

# the accolade

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JACQUELINE CHANG | theaccolade

## LOGGING OFF & ZOOMING AWAY

*As the 2020-2021 distance/hybrid learning school year ends, The Accolade's Senior Issue highlights 18 valedictorians, tying the most established here two years ago. See pages 6-8.*



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# Summer Session

June 14 – August 7, 2021

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# A Lancer Awards night in



School officials with the help of students from the Associated Student Body gave Lancer Award nominees the red carpet treatment on Wednesday in keeping with its “Night in Hollywood” theme.

The after school event took place in the quad for the first time in keeping with COVID-19 health and safety guidelines.

Photos by *Accolade* photographer Audrey Seo



**ON THE RED CARPET:** Award-winners lined up as they awaited school officials to call out their names to go to the center of the quad to accept their medals or certificates.



**BLAZING STAR:** Junior Malini Pandey (left) holds her Rotary Club certificate in front of the stage in the quad for her older sister to take a picture. The award honors students with the highest GPA for this school year.



**SAY CHEESE:** Junior Curtis Kim holds out his certificate for a photo opp. School officials set up stations throughout the quad for parents to take pictures of their award-winners.

## Yearbook delayed until June or July

MINJEONG KIM

Staff Reporter

For a second consecutive year, complications from the coronavirus pandemic have caused a delay in the *Helios* yearbook publication, which will not be distributed to those who paid for one until after the semester ends.

Yearbook adviser Lindsay Safe said distributions will take place in late June or early July in or near the quad, although no specific date is available as of May 20.

“Everything will be worth it when you see the book [still has] 312 pages that document the lives of our community during this year,” Safe said. “If anything, this is the year you’ll want to remember when you look back on high school, and we did the best we could.”

The staff submitted final spreads May 20 to the printing company, Herff Jones, to start printing the book. The yearbooks will be printed by the end of June, *Helios* co-editor-in-chief senior Anika Madan said.

Previously in 2020, *Helios* experienced a delay in the yearbook distribution as well because Herff Jones closed for about six weeks to meet the state’s COVID-19 guidelines.

Sales for the annual are also down compared with previous years, Safe said.

“I think students and teachers are incorrectly assuming we couldn’t make a

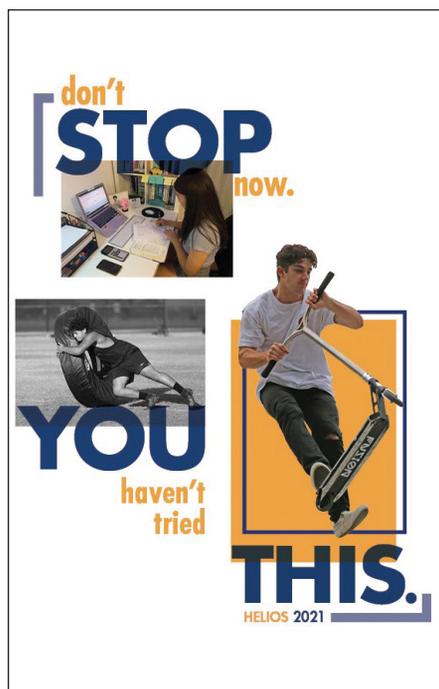


Image printed with permission from Anika Madan  
**LATE ARRIVAL:** Students who bought a yearbook will not be able to get it until the summer. Meanwhile, *Helios* released its front cover and theme on Instagram April 30.

yearbook and didn’t understand how we’d get content,” she said. “We only ordered 650 given how many we’d sold when our numbers were due, [and] at this point, we have under 100 left.”

Yearbooks can still be bought on the Sunny Hills webstore.



For the full story, go to <https://shsaccolade.com/category/news/>

## ASB posts last video assembly of school year on SH website

ANTHONY KEEM

Staff Reporter

After the Associated Student Body [ASB] officials and students reviewed all options — including an in-person end-of-the-year assembly in the quad — they decided the best way to meet the state’s Center for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC] guidelines would be a video, which was released Thursday.

“It was the best way to make sure that everyone could see the [end-of-the-year] assembly,” ASB co-adviser David Fenstermaker said.

Previously, the ASB had considered hosting the end-of-the-year assembly in the quad using the jumbotron because of the change in CDC guidelines for social distancing from 3-6 feet; however, prioritizing the safety of students and accessibility of the assembly took precedence.

“I’m very pleased with how our entire school has adjusted to the multiple changes and challenges throughout the year,” Paris said. “We would all prefer to have a live, in-the-gym assembly, but [a video] is one of the adjustments that we’ve made this year.”

The video spans nearly 15 minutes and is available to watch on the Sunny Hills website and the ASB’s official Instagram page.

Highlights of the video include the

past school year’s events such as victories from the spring sports games, homecoming court and National Signing Day for senior athletes, ASB assembly commissioner senior Estefanni Espinoza said.

Espinoza also said segments of the video assembly also heavily feature a performance by Dance Production and teachers dancing together in unison, creating the theme of “High School Musical.”

“I think the video was a really good way to end the year coming into finals week and graduation,” senior Jason Thomson said. “Seeing that all of our sports and teachers are continuing the legacy of Sunny Hills really puts you back into being on campus for the first day of freshman year to now.”

### OTHER EVENTS CANCELED

Mr. Sunny Hills and prom will not make an appearance in the end-of-the-year assembly video.

The ASB scrapped the competition because of the lack of applicants, secretary and prom committee member, junior Jasmine Lee said.

The ASB prom committee dropped prom as COVID-19 precautions and restrictions mandated by the FJUHSd interfered with a potential dance.

“It unfortunately did not work out though we were back in school, and it was too late in the school year to plan any sort of prom video or court,” Lee said.

# Project to install solar carports will finish by summer

DANIEL KONG

Asst. Business Manager

While vehicles have been allowed to park outside the Performing Arts Center and take advantage of the shade provided by some of the newly installed solar panel carports, the project will not be completed until the summer, school officials said.

Sections of the lot remain fenced off, and an electric vehicle charging station has yet to be installed.

By midday on Thursday, some workers from Borrego Solar Systems Inc. inspected connections inside the carports.

Principal Allen Whitten said the \$2.5 million solar panel carport installation, which began four months ago, is the last of the construction/remodeling projects on campus.

When completed without any delays at the end of June, Whitten said he plans to have the lot resurfaced with new parking markers underneath each carport.

"I imagine a beautifully lined and brand new drop off zone, [efficient] traffic flow and [new] parking spots, but this may not all happen this summer," he said.

Once completed, the 1,600 LG solar panels are expected to produce 80% of the electricity that the campus uses, Borrego officials said.

Each panel can produce 675 kilowatts of power, while the carport structures measure 40 feet wide and 10 feet tall, Borrego officials said.

Sunny Hills is the second school in the Fullerton Joint Union High School District to install solar panels carports, the first being Troy High School.

When the charging station is installed, Whitten said that it would only be available for use by Sunny Hills staff who own electric vehicles.

Junior Andrew Kim, who returned to in-person instruction in mid-April, has been among the teen drivers taking advantage of the shade from the carports.

"I notice that after getting into my car at the end of the day, it isn't boiling hot inside, where it would be if parked in the sun," said Kim, who parks in that lot because it's closest to his first period Advanced Placement English Language class in Room 14. "Ultimately, I think that they were a great investment by the district."



ALL PHOTOS BY BRIANNA ZAFRA | theaccolade

**ALL SYSTEMS GO?:** A worker from Borrego Solar Systems Inc. takes a look Thursday morning at one of the power panels of the solar panel carports that have been installed at the Performing Arts Center parking lot. The project is scheduled to be completed by the end of June.



**SWEET SHADE:** Some cars are beginning to take advantage of the recently installed solar panel ports. When completed, the lot will include an electric vehicle charging station for staff use, while the panels will produce 80% of the school's electricity.

## Papers fly, seniors share goodbyes



MINJEONG KIM | theaccolade

**IT'S OVER:** A group participates in an unofficial Paper Toss today in the quad after school.

## Seniors to get free breakfast burritos, pick up grad tickets on May 25 event

DOMINIQUE CHANG & ALICE SHIN

Staff Reporter & Asst. News Editor

To ensure that COVID-19 health and safety protocols are followed, school officials have combined some traditional, end-of-the-year senior activities into a free one scheduled for May 25.

Called "Senior Farewell," the 8-11 a.m. event will allow 12th-graders to come to campus to pick up their five graduation tickets from the school quad and then watch a senior reflection video while eating their free breakfast burrito and pastry item from Porto's, the Associated Student Body [ASB] co-adviser Mike Paris said.

From 8-9 a.m., students with last names "A-G" will pick up their tickets; then in the next hour will be students with last names "H-M" followed by those with last names "N-Z" from 10-11 a.m.

No other students would be on campus at the time because non-seniors are required to stay home during final exam days.

In the past, students who wanted to attend the Senior Breakfast would have to pay a fee between \$10-15.

Organized by the ASB, the senior tradition was usually held at the quad two days before graduation.

Also in the past on a Monday night of graduation week, 12th-graders would go to the gym for an activity called, "Reflections," in which they filled out a district senior survey, watched a video and gave speeches.

No information was available at press time as to what day graduation ticket distribution was on in the past.

"We are glad that we are able to host these events in a safe manner," said assistant principal Hilda Arredondo, who is coordinat-

ing the event.

Others coordinating Senior Farewell include the ASB, the Parent Teacher Student Association [PTSA] and the Senior Class, Paris said.

Paris said the video will be available on the school website on the same day as Senior Farewell for those not coming to campus.

