. Each world has its own theme and side quests so that when the current world starts to get boring, there is a whole new world to complete. Second of all, the challenging dungeons. In every world, there is at least one dungeon. Dungeons basically have their own little storylines and a really hard boss at the end. Sometimes, they even have their own side quests! Third of all, the card and treasure card animations. Each card is so unique and creative. Every time I get a new card, I'm excited to see what the animation for the spell is. If there's one bad thing, it would be the crowns. Crowns aren't like the regular coins that you earn by progressing, you have to buy them with real money. Annoyingly enough, you need crowns to progress in the game. The lowest amount you can buy is 2500 crowns at \$5.00, and most new areas cost 1000 crowns so it's not too too bad, but still not great. I have been playing since first grade, and I still never get bored playing.

Even though it's not as popular as it was, it's still updating to this day. Now, why is it better than Club Penguin and Animal Jam? Well, those games don't have a point. You just sit around in a lobby, playing something along the lines of "Dance Fever" and waste time. Don't get me wrong, when i'm in the right mood, i love to waste time! But, I think most of you would agree with me when I say that I would rather play something where you progress in a fun, interesting, and all around involving story. In conclusion, these are my reasons why Wizard101 is the most underrated MMORPG of all time, and I hope that I've convinced you to maybe, just maybe, try and play Wizard101.

## This Month on Game Review: Animal Crossing New Horizons

By J.P. Fabella and Phoenix Johnston



### Introduction

Animal Crossing New Horizons is one of the newest games to come to switch, and quite a popular one too. The animal crossing series has always been a popular one, but this one has by far has the best graphics, smoothest gameplay and coolest features. In New Horizons you start off by getting invited on an island getaway. You then fly to a deserted island with little to no resources and what somewhat represents a town hall. You slowly progress throughout the game by earning bells, which are the main currency in the game, and making your island a better place.

### Town Hall

In most Animal crossing games there's some building in the center of your island that represents a town hall. For New Horizons this is where Tom Nook and his nephews Timmy and Tommy work on helping you improve your island. Every morning Tom Nook gives you your daily news such as an event coming up soon. Over time your town hall will upgrade from a small tent into a large building. Once the town hall upgrades, Isabell to your island. She is a former deserted island buyer. In the mornings instead of Tom Nook, Isabell now tells you the news for the day. But unlike Tom Nook she can sometimes give you useless news like her old sock has been found, and she enjoyed watching a tv show even though there's no tv in town hall and it's open 24/7 and she's in there the whole time.

### Museum

In every Animal Crossing game there's a museum. The way you get it in new horizons is by talking to Tom Nook, you can give him 5 bugs, fish or sea creatures and in return he'll call his friend Blathers. You can then set up Blathers tent on your island, and if you give him bugs, fish or sea creatures he will then give you 2 crafting recipes for the vaulting pole and the shovel. The vaulting pole helps you explore your island by letting you hop across the water and the shovel lets you dig up fossils which are marked with a star on the ground which you can give to Blathers and or sell for a good price. The other



thing he asks is to build a museum on your island! In said museum all of the Art, Bugs, Fish, Fossils, and Sea creatures you've collected and given to Blathers are displayed in sections each one has its own section except for sea creatures [ displayed with fish ].

### Crafting

Crafting is a big part of New Horizons. This is a new idea to the series, which Nintendo felt suited the idea of a deserted island life. This game allows you to craft tools, items, decorations, and many other things. You can use materials such as wood, stone, clay, iron, and gold that you can gather from your island. In order to craft something, you need a DIY recipe. You can get these as gifts, from your villagers, in floating presents, and you can even find them in message bottles that washed up on shore! You can also customize most crafted items, to make them different patterns or colors. There are also seasonal crafting recipes, which mean that the materials and the recipes themselves can only be obtained during certain months. In Autumn, there are pumpkins, mushrooms, pine cones and acorns. In spring there's young spring bamboo. In summer it's summer shells. And in winter there's snowflakes. To increase your island rating, you need a certain number of crafted items.

### Island Ratings

As your island gets better and better it's rating will go up. This rating is out of five possible stars, and you can get it by talking to Isabell at the town hall. You can up this island rating by planting flowers and trees, as well as placing various items throughout your island. You can also use things like different types of fencing. Isabell will give you tips on what you need to get your rating to five stars. There are many ways you can get items, including: crafting (see above), buying them, and getting them as gifts. Flowers and trees will appear naturally on your island, but you can also buy them at Nook's Cranny.