It will showcase this past school year during the coronavirus pandemic and aims to allow seniors to recognize their high school life as part of their future journey.

"We hope that they appreciate what they accomplished and appreciate those around them," he said. "I think the Class of 2021 should be very proud of their perseverance through this past year and the fact that they made the best of a difficult situation."

Senior activities >> Page 5

## FROM ZOOMS TO (CLASS)ROOMS

### Navigating through the COVID-19 pandemic school year

**STOP**

**Should I choose Cohort A, B or C?**

**YIELD**

**FINISH LINE**

**AUG. 11:** First day of the 2020-2021 school year starts 100% online after Gov. Gavin Newsom mandated no in-person instruction for districts in the purple tier.

**OCT. 6:** Trustees vote to approve re-opening of all campuses with hybrid learning Nov. 2.

**DEC. 15:** With COVID-19 positive cases spiking in North Orange County, the board decides to go back to distance learning, lasting until Feb. 16.

**APRIL 9:** Homecoming queen coronation.

**FINISH LINE:** The school year will end with a live graduation ceremony on May 27, while non-seniors will go back to Zooming on final exam days May 25-27.

Art by Chariti Li  
Compiled by Nevyva Patel

## Summer school sessions to be in-person instruction

**KATE YANG**

*Asst. Feature Editor*

For the first time since the closure of campuses in March 2020 because of the coronavirus pandemic, students who have enrolled in summer sessions at any of the schools in the Fullerton Joint Union High School District [FJUHS] will have to come in person instead of staying home for distance learning.

The only exception will be students who signed up to take health, which will remain completely online, school officials said. Otherwise, summer classes will be held Mondays through Thursdays with the first three-week session starting June 1 and the second three-week session starting June 21.

“We are able to safely return students to campus while following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines,” said assistant principal Hilda Arredondo, who coordinates summer school.

Unlike the hybrid learning or regular school year bell schedule, students in the summer will have to attend class from 7:45 a.m.-1 p.m. and will be dropped from their class if they exceed eight hours of absence.

Junior Angelica Velasco, who has already been attending in-person classes beginning Feb. 16, likes the idea of returning to

a normal summer school.

“I feel like it is definitely a big step,” said Velasco, who has signed up to take the summer American Government and Economics courses. “I feel like it was the right decision because COVID-19 cases are going down and many people are getting vaccinated.”

As of May 20, summer school classes for American Government, Economics, English 3 and Precalculus are available for student enrollment, Arredondo said.

Junior Jamie Suh, who is in Cohort C, underwent a wave of shock when hearing of the district’s plan for an entirely in-person summer school.

“I thought I was super unprepared, especially with the social skills that I lack after not going to school for a year,” Suh said. “But honestly, I kind of expected it since everyone’s getting vaccinated, and I am sure the school would follow safety precautions.”

Being unable to exercise her social skills in quarantine, she believes summer school will provide her with the perfect opportunity to turn things around.

“I personally do hope summer school will make everyone more prepared for the next school year,” Suh said. “I hope we will get back on the right schedule ... before my social skills get worse, so I hope it helps.”

## PTSA cancels Grad Nite

**YEIHN LEE**

*Staff Reporter*

Grad Nite at Anaheim’s Camelot Golf and Country Club has been canceled because the event could not attract at least 125 seniors to pay for a ticket to attend.

“It is incredibly unfortunate that Grad Nite was canceled,” said Nivie Jhawar, Grad Nite committee chairwoman for the Parent Teacher Student Association [PTSA]. “It is absolutely not what we wanted to have happen, but we can only do so much.”

Originally canceled by the Disney Resort last November, Grad Nite usually takes place at Disneyland in Anaheim.

However, the PTSA decided to find another venue for the

event scheduled on the eve of graduation.

Upon reviewing alternative locations from other schools and PTSA groups, the Sunny Hills PTSA agreed to a contract with Camelot Golf and Country Club, and to be able to hold the event, 125 or more tickets needed to be sold.

By the week of May 10, the PTSA distributed posters around campus and sent out emails to parents of seniors informing them that the PTSA only needed 44 more tickets sold to save Grad Nite.

By May 11, the PTSA notified seniors and their parents via email that the event had to be canceled.

“I wanted to go because it was one of the last ‘senior’ things

we could have done during COVID-19, and adding to that, my friends and I wanted to have a celebration before graduation as kind of a last send-off,” said senior Christopher Jay Sy, who paid \$100 on May 5.

Senior Yasmine Eneria decided not to spend the money on a ticket because it was not going to be at Disneyland even though this 10 p.m.-4 a.m. venue would have offered unlimited use of the mini golf course, bumper boat rides, laser tag, arcade games, go karts, a DJ, dance area, cartoonists and a digital photo booth.

“It just didn’t seem worth it,” Eneria said. “I was also kind of disappointed that we wouldn’t get to have the usual Grad Nite [at Disneyland].”

FROM PAGE 4

## SENIOR EVENTS

Students, such as senior Madalyn Aiello, look forward to the event.

“I do plan on going to the Senior Farewell because it’ll be a nice way to end senior year with the video,” said Aiello, who is in Cohort A. “The combination of Senior Breakfast, Reflections and tickets is a good idea to me because it’s less exposure to COVID-19 if we have them all at once instead of multiple events.”

Senior Amaya Mitchell, who is in Cohort C, agrees with Aiello.

“I do plan on attending the Senior Farewell because I’ve always enjoyed school events that involve being with friends, especially during the current circumstances where it’s difficult to enjoy senior year with my classmates,” Mitchell said.

Although senior Paul Dhillon said he plans to attend Senior Farewell, he has some reservations about the activity.

“I don’t really think it’s a good idea because it just feels rushed since the school had to plan this last minute,” Dhillon said. “I’ll probably go because it’s the one senior activity we are having, but I don’t really think it’s a good idea

because it just feels rushed since the school had to plan this last minute.”

Whitten said he hopes to see many seniors show up, and he favors this decision to merge several activities because of the coronavirus pandemic.

“We anticipate it being a great opportunity for our seniors to reconnect with their friends and collect their graduation tickets,” he said.

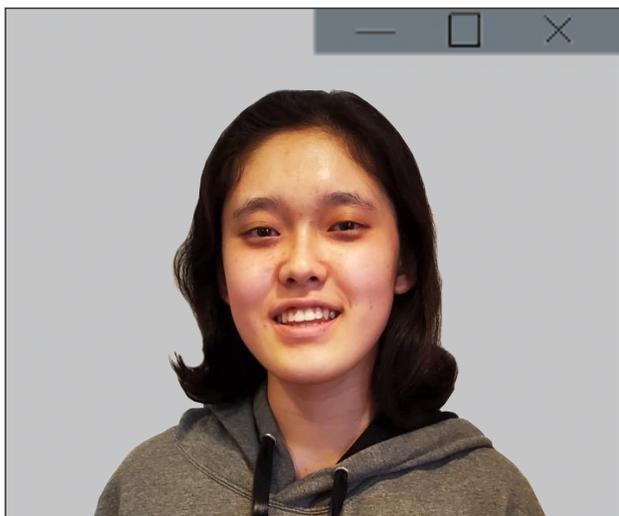


For the full story, go to <https://shhsaccolade.com/category/news/>

# HIGH ACHIEVERS

*Class of 2021 ties the Class of 2019 for having the most valedictorians at Sunny Hills — 18; The Accolade gives them one more "quiz" to find out where they are headed and other academic-related questions.*

Compiled by *Accolade* copy editor Michelle Sheen and staff reporters Esther Oh and Rida Zar



**Rebecca Back**

**University of California, Irvine, undecided**

*Describe your feelings when you got accepted into your school?*

"When I first saw that I got into UCI, I felt a sense of relief.

It felt like all the hard work I did over the past four years had finally paid off and that I was reaping the fruits of my labor."



**Annie Bang**

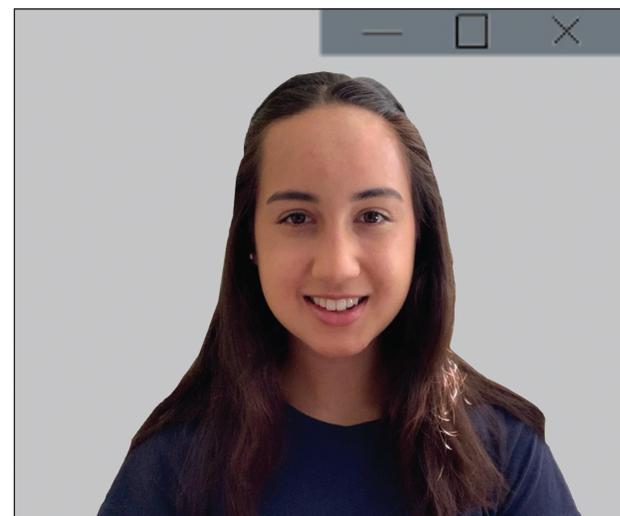
**University of Southern California, journalism**

*What is something that made this year special?*

"Seeing my friends and favorite teachers became a lot more special after being unable to meet them in person for over a year."

*Who is a teacher you are most thankful for?*

"I'm definitely most grateful for Mrs. [Cristian] Bueno and Mr. [Brian] Wall. Both teachers have been extremely empathetic my entire high school career, and they are honestly just the kindest people I have ever met."



**Chamonix Bas**

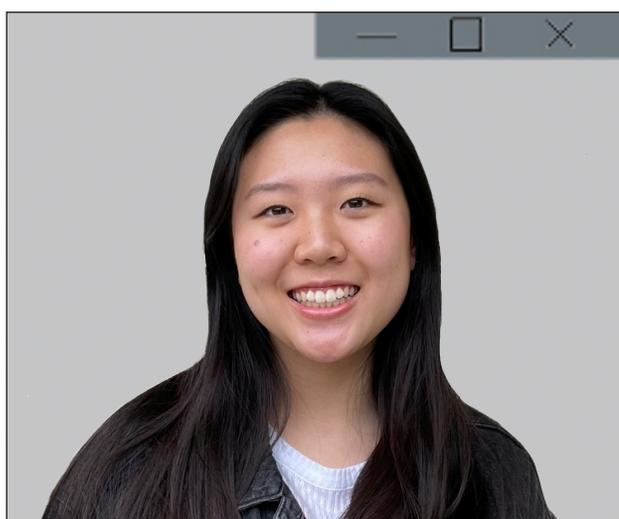
**U.S. Naval Academy, chemistry and Russian**

*What advice would you give to underclassmen?*

"Don't underestimate yourself. Make big goals and follow through with steps to reach them."

*What time did you usually go to sleep?*

"Usually around 11. Sleep is really important to me because I'm less efficient and have trouble retaining information when I'm too tired."



**Rebecca Choi**

**University of Southern California, chemistry**

*What part of high school will you miss the most?*

"I'll definitely miss *Accolade* late nights and collaborating with the staff for hours after school for the entire week. I really enjoyed the teamwork that our staff had and eating dinner with everyone while scrambling to finish the issue."

*What are you most looking forward to doing over the summer?*

"I can drive now, so I want to go on road trips or to the beach."



**Abby Haan**

**University of Arizona, chemical engineering**

*What advice would you give to underclassmen?*

"Stay on top of your work so that you're not stressed out. Enjoy high school while you can have it because we've missed out on a year."

*What is your proudest accomplishment?*

"Obviously becoming a valedictorian is a really big accomplishment; playing three sports and being successful in them was also important to me."



**June Kim**

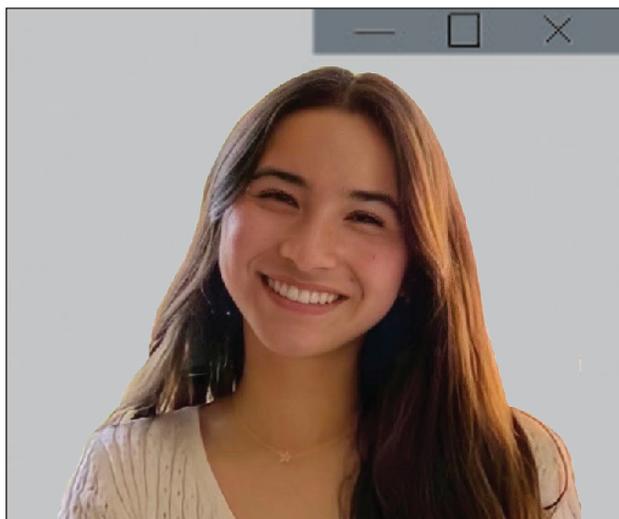
**University of California, Irvine, psychology**

*What class challenged your valedictorian status?*

"It was definitely AP [Advanced Placement] Physics. I took it on a whim just to see if I would like it or not, but it was really hard."

*What made Sunny Hills special to you?*

"The fact that it has so much to offer. ... When I entered high school, I never thought that I would be doing extracurriculars, and then it became this really impactful experience for me."



**Meagan Kimbrell**

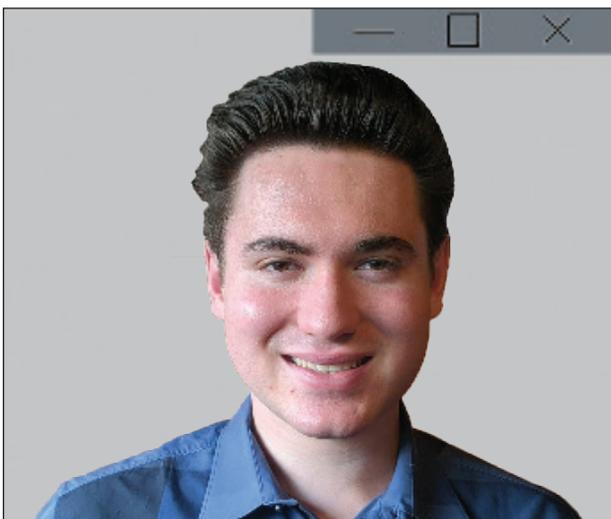
**University of California, Los Angeles, ecology and behavior and evolution**

*When and how did you choose your major?*

“I had always known I wanted to major in something life science-related since I wanted to become a dermatologist.”

*How do you feel about graduating during the coronavirus pandemic?*

“It’s definitely a bummer to think about since this year was supposed to be filled with so many events and memories, but overall I’m just glad to be done.”



**Jack Leydicker**

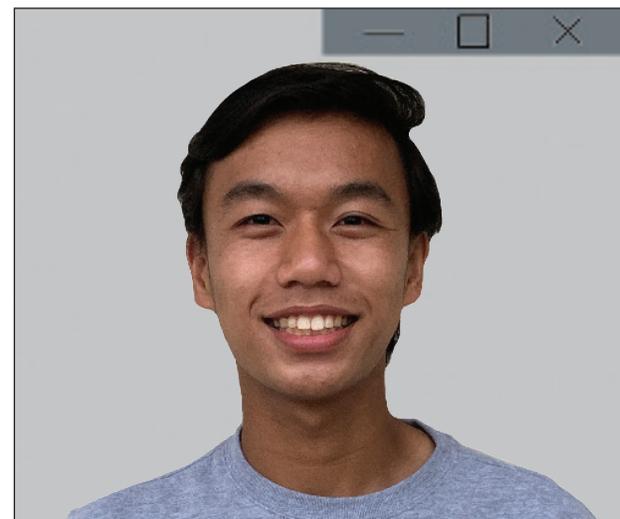
**Yale University, global affairs and Russian, East European and Eurasian studies**

*What was the most important factor when deciding what college you would attend?*

“Intellectual freedom. I have very broad interests in fields as diverse as global affairs, environmental science and Russian area studies, and in order to explore all of my interests, I must attend a university that offers its students intellectual autonomy.”

*What are some of your techniques to get A's?*

“Keep the future in mind constantly, remind yourself what you’re working toward and use future success as your motivation.”



**Andrew Ngo**

**University of Southern California, business administration**

*How do you think Sunny Hills has prepared you for college?*

“A lot of the teachers here have a lot of really interesting real world experiences, like Mr. [Scott] Rosenkranz. He studied abroad in England, and he’s incorporated that into his teaching. All the teachers are always there to give advice, and I feel like I’ve been prepared for more situations.”

*What was the best class you took in high school?*

“I really liked the environment in Mr. Greg Abbott’s AP Psychology class, and it was really fun to do homework for it because it had really engaging content. For Theory of Knowledge with Mr. Rosenkranz, I liked to focus on the discussion rather than the busy work, and it really helped my critical thinking skills.”



**Joyce Park**

**Harvard University, psychology**

*How did you feel when you realized you were going to be joining Harvard’s Class of 2025?*

“I honestly didn’t believe it at first. Before Ivy Day, I kept getting waitlisted or rejected from schools with higher acceptance rates than Harvard, so I was shocked and obviously overjoyed as soon as I saw the ‘congratulations’ and the little confetti.”

*What is a tip you would give your freshman self?*

“Don’t slack on homework because homework is your practice of what you’re learning. If you do your homework, even if you don’t study for your tests, you’ll still have that foundation of knowledge so you can still pass a test.”



**Emily Pham**

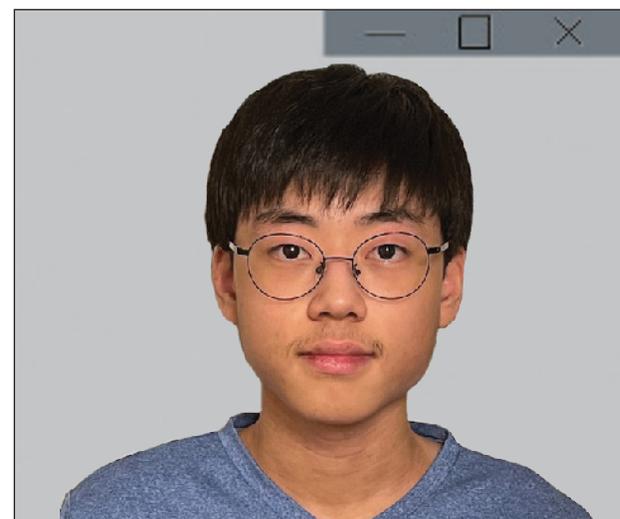
**University of California Berkeley, computer science**

*What motivates you to work hard?*

“Doing well in school has always been important to me, so starting out, my goal was to earn good grades in order to be admitted to a good university. But over time, I decided I wanted to prove to myself that I could do something that I know would be really hard to do.”

*What are things you need to give up to be a valedictorian?*

“When my workload began to pile up, I found myself giving up sleep. Between classes, extracurriculars, internships, personal life and my health, it seemed [like] there was never enough time in the day to finish everything.”



**Sylvester Seo**

**University of California, Berkeley, chemistry**

*How did you manage your time?*

“I form a list of tasks I need to complete, starting with the most important to the least. I then work my way from top to bottom; finishing the top priority work early frees up time.”

*How do you feel about graduating from high school?*

“I’ve made a lot of good memories with great friends, and I’m sure that I will miss [them] after graduating from high school.”