### Villagers

In Animal Crossing there are animals that live on your island but they act like humans. There are over 300 villagers. Tom Nook and the Nook twins, for example, are all tanooky, which is a made up animal from Japanese mythology. The tanooky is the trickster in Japanese mythology, but back on topic Isabelle is a dog, and the people who run the airport are dodo's. But in the game you can get many different types of villagers on your island. By types I mean personality types, there's Snooty, Lazy, Grumpy, Peppy, Normal, Jock, Sisterly, and Smug. Each villager with a different personality has different things they say. You can become friends with the villagers by giving them gifts and talking to them regularly. The maximum number of villagers you can have on your island at a time is ten. Villagers have their own birthday in game. On their birthday you can attend their party and give them gifts.

### Nook's Cranny

After a while, the Nook twins will want to start their own shop. In order for this to happen you will have to give them 90 wood and 30 iron nuggets. At this shop, you can buy 2 large and 2 small items. These items can be placed inside your house or on your island, and will help your island ratings [Seen above] go up. After spending 200,000 bells and having it on your island for 30 days, the shop will get an upgrade. This includes a new exterior and a new large item for sale every day for a total of 3 instead of 2. The shop has seasonal items available as well. Another feature of this shop is that you can sell your unwanted items to Timmy and Tommy. There's also an additional cabinet in the store where you can buy a multitude of different items, such as crafting recipes, tools, flower starts, wallpapers, and flooring. Nook's Cranny is 1 of 2 shops on your island, but without it you wouldn't be able to do many things in game.

### Able Sisters

The Able Sisters is the other shop on your island. It is a shop that was opened by a family of three sisters that are pretty well known in the series, named Sable, Mabel and Lable. The shop starts out as Mabel setting up a small tent on your island. You can buy a couple items of clothing, but not that many. She eventually asks if she can start a shop on your island, and she does. One of the sisters (Lable), however, is not usually in the shop. Instead, she will occasionally stop by your island and ask you to model clothes for her, and she will reward you with coupons for the store if you do. On the topic of the store itself, you can buy things like clothes for your character there. The shop sells seasonal items and will change it's displays daily. A feature you will get pretty early on in the game is the ability to create custom designs. You can design your own clothing! You can even post them online or display them in your shop for others to see. There is also a changing room so that you can try on the clothes and see what they would look like before you have to buy them. The clothes can be somewhat pricey depending on what you buy. But with the coupons you can get from Lable, you get the items for free.

### Jolly Redd's Treasure Trawler

Jolly Redd is a fox that you're warned about in game. Redd is Tom Nook's nemesis, he and Tom Nook used to work together and it seems Tom Nook got the short end of the stick. The first time you see Redd he's walking about your island, he then says you're his closest friend and you are practically cousins. He sells you art which you give to Blathers the museum curator [Seen above] and he makes an art section of your museum. After that Redd shows up on your island in a boat. Its name is " Jolly Redd's Treasure trawler." Redd will then give you multiple pieces of art to choose from at a cousins discount, some is real and some is fake. If it's a fake piece of art and you give it to Blathers he yells at you and returns it. Redd only shows up 1-2 times every 2 weeks, so finishing the art section of your museum is a challenge. In the end you have to be cautious when shopping from Redd but at the same time always try to buy something, because you can only buy 1 work of art while Redds on your island.

### Leif and Kicks

Leif and Kicks, like Lable, show up in the center of your town hall once every 2 weeks. Leif sells only plants that you can't get anywhere else, and will buy your weeds that you can pick up off the grass for instead of their normal price, 10 bells at Nook's Cranny, he buys them for 20. The creators think Leif should have his own shop on your island but that won't happen for a while now. The other person who shows up is Kicks! Kicks is a laid back skunk that sells backpacks and shoes for a good price. Kicks like Leif does deserve his very own shop.