**Mariam Shenouda**

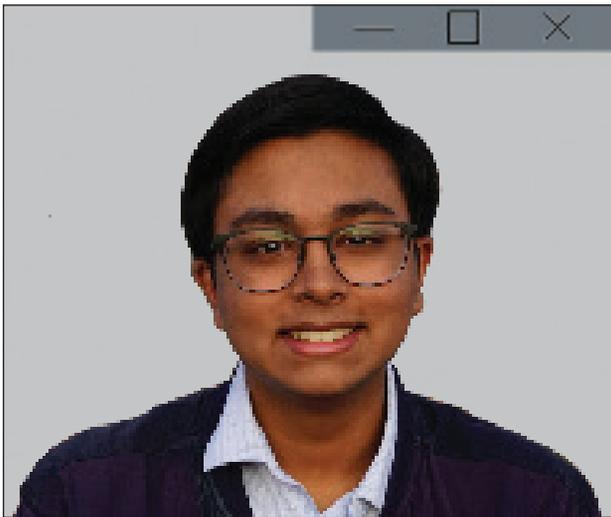
**University of California, Irvine, psychology**

*What is some advice you would give to underclassmen?*

“I would advise underclassmen to make the most out of their experience by getting involved in activities or just being social in general. You are in high school only once, [so] make the most of it.”

*How would you describe your high school experience in five words?*

“I would describe my experience as busy, stressful, preparing, shaping and eye-opening.”



**Sujay Sheth**

**University of California, Berkeley  
bioengineering and business**

*How do you feel about this recognition?*

“I feel grateful that I was able to stick with my goals, and I am proud of myself and other people who managed to get valedictorian despite the pandemic.”

*What are you planning to do over the summer?*

“I was planning to do an internship, but I think it would be better for me to just relax and prepare for the challenging road of college before me.”



**Kien Tran**

**University of California, Los Angeles  
chemical engineering**

*Was there a turning point in your four years of high school?*

“Honors chemistry — when I realized that school could actually be fun.”

*How do you feel about graduating from high school?*

“Unprepared but excited. If college is anything like high school, life is gonna be good.”

**WHO GETS TO SPEAK AT GRADUATION?**

In past years when only one or two students had the highest GPA and fulfilled the school's requirements to be tapped valedictorian, they would get to give a speech in front of their graduating class.

But when the number of top students

grow to double digit figures, school officials meet with them and offer them a chance to try out to be the representative valedictorian speaker(s).

The tryout involves submitting a draft, then presenting it in the Lyceum in front of 12 adults: a mixture of teachers and administrators.

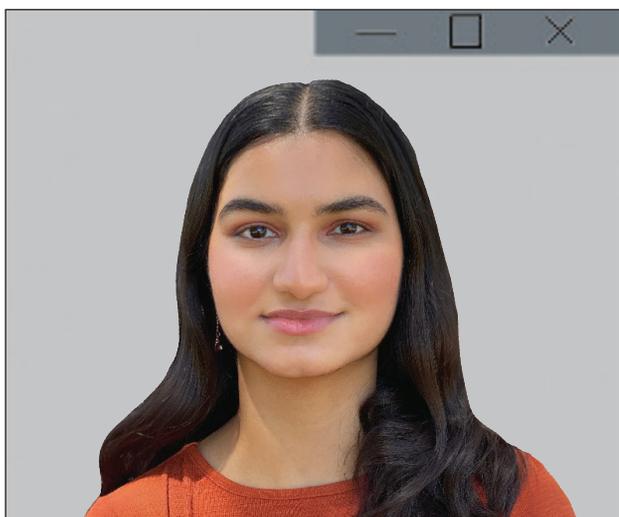
Five valedictorians auditioned earlier

this month, and seniors Annie Bang and Andrew Ngo made the final cut.

The two will take turns to deliver this year's speech on the stage at Fullerton Union High School stadium May 27.

“My speech focuses more on future pathways [than] about high school nostalgia,” Bang said. “[My message] was that every path is valuable even if it's obscure.”

Compiled by Kristima Aryal and Divya Bharadwaj



**Manshaa Verma**

**Cal Poly Pomona, engineering**

*What was your favorite year of high school?*

“Junior year because I'm a people person, and I met so many amazing people [that year].”

*What is your proudest accomplishment?*

“The amount of love I've developed for dance over the past four years and recently, how much I've been reading and learning outside of school classes.”



**Kenneth Yeon**

**Northwestern University, statistics**

*What is a favorite memory you have from your time at Sunny Hills?*

“My favorite memory would be all the IFFs [International Food Fairs].”

*What class challenged your valedictorian status?*

“AP Chemistry was probably one of the most challenging classes for me.”



**Ethan Yoon**

**University of California, Irvine  
mechanical engineering**

*How did you balance your time?*

“I focused on paying attention in class and doing the homework, so I really didn't do much studying and that freed up a lot of time. I also didn't really play games during the weekdays because I needed to focus on getting my work done.”

*Was there a turning point in your four years of high school?*

“For the first couple of years of high school, I was trying to figure out who I wanted to be. Sometime in junior year, I started becoming more confident in myself because I figured out what I wanted to do with my life and how I was going to get there.”

# College dorm tips for seniors

**Best college dorm** X

← → ↻ [https:// bestcollegedormessentials/accolade.com](https://bestcollegedormessentials/accolade.com) ★

**BLANKETS AND PILLOWS:** Bring some comfy pillows and cozy blankets from home to make the room more comfortable.

**BACKPACK:** An essential item for any student; a new stylish backpack can be both convenient and cliché.

**NIGHTLAMP:** Overhead lighting in dorms can be harsh and ineffective; opt out for a nice desk lamp instead.

**MEDICATION:** Some simple flu medication, bandaids or painkillers can be life-savers when living in dorms.

**HAMPER:** It's better than leaving your dirty laundry on the floor and can carry a week's worth of clothes.

**SILVERWARE:** Purchase a set of reusable silverware for the times you want to eat a midnight snack without having to walk down to the dining hall.

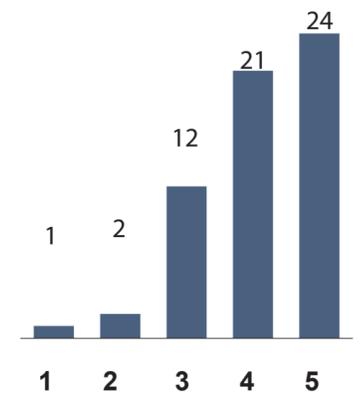
**FORMAL CLOTHES:** Even if you plan to wear sweats most days, invest in a pair of formal clothing to wear to interviews and other special events.

SAMANTHA GALANG | theaccolade

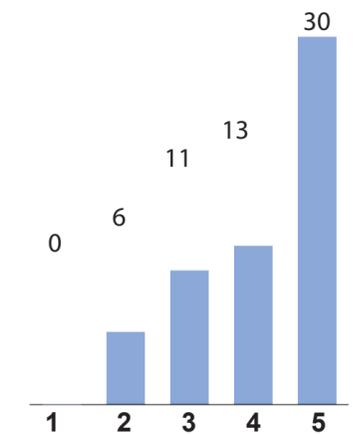
“On a scale of 1 to 5...”

The Accolade online polled students\* about the following:

How excited are you to start college?



How excited are you to graduate?



\*From 60 responses  
Compiled by Krishna Thaker and Lauren Jung

Usually, The Accolade’s Senior Issue includes a matriculation map, listing the colleges seniors have committed to based on data collected from the district senior survey.

Head counselor Beth Thomson told The Accolade that these results won’t be available until this summer.

Source: collegeboard.org  
Compiled by Krishna Thaker

STAFF EDITORIAL



NGAN DANG | theaccolade

# PAC meeting with students timely

The *Accolade's* editorial board unanimously agreed that principal Allen Whitten made the right choice in wanting to meet with students to discuss plans and questions regarding the upcoming school year.

The 2020-2021 school year is finally drawing to a close, marking the end of the first full year of distance/hybrid learning.

As students await the arrival of summer, school officials have already started making preparations for the 2021-2022 school year, during which students enrolled are required to return for in-person instruction.

During a May 11 meeting with various department and program leaders, Whitten explained his plan to meet with students to discuss their thoughts on how this school year went and what questions they have moving forward when things return to normal, barring any spikes in positive COVID-19 cases.

He also told them he wanted to hear from students what their view of the Sunny Hills culture should be like.

He then asked department and program leaders to give names of two or three students interested in joining this brainstorming session on May 28 in the Performing Arts Center and encouraged non-seniors to talk to teachers about participating.

This meeting serves as a helpful and useful way to amplify the voice of the student body as a whole so many people can share opinions in an environment that encourages discussion and consideration.

Nobody can understand students and their struggles better than other students.

Whitten also makes it clear he understands the challenges that many students face if they chose to remain at home this year.

According to the C.S. Mott Children's Hospital National Poll on Children's Health at Michigan Medicine, 46% of parents have reported their teen child showed signs of a new or worsening mental health condition, including anxiety, depression and bipolar disorder since the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020.

Having answers to questions and knowing the school administration truly cares about the students can reduce feelings of worry about coming back and encourage students to come to school in-person instead of opting to attend the iSierra Online Academy.

For students planning to join the meeting, we would suggest bringing up these topics:

- implementing mental health awareness days intermittently throughout the school year

*The Accolade* proposes the school design an event, similar to Red Ribbon Week, in which students during break or lunch engage in outside group activities, yoga sessions and different workshops to combat the added stress and anxiety students may experience.

The workshops could range from learning how to use healthy coping mechanisms — such as journaling — to adopting an optimistic mindset to correctly supporting those struggling or to becoming in tune with emotions.

Rather than having students

rely on coping with stress by themselves, designing events to make the process a group effort would promote a sense of community and acceptance while removing stigmas surrounding the topic of mental health.

- reviving school spirit through the promotion of sports

With the incoming freshman and sophomore students having never experienced a full-scale school sporting event, this can be a chance to help students feel welcome after over a year of isolation and reintroduce the spirit of what it means to be a Lancer.

Coming back from a novel experience requires a novel solution, and considering these changes can be a key part in helping Lancers readjust.

The *Accolade* editorial board for the Senior Issue is made up of the top editors and section editors on the 2021-2022 staff with the guidance of adviser Tommy Li. If you have a question about the board's decision or an issue for the board to discuss and write about, please send an email to [theaccoladeshhs@gmail.com](mailto:theaccoladeshhs@gmail.com).

## Letters to the editor

I personally found the article, "COVID-19 is not the 'Chinese Virus,'" interesting because I agree with it.

As an Asian myself, I believe it is horrible that this pandemic has caused a spike in racism against Asians.

I believe that if just because this virus came from China and Asians have been getting discriminated against for it, why has this not happened for all the viruses that came from other people?

I completely support the Asian rights movement and will continue to show my support.

— Hailey Shin, freshman

section, "Senior soccer player slowly catches up to father's 33-goal record," I was super interested to read about this player's experiences, especially going to his father's alma mater. I go to my parents' alma mater, Sunny Hills, and I hope to achieve some of the great things they did.

It was incredible to hear Donovan Fichtelberg's story and his struggles and perseverance toward greatness. It was especially interesting to see his determination to beat his father in his senior year.

— Brennan McVicar, sophomore

ation set for seniors and families," by Jiwoo Han and Esther Oh clearly informs students about how the graduation ceremony will work this year and the COVID-19 protocols that will be imposed as a result.

I was glad to see that the graduation ceremony for seniors would not be canceled this year. I feel that for the seniors, it's been a difficult but memorable journey throughout high school and for them not to be able to celebrate at the end would be very saddening. Additionally, I was happy to see that the administration would allow those not able to attend to be able to watch the ceremony through a link.

— Aadi Bery, sophomore

Upon reading the Sports

The News article, "Gradu-

### For the record

*The Accolade* regrets the following error from the April 30 PDF issue:

In a page 9 staff editorial in the Opinion section, it should have mentioned that the trustees in the Fullerton Joint Union High School District have hired a person of color in the past to be the superintendent — Micheal Escalante, who's Hispanic and served from 1997-2004.

In a page 18 sports article titled, "IN RHYTHM," freshman Hannah Jung's mother should have been identified as Susan Jang.

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**Sydney Tallant**  
**Krishna Thaker**  
**Rachel Yun**  
**Rida Zar**

Illustrators  
**Jacqueline Chang**  
**Ngan Dang**  
**Andrew (JungHyun) Lee**

Photographers  
**Aliyah Ahmad**  
**Kristel Laceste**  
**Audrey Seo**

Web Videographer  
**Sylvester Seo**

Social Media Managers  
**Isaac Choi**  
**Gianne Veluz**

Adviser  
**Tommy Li**

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Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, this issue was created as a PDF file posted on the school website, [sunnyhills.net](http://sunnyhills.net), and *The Accolade's* online news website, [shsaccolade.com](http://shsaccolade.com).

# EIC: Thanks for the ride, *Accolade*

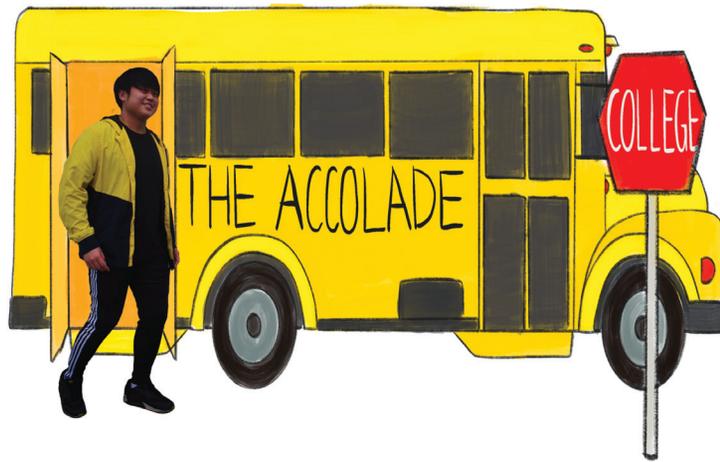
**TYLER PAK**

*Editor-in-Chief*

On Aug. 24, 2020, I wrote my first article as editor-in-chief.

In it, I outlined the struggles we would face and goals we would strive toward this year. Now, for my last article, I thought it would be fitting to revisit this.

For those of you who haven't gotten to read it, here's a short excerpt from my column: "Just because we're not physically in school does not mean history has slammed on the brakes. Rather, we as journalists must switch over to the fast lane to keep up with history. This pandemic might surprise us and steer us out of our comfort zone, but that just provides another opportunity



JACQUELINE CHANG | theaccolade

to write extraordinary stories ... So join us for the ride. This year will be far from predictable — that's what makes it even more exciting for me, and I hope for our readers, too."

Though we've been through ups and downs, and the road may not have always been clear, I can say with confidence that this has, indeed, been an exciting year.

At the start of my article, I

outlined how I wanted to continue *The Accolade's* tradition of excellence, and we've been able to do that. We placed first for the Orange County Journalism Education Association's Best of Show for both online and print. We received first place for the Southern California Journalism Education Association's California All-Stars for our website and came in second for our print issue. We even found success on the national level in the National Scholastic Press Association, placing third in the Best of Show contest, eighth in the Special Edition category and third for our election coverage. Hopefully, there are more awards to come.

In addition to these awards, we've succeeded in our goal of keeping up with history. We've

kept our student body engaged and informed while also beginning to cover more important issues in an attempt to spark discussion within our community.

Most importantly, in all of these things, we've been able to set a strong foundation for future years. We've laid the blueprint, and now future classes can continue this tradition of excellence and even build upon it.

This wouldn't have been possible without the hard work and guidance of our adviser, Mr. Li, and the diligence of our editors and the rest of the staff. Thank you all.

And finally, to *The Accolade*, thank you. Thank you for the late nights. Thank you for all that you've taught me. Thanks for the ride — what a ride it's been.

# Just call me Andrew the 'sports guy'

**ANDREW NGO**

*Web Editor-in-Chief*

I've had a great time on *The Accolade*:

I've gotten to write a lot of great stories and meet a lot of great people.

Unfortunately, there was one story that I never got around to writing — a beaver fun facts column.

Unfortunately, the editors shot it down, but in spite of that, I have so much to be grateful for.

When I entered *The Accolade*, though, I found myself in the incredibly advantageous position as sports editor, which granted me first pick when it came to covering sports stories.

I took that opportunity — and ran with it.

By the end of the season, I had built a brand for myself — Andrew Ngo, the sports guy.

My reporting brought me to the players, all of whom performed on the field and stayed after the game for my interviews.

Hearing their raw emotion just moments after miraculous finishes was a treat in and of itself, but being able to put their words into writing was an honor.

Football head coach Peter Karavedas played a big role, too.

Not only did he bear with me checking into his room every week for interviews, but he also became one of the biggest driving forces in encouraging me to

write and do more while covering games.

I still remember the first time he left a comment while retweeting a link to one of my stories — I was overjoyed.

I can't forget about the people who worked with me behind the scenes either.

*The Accolade's* trusty photographer Paul Yasutake provided great photographs to go along with my stories.

Not enough thanks can be given to *Accolade* adviser Tommy Li, who stayed up late after each game editing my stories and preparing them for publishing.

It's only a fraction of what he does, and he truly makes *The Accolade* what it is today.

Another thank you should go out to my parents who drove me to Santa Barbara and Bakersfield as well as letting me stay after school to work on the school newspaper.

*The Accolade* means so much to me that I feel as if I have become one with the newspaper — I can't imagine not writing for the school newspaper, even if the story I'm working on has nothing to do with sports.

Beyond the awards we won, I can only hope that the stories I wrote had as much of an impact on others as they had on me and that my work will just be the beginning of a long history of sports coverage and *The Accolade* excellence.



ALIYAH AHMAD | theaccolade

# Try ditching the comfort food and embracing some new flavors

**ELIJAH JHEE**

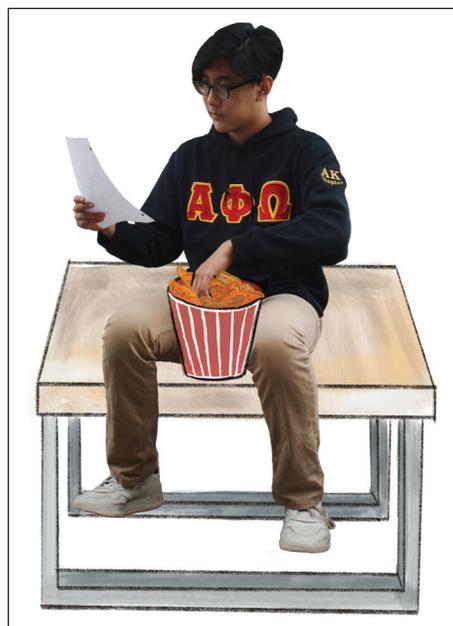
*Managing Editor*

Goat cheese wontons with a fresh apple and ginger reduction. Marinated lamb skewers with whole wheat pita. Garlic butter steak with parmesan arugula salad.

"I'll stick with the chicken tenders and fries, please."