### Saharah and Daisy Mae

Saharan and Daisy Mae are also characters that will visit your island once in a while, but they are different. They will walk around your island and can be found anywhere on it. Saharah is a camel that will sell you wallpaper, flooring, and rugs. Rugs come in different sizes, and by purchasing one, he will give you a coupon. This can be used when buying stuff from him, and enough of them will get you a random free rug. Daisy Mae will walk around with turnips for sale. She comes every Sunday. These can be sold at Nook's Cranny, creating a stock market element. The price will change twice a day and the goal is to buy them for less than you sell them for.

Flick and CJ:  
Bugs, Fish, and  
Sea creatures

In Animal Crossing New Horizons there are two figures that visit your island. Their names are Flick and CJ, Flick is obsessed with bugs and can make bug statues, and CJ is obsessed with fish and sea creatures and can make statues of either or. Each statute requires 3 of the animals you want, then you hand it over and the next day a statue will be delivered to you. They also pay you more bells for fish bugs and sea creatures. In game you can craft a fishing rod/ bug net to catch fish or bugs. Bugs will run away if you're too slow or if there's a beat box or radio in the general proximity, and they will spawn on flowers, rocks, beach rocks, all types of trees in the water and butterflies and dragonflies spawn in the air. Fish have different sizes, each fish is a black shadow in the water so you can't tell what you will catch.. You have to cast your rod in front of its face to get its attention, once you've gotten its attention you then wait till the bobber goes under press A and it auto reels it in. Each shadow size has its own different types of fish. For sea creatures you need a wetsuit, once you get one you can jump into the water and go diving. Like fish the sea creatures are shadows in the water that have bubbles. Once you go under by pressing Y you can then swim onto the shadow and pull up your creature. But keep in mind you might not want to sell these animals because blathers will happily take them off your hands.

#### K.K. Slider

K.K. Slider is a popular CPU in the Animal Crossing universe. He's a very popular music artist. The first main goal of the game is to have a three star island. When you achieve that, he will come and perform his songs at your island. After the first performance, he will come every Saturday. When he comes, he will give you a couple options. He will take requests of songs that you want him to perform, or he will play one based on what mood you're in. You can also buy CD's at the town hall in the ATM machine for 2,000 bells.

#### Travel and Nook miles

Animal Crossing is pretty well known for being a multiplayer family game. In the game, you can travel to other players' islands as long as you have friended them. On other players' islands, you can do basically everything you can do on your own. You can collect materials, visit villagers, and much more. There is another traveling component in this game. This is Nook Miles Tickets. These can be purchased at the town hall for 2,000 Nook Miles a piece. These tickets allow you to travel to a randomly generated mystery island. This small island will have trees, flowers, rocks, and other common resources. These can be collected and taken back to your island to keep and use. These randomly generated islands can have a random villager if you have a plot open. You can not access this island after you leave it, so make sure you don't forget anything there! All you have to do to do traveling of any kind is visit the airport on the south end of your island. Here, you can travel to other islands as we mentioned, or invite your friends over to your island.

#### Flowers

Flowers are a big part of upping your island rating. You can buy flowers every day at Nook's Cranny, and from Leif. Without flowers you can't get a 5 star island. You can breed different flowers to get new colors and types of flowers. The rarest breedable flower is the blue rose, it took us over 5 months of trial and error to get one. You can also pick flowers and place the picked flower in a pot or wear it in your hair and for roses in your mouth. Each island has its own set of naturally grown flowers on it and when you go to different islands there's a chance you can get other types of flowers.

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# Among Us

By: Andrew Lai

One of the most popular games in the time of Covid-19 is Among Us. There was a gigantic spike of sales in September because some big youtubers started playing. The game is like Mafia, but it takes place in space. You go around the spaceship and you are either a crewmate or the imposter. As a crewmate you are going around and trying to finish your tasks like fixing wires and putting trash in space. As the imposter you are trying to kill all of the crewmates. An imposter can also vent, which means you can move through vents into other parts of the ship. There are 4-10 players in the game and 1-3 imposters hiding among them. You automatically get some hats and suits which you can change and you can also change the colors. You can also buy accessories like pets and some more fancier suits and hats.

When I interviewed an Among Us player, he really likes to be red but he will be other colors beside that if he needs to be. He like the task "simon says" which you have to follow the pattern that the game makes for you, but his very favorite thing to do in the game is kill people as an imposter.

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**New Members are always welcome! We meet on Thursday nights that school is in session at 6:30 via our Google Meet.**