Let's face it. When most people say they plan on "trying something new" at a restaurant, nine times out of 10 they end up sticking with the same childhood dish that they've enjoyed since the fifth grade.

Beef stroganoff. Grilled cheese. Fishsticks. Just the smell alone evokes memories of youth and school cafeteria lunches; these aren't gourmet dishes by any means, but they're reliable childhood classics that we depend on in flustered moments of panic when a waitress asks if we're "ready



JACQUELINE CHANG | theaccolade

to order."

Throughout my freshman year, I stuck with the same reliable friend group of chicken tenders and fries. I didn't get involved in extracurriculars and avoided the exotic and unfamiliar clubs that I read off the school menu.

But toward the end of my freshmen year, I started getting sick of eating the same food every day. Chicken tenders suddenly started tasting bland, and while walking home after school, I remember seeing athletes practicing on the field. I saw clubs setting up drums after school. Suddenly, these extracurriculars looked appetizing, and while ordering my class schedule for the remaining years of my high school career, I took a leap of faith.

Freshmen now looked up to me as a leader for Link Crew. Weekends that I lazily spent lying in bed were now

devoted to school basketball tournaments and practices. Eight hours of school easily turned into 15 as I sacrificed my evenings to edit layouts and write stories for *The Accolade*.

Were there moments of doubt and uncertainty? Yes. Were these extracurriculars full of hardships and obstacles? Definitely. But do I regret the friendships that I've created or the memories that I've had? Not at all. Hindsight is 20/20, and in a year full of blacked-out video screens and online lectures, I realize how much of school I've taken for granted.

So to my graduating seniors: Instead of opting for the mac and cheese that you've tried a million times, why not try those spicy frog legs or those balsamic-glazed pork chops? You might discover a new favorite dish; one that can lead to lifelong friendships and treasured memories.

# The journalist in me

**ANNIE BANG**

*Web Managing Editor*

In my 18 years of living, a core belief that I've picked up is that all perspectives are uniquely isolated; no two human experiences are equal, and I've come to value these differing outlooks that have been integral in expanding my own perspectives and reducing ingrained ignorances.

Because of these differences, I've learned to develop a sense of intellectual autonomy — striving to always think for myself has become crucial in building my character. With this mindset, I hope to introduce my own unique perspective wherever I

go.

Growing up under immigrant parents who held the views and morals of my mother country, I often found it difficult relating to my parents' perspectives. The South Korean ideals of the late 1900s were severely outdated, and I gravitated away from the conservative standards in an effort to adopt a mindset I found less suffocating.

Therefore, I naturally stemmed away from many of my family's views and sought to form my own thoughts from sources I could consume, mostly in the form of writings and articles.

Another integral component of my identity as a student

journalist helped educate me on identifying my ingrained predispositions; through the unbiased methods of journalistic writing, I was taught to tear down the prejudices I held in an effort to expand my perspective as a writer.

This not only benefited me by coherently sorting out my own thoughts, but also allowed me to conduct a cognitive cleanse in which I let go many of my preconceived notions derived from a shallow understanding of the world around me.

In high school, I found a zealotry for Socratic seminars and student-led discussions, especially when juggling open-ended topics about morali-



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ty and ethics. Despite my desire to talk without end, I've learned that keeping quiet to hear other perspectives makes for a genuine moment of learning.

I hope to not only reduce my own ignorances, but also

to relay my own individualized experiences to help develop a school atmosphere of vulnerable honesty and acceptance. Perhaps it's the journalist in me talking, but I believe this mindset can be applied to all walks of life.

# Thanks *Accolade*, for bringing me out of my bubble



JACQUELINE CHANG | theaccolade

**REBECCA CHOI**

*Web Managing Editor*

If someone asked me four years ago what I think my biggest accomplishment in high school would be, journalism would have been the last thing to cross my mind — no, it wouldn't have crossed my mind at all.

Yet here I am as a senior, graduating in a week, writing this senior column for the newspaper I dedicated three years of my blood, sweat and tears.

Coming in blind, journalism was very different from what I expected. As an introvert, it was a jump into ice water. Every face I saw was foreign, and the curriculum clashed with ev-

erything I learned in previous English classes. Not to mention, it required constant interaction with strangers and stepping out of my comfort zone.

But not long into this journey, I discovered an incredibly motivated community held together by an unbreakable bond called the newspaper. Whether it was staying after school on Thursdays to finish the print issue or tackling controversial topics, *The Accolade* provided a community like no other; it was empowering to say the least.

Butting heads with authority and fighting to publish the pieces I viewed as right would have been impossible without knowing my fellow staffers stood

strong behind me. Time and time again, they demonstrated the flourishing outcomes that are a result of driven students standing strong for a cause.

Constant collaboration with my journalism family drove me to explore beyond my comfort zone and take on stories and activities I never would have on my own. Whether it was clashing with administration for a story or interviewing random students and adults, they taught me that my "comfort zone" is merely a self-drawn boundary, not my absolute limit.

And outside of my self-enclosed circle were my friends and mentor waiting for me with open arms.

# Penning my high school saga

**CHARIS LEE**

*Feature Editor*

*Sitting in the indented, familiar chair before her desk and prepping both heart and mind to write her final goodbye, senior Charis Lee clacks away at her laptop keyboard, reminiscing her high school journey ...*

As the proud feature editor of *The Accolade* for the 2020-2021 school year, this is what I imagine an opening sentence featuring my high school memoir would look like.

A large portion of my role is meeting, discovering and starring all kinds of students, faculty and meaningful events; this opportune position extended my

knowledge about communities and allowed me to build relationships with people from diverse backgrounds and experiences.

Every senior has a unique experience surviving his or her high school journey, but one thing we all share in common is the blood, sweat, tears — more tears — and the all-encompassing mental and physical challenges we've persevered through despite all obstacles.

It's surreal to think that I'm a senior, despite almost a year has passed for that to settle in, and now it's already time to accept that I'll graduate and move on to the next chapter of life — college.

High school is a battlefield to balance fighting for our academ-

ics and defending our mental well-being. With the collected ambition and grit, especially during the coronavirus pandemic, we seniors clawed our way out of the rubble and gravel that are our high school responsibilities.

After juggling three programs (International Baccalaureate, Conservatory of Fine Arts and *The Accolade*) and the demanding rigor of academic excellence, I feel that the most rewarding outcome is the relationships that grew from surviving together and sharing the difficult moments with one another.

It's crucial to value the importance of community and to lean on one another when times get tough or unbearable to handle on



JACQUELINE CHANG | theaccolade

your own.

High school is less about the quantity of extracurriculars or achievements that'll fill your college resume, but much more about the quality of your growth as a student, scholar and friend to others.

So when looking back on

these last four years, I have no regrets. Persevering through all the sacrifices for the sake of prioritization and learning to get back up after stumbling over shared and personal obstacles, we're ready for what the future holds.

We did it, seniors. We made it to the other side.

# In *The Accolade*, I trust

HOPE LI

Opinion Editor

My freshman year, I knew I was Mr. Li's daughter, but I didn't know I was *Mr. Li's* daughter.

As I talked to upperclassman fans of my dad and interacted with classmates who shared the same English teacher I did, I learned that my dad's a god, which apparently makes me an angel.

OK, got it.

Oh, and that my classmates thought my dad had a legit seizure when he embodied thanatos (Greek root for death; don't ask).

Sure, I can live with that; he's my dad.

But after these experienc-

es talking to Li followers and critics alike, I also learned that, like all teachers, he isn't immune from students talking about him positively and negatively behind his back.

Because of this, I became extremely guarded about sharing my personal life and even voicing my opinion at school, doubting that I'd ever find a group of classmates I could trust: friends.

Initially, I took my dad's Journalism 1 class my sophomore year because he's always wanted me to. I had been his English student the year before, and he'd taught me at home, but I had no idea what an elective class with him would look like.

Journalistically, I didn't expect to become the next Bob

Woodward, and relationally, I doubted I'd end my search for trustworthy friends in a student newspaper program, especially with my dad as the adviser.

Little did I know I'd find most of "my people" in the one group of students my dad probably edits, encourages, criticizes, roasts and toasts the most.

Because we all carry the same goal in this metanarrative of student journalism at Sunny Hills, I've found people who I can share a glance with and know they're thinking what I am.

I've found people I can suffer, celebrate, sigh, laugh and cry with.

This foundation of friends has pried open my shell, encouraging me to seek (and eventually find)



JACQUELINE CHANG | theaccolade

other loyal friends outside of *The Accolade*.

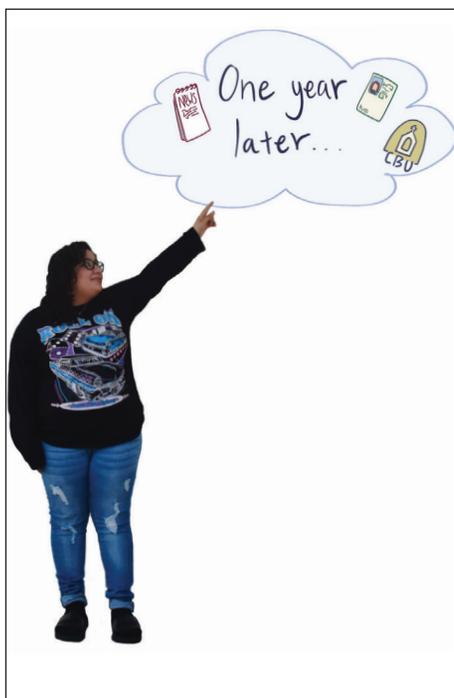
I still hold certain boundaries up because I'm a daughter of an SH teacher, but I've learned how to trust people.

So after four years of high school and three years in journalism at Sunny Hills, I'm thankful

most for the friendships I've developed here, especially ones with my fellow staffers.

They know the emotions, work, relationships and conversations that go into producing a newspaper; they know how my role runs and how theirs do — they get it.

# I finally learned to choose the right priorities



CHARITI LI | theaccolade

AALIYAH MAGANA

News Editor

My mom taught me about priorities when I was 7 years old. Imagine a second-grader putting together mental lists of responsibilities ranging from doing homework to playing Barbies with my two younger sisters.

More than a decade and hundreds of interchangeable priorities later, I joined *The Accolade* as a sophomore without any real experience in journalism. I didn't know at the time that I would move my work on staff to the very top of my list until I started to see how I was changing as a person — for the better.

During my time on staff, I had a lot of problems during my first year, mostly caused by an imbalance in my social and work life. My list of priorities were all wrong most of the time, leading to my writing remaining underdeveloped and

preventing me from moving up to a higher position during my first two years on staff.

*The Accolade* adviser Tommy Li was my biggest inspiration throughout all my years on staff and at Sunny Hills. He valued efficiency in the process, leading up to the publication of a single article and the greater depth of a reporter's writing.

My first few articles are prime examples of when my writing was not a priority. I used to think it came naturally to me, but just like anything else, good writing requires time and experience.

"You must continue to work on your writing and make some tough decisions about your social life," Li wrote in a comment on my Oct. 14 issue reflection in 2019 during my second year on staff.

I wrote in my junior year reflection that I struggled because I, again, prioritized my social life. Li was especially understanding as soon after he began working with me to improve my skills and reward-

ed me with the news editor position.

The more I listened to his occasional pep talks, the more I learned how to become a better writer. I prioritized my work for the newspaper more than anything else, and it showed through my next few articles.

I'll be leaving with an exponentially smaller friend group, coronavirus endurance and a deferred acceptance to California Baptist University — a university in Riverside that I've been committed to since November — for Fall 2022 for medical reasons.

I have my family's full support in the choices I make for my future from now on.

My hopes for the future are a successful career and a full life, which I'll achieve by continuing to write during my gap year to improve my writing. I might even consider transferring universities to accommodate my medical situation.

# High school: a time of self-discovery

HANNAH KIM

Special Sections Editor

"Who is planning on majoring in bio or engineering?"

A scattering of raised hands.

"Don't bother applying if you don't have a perfect SAT math test score. And engineering majors, if you haven't developed an app, don't bother applying, either."

I no longer heard what the guide was saying as we toured the rest of the campus.

"Don't bother applying here ..." The words reverberated in my head.

I thought back to the times my dad and I argued about my various extracurricular activities.

"Focus on your studies!" He would

yell. "These things won't help you get into college."

I thought back to the years I'd spent in Girl Scouts: the service, cookie sales, volunteering, camps. It was worth it.

I thought back to my years in choir: performances in recording studios and professional theaters, traveling to Iceland, rehearsals until midnight on school nights and singing in front of thousands. It was worth it.

I thought back to Science Olympiad: building instruments from PVC pipes, poring over practice tests and writing tiny notes on the one page allowed in competitions. It was worth it.

I love being a reporter, sniffing out a story, interviewing, writing and publishing. Late nights at school, coffee and "Quiet Thursday" when we'd all work in silence. Then, the issue would come out,

and my byline would be on the page. It was worth it.

Now on this campus tour, the guide was telling me not to bother applying if my scores weren't good enough. I cried that night, feeling discouraged and unwelcome.

But I know now that it doesn't take scores to get into college. Whether you like it or not, there will always be someone better than you, and you'll be able to go through the motions of life regardless of your grades.

High school is a time of self-discovery and exploration. You can't get this time back, so you have to make the most of it. If you want to join certain extracurriculars, go for it.

Feel free to experiment and explore your interests because it'll all be worth it in the end.

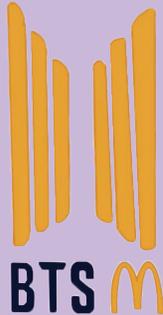


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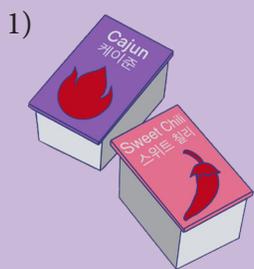
## HAPPY ABOUT THIS MEAL?

The Golden Arches and Korean K-pop sensation BTS collaborate in a new meal releasing May 26. Here's what to expect:

**\$6.49**



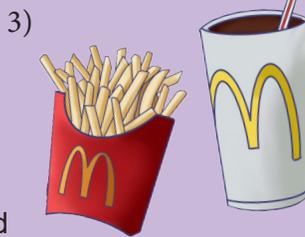
What's inside?



cajun and sweet chili sauces (inspired by recipes from South Korea)



10-piece Chicken McNuggets



medium fries and a Coke

Source: [McDonald's website](#)  
Samantha Galang | theaccolade  
Compiled by Sydnee Tallant



LAUREN JUNG | theaccolade

**DELICIOUS:** La Habra's Board and Brew makes all of its sandwiches — including the \$9.50 Chicken Club (left), \$12.95 Baja Beef and \$8.95 Baja Wrap — with fresh ingredients. The restaurant at 1901 W. Imperial Hwy opened April 23.

## Sandwich shop worth wait

LAUREN JUNG

Asst. Copy Editor

Board and Brew, the new restaurant that celebrated its grand opening in La Habra last month, should be checked out by many teenagers because of its tasty sandwiches and secret sauce not served anywhere else.

The faded yellow orange, salmon-colored sauce in a circular plastic container that diners can either dip their sandwich into or use any other method to eat. Though the restaurant won't release its recipe, this sauce adds another unique element to each of the sandwiches.

Overall, Board and Brew offers a wide assortment of sand-

wiches with different ingredients and bread as well as a variety of side orders and drinks.

Even though it's a nine-minute drive away from Sunny Hills, many should consider getting on "board" with this restaurant.



For the full story, go to [shsaccolade.com/category/ae/](https://shsaccolade.com/category/ae/)

## New games launch just in time for summer break

HANNA JUNG

Staff Reporter

With only one week left of the school year, those who don't plan to go to summer school will have some new video games to play and keep themselves busy with should they continue to stay at home.

Mass Effect Legendary Edition, a remastered version of the Mass Effect trilogy, launched May 14 as one of the 30 games that was released this late spring.

"I have not heard of this game,

[but] I do enjoy thrilling fighter games like this seems to be," junior Natalia Santillan said. "The graphics also look nice, so I can tell that it's a well-developed game, and I would try it out if I got the opportunity."

Most of the upcoming or released games are covered by various YouTube game experts.

Retailing at \$59.99, the single-player action role-playing game [RPG] sells to PC, Xbox One and PlayStation 4 users and features an updated collection of all three trilogy games -- Mass

Effect, Mass Effect 2 and Mass Effect 3.

Following a science-fiction inspired storyline, the game's most noticeable update can be found in the graphical enhancements in which Mass Effect 1 underwent the largest change. For example, the game now runs in 4K resolution and features more detailed backgrounds and characters.

Other additions include a unified character creator that allows players to keep the same features across all three games, as well as increase the accuracy of function-

ality in combat weapons and the fine-tuning of the calibration in in-game vehicles.

In contrast to Mass Effect Legendary Edition, games compatible with the Nintendo Switch such as Knockout City Standard Edition and Mario Golf: Super Rush will release early this summer.

"Since I prefer multiplayer games, I would definitely be open to trying out both Knockout City and the new Mario Golf game," junior Aimee Kwon said.

Knockout City, a third-person game, presents a new approach to

weapon games since players use dodgeballs instead of the usual guns to eliminate players. It is set to release on May 21 for \$19.99.

Mario Golf's 17th installment, Mario Golf: Super Rush, launches on June 25 for \$59.99, featuring a fun twist to virtual golf.

Users can compete with online opponents as one of 16 different characters that have their own unique stats or flashy moves, called Special Shots.

"I'm honestly willing to give this new Mario game a try," junior Neona Suthanurak said.



ERIN LEE | theaccolade

# Girls basketball gets its own 'Fab Five'

RACHEL YUN

Staff Reporter

Heading into this girls basketball season, head coach Jae Byun knew he had something special on his 2020-2021 squad.

Not for just one of his players. Nor two, nor three, nor four.

But for all five — all of whom Byun added to his lineup being freshmen.

It reminded him so much of the 1991 Michigan University Freshmen Fab Five that he decided to share a famous pose shot with his ninth-graders.

On the team's picture day on April 10, Byun had Rebecca Fruto (point guard), Taylor Parra (small forward), Natalie Do (small forward), Erin Choi (point guard) and Gwen Briones (point guard) recreate that pose in which the photographer was shooting the image from above looking down at the player, all of whom are looking up.

"This is more like an inside joke as those guys were the legit Fab Five," the coach said. "But they're definitely a promising group of freshmen playing together."

So promising that Byun inserted three of them — Choi, Do and Parra — into the starting lineup the first game of the season March 30 against Canyon High School in Anaheim.

As the team wrapped up its regular season Thursday in an away game against La Habra (winning 46-36), the freshmen five reflect on the experiences they gained on and off the court.

"It was surprising to see that I had made it because varsity is a big step from middle school as everyone is bigger and stronger," said Parra, who according to Max Preps has scored 82 points heading into that La Habra matchup. "I'm a decent shooter and a pretty smart player, and I think that al-



Image printed with permission from Jae Byun

lowed me to make the team."

Having skipped playing at the frosh/soph and junior varsity levels, the freshmen said they faced obstacles with their height. So to counter that, they focused on other advantages.

"I'm currently focusing my time on other skills like shooting, and as long as I put in effort, I'll have a chance," said Briones, who is the shortest among her freshman peers standing at 5 feet, 2 inches tall, according to Max Preps.

Choi became one of the leading scorers during this season with 136 points before Thursday's game and one of the two to surpass 100 points on her team. She credited a lot of that to her coach's regimen.

"Coach Byun made us shoot 100 threes and do warmup shots almost every practice," Choi said.

Besides the three freshman starters, Byun usually adds to the lineup returners

junior Elizabeth Rosenkranz (center) and junior Jessica Kim (guard).

"It was kind of awkward at first because [we freshmen] didn't know [the upperclassmen] well, but now we're all comfortable and share close bonds with each other," Fruto said.

Kim would best relate to the freshman five since she also started her tenure on the team when she was a ninth-grader. That also has helped with the team's chemistry.

"Everyone meshes together very well, and I think the freshmen will face growing pains, but I think they're talented enough to [face it]," she said.

Third in Freeway League (4-4), the girls hope to build their stamina and strength together in the next three years.

"For the next four years, I really want to see how far we can go as a team," Do said. "[But] at the same time, I want to find out what I am capable of."



RACHEL YUN | theaccolade

**THEN & NOW:** Girls basketball head coach Jae Byun shows the 1991 Michigan Fab Five, freshmen who reached an NCAA title game. To show how special his freshmen are, Byun had them recreate the same pose (left).

## FRESHMAN HOTSHOTS

In their first season on the girls basketball team, each ninth-grader has amassed the following point totals before Thursday's final regular season game:

- Gwen Briones, 36
- Erin Choi, 136
- Natalie Do, 72
- Rebecca Fruto, 53
- Taylor Parra, 82

Source: Max Preps  
Compiled by Grace Johnson

# Boys volleyball wins its first CIF playoff against Santa Fe

ANTHONY KEEM

Staff Reporter

Playing in its first California Interscholastic Federation-Southern Section [CIF-SS] home playoff match, the Sunny Hills boys volleyball team defeated Santa Fe High School in four sets Tuesday, May 18.

The win allows the Lancers (13-3) to play in the second round of CIF playoffs tonight, May 20, at 6 in an away match against Rancho Alamitos (8-2) in Garden Grove.

"I feel really good about [the win]," first-year boys volleyball head coach Albert Soliguén said. "It's historical for our program."

The boys team went undefeated in the Freeway League, going 10-0, qualifying for the first time in its program history to play a CIF playoff match.

So it wasn't surprising that the Lancers took care of business in the opening set

against Santa Fe, 25-15.

Besides the offensive spikes from outside hitter junior Zachary Tan, the Lancers' middle blockers, seniors Julian Kim and Jaten Jhawar, were key to holding off the Chiefs by a 10-point margin.

The Lancers' poor plays in the second set allowed the Chiefs to even the match at one set apiece, 22-25. The Chiefs' middle blockers figured out how to stop the Lancers, limiting the effectiveness for middle blocker junior Ezra Vlad's spikes.

The third set proved pivotal as the winner would be able to build momentum heading into the fourth set. The Lancers took the set 25-21 with one more set to go to the team's first CIF victory.

The fourth set continued at the same pace as the third with the Chiefs' middle blockers denying direct passage of Kim and Jhawar's offensive hits.

Eventually, the Lancers broke the Chief's defense and finished them off, 25-20.



REBEKAH KIM | theaccolade

**FORMING THE WALL:** Middle blocker senior Julian Kim (left) and opposite hitter senior Joseph Pak jump to block a spike from a Santa Fe player during Thursday's first round California Interscholastic Federation playoff at home.

# BANKING ON IT: *After the COVID-19 pandemic shut down spring sports and banquets last year, players receive their recognition this year*

HENRY LEE

Staff Reporter

Spring sports were the only teams unable to continue their 2019-2020 season and host a banquet because of last year's coronavirus outbreak.

"It was more disappointing to lose the end of the season than to lose the banquet," baseball head coach Arlie Kearney said. "However, losing the banquet meant that we lost the moment of closure for our seniors, where they enjoyed being recognized for their four years in the program, and we are able to honor them."

But for all spring sports programs this year, the state's COVID-19 health and safety protocols did allow for teams and coaches to find closure — though still not the same way as in past years.

Traditionally, teams like boys tennis and golf would hold their end-of-season events at restaurants like BJ's in Brea.

However, this semester, all spring sports teams ended up holding their celebrations on campus in the quad — many were informed by school officials that they weren't allowed to host off-campus banquets, though by May 10 district officials had a change of tune.

"It was a great time for a couple hours just to come together as a team and take pictures and hand out certificates for the year," boys tennis head coach Chris Ghareebo said. "I would love for us to return to restaurant banquets, but who knows, we may continue to have them on campus."

Ghareebo held his after school event on May 8 with catered food from Jersey Mike's sandwiches even though his players were headed to California Interscholastic Federation playoffs later in the month.



AUDREY SEO | theaccolade

**HANDOFF:** Boys golfer junior Jason Lim (left) receives a Freeway League team champion trophy from boys golf head coach Scott Enrico during the team's May 20 banquet.

The reason for the early celebration was because the coach anticipated that the team could still be playing in CIF playoffs after the school year ended.

The modified banquets also provided closure to the athletes, who were unable to have a ceremony and a final moment with their seniors last year.

"I'm thankful that we were able to have a banquet with my senior teammates and have one more fun memory with them," doubles player junior Eric Lee said.

Unlike other teams, baseball will hold its banquet Saturday on the diamond where they usually play its home games.

"I'm going to miss gathering with everyone one last time and just talking about

baseball and other memories made," baseball right fielder and pitcher senior Mateo Salas said. "I feel a deeper meaning to this banquet coming up since it's my last one of my high school career, and it's hitting me hard."

Like Kearney, boys and girls golf head coach Scott Enrico finds the loss of the season last year to be more disheartening than the loss of a banquet.

"We had some very good senior golfers last year that never got a chance to compete for a Freeway League title or a CIF championship," Enrico said.

The coach ended up combining girls and boys golf into one celebration on Thursday on campus between the 50s and

70s buildings.

First year softball head coach Elise Laws said she looks forward to her first banquet with her players though the date has not been set yet as of May 20.

"I am excited to celebrate the girls and all their accomplishments this year," Laws said. "It's a time for players and parents to celebrate their daughters and what they've been able to do all year."

Shortstop sophomore Jenna Salcido missed out on experiencing her first banquet last year.

"It feels great to wrap up the year," Salcido said. "Seeing my teammates and some of them for the last time is a great end to the season."



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**SMASH HIT:** With Jersey Mike's subs and drinks, the boys tennis team (above) holds its gathering in the quad May 8. Later, players get certificates (below).



## Japan Olympics draws differing views

ANDREW PARK

Staff Reporter

Junior Elisa Kho has been looking forward to watching the summer Olympics live in Japan.

Before it got canceled last summer because of the coronavirus pandemic, Kho said she and her mom had each paid between \$200 and \$500 for tickets to watch gymnastics and swimming — her favorite Olympics event — from July 22-Aug. 5, 2020.

"I was looking forward to the train rides to cities like Kyoto and Osaka because I think the stadiums were not just limited to Tokyo," Kho said.

While the COVID-19 crisis has eased up in most of the United States, the junior was hoping conditions would be the same overseas in Japan.

However, Japanese leaders announced March 20 that overseas spectators will not be allowed in the stadiums.

"As long as all staff, athletes and spectators are checked for

COVID-19, it should be safe for even overseas spectators to enjoy an in-stadium experience," said Kho, a Chinese American who disagrees with the announcement.

But that's not the way many living in Japan see it as 60% of citizens believe that the games should be canceled, according to a survey by Japanese newspaper Yomiuri Shimbun from May 7-9.

An online petition in change.org received approximately 360,000 signatures as of May 16 in a campaign that reads: "Cancel the Tokyo Olympics to protect our lives," signifying a growing number of protesters who continue to pressure the International Olympic Committee [IOC] to put an end to the Games.

Junior Natalija Glavy, who was born in Yokohama and came to the United States in 2009, sides with the protesters.

"I am scared for the safety of my loved ones who live in Yokohama, so I believe the Olympics should be canceled," Glavy said.

The International Olympic

Committee doesn't see it the same way with the COVID-19 countermeasures, including restriction of activities and daily testing of overseas athletes and team members throughout their stay in Japan, according to a May 12 press release from the IOC.

Christian Klaue, the IOC's director of corporate communications and public affairs, ensured in a May 12 tweet that over 700 athletes and 6,000 related staff have participated in four safely conducted tests.

Kho also sees that vaccination plays a big role to prevent a super spreader COVID-19 event.

"I think what matters most is that everybody is vaccinated," she said.

Although Kho still holds on to last-minute hopes that the spectator regulation would change, she now plans to resort to watching the Olympics live on television.

"We had hoped to be able to see the amazing players compete in the stadiums, but at least it wasn't canceled again," she said.

### THE 411 ON 2021 SUMMER OLYMPICS

#### When to watch

July 24-Aug. 8

#### How to watch

NBC, Peacock, Hulu Live TV

#### COVID-19 changes

●No out of country spectators

●Athletes tested every day

#### New sports

Skateboarding

Sport climbing

Baseball

Karate

Surfing

Source: International Olympic Committee  
Compiled by Kristima Aryal

P.S.  
You're still  
here

