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# The Portland Observer

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'City of Roses'

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Committed to Cultural Diversity

## No End to Massive Protests

*Black leader says streets is where change will be won*

See story, page 2



## New Police Chief Named to Build Trust

*Chuck Lovell rises to the top of command*

See Local News, page 3



## Honoring the Class of 2020

### Reflecting on a school year cut short

The Jefferson High School senior class created all of the Class of 2020 content for this special graduation edition of the Portland Observer.

Inside you will find reflections from the students on a school year cut short by the coronavirus pandemic and how they are responding to another tragedy, the police custody death of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

See the letters of support and congratulations to the graduates from their teachers, administrators and adult mentors, like those from Self Enhancement, Inc. The students also include photos to showcase their school experience, list their favorite music, and share their special art projects.

Valedictorian speeches by five of Jefferson's achieving students, not able to be delivered at a formal graduation ceremony because of the social distancing requirements of the pandemic,

are also included and will inspire you.

This special coverage was coordinated by Jefferson students attending a Senior Inquiry class, a dual-credit class designed through a partnership between the Jefferson High School Middle College for Advanced Studies and Portland State University.

All seniors at Jefferson take the class and earn 15 college credits upon completion. Jefferson teachers and Portland State professors help direct them on a path of individualized learning by engaging in community advocacy, action projects, art installations, writing and other types of academic exploration.

At its core, the Senior Inquiry model stimulates critical thinking and self-reflection while focusing on the importance of building strong relationships with classmates, instructors, high school staff and community members.



Senior Tarisha Spencer is draped by messages of unity and equality in the halls of Jefferson High School in a photo taken earlier this year.

## Congratulations Seniors!

The Portland Observer is proud to dedicate this special issue to all of our high school seniors, and especially the Jefferson High School Class of 2020, the school historically grounded to the heart of Portland's African American community.



Publisher Mark Washington

We are proud to give a voice to these honored students during a difficult time, sharing their dreams for the future and providing them a proper sendoff after a senior year cut short by the coronavirus pandemic and the public health crisis that closed all schools since Spring Break.

"Your lives were disrupted, but you have not been forgotten," said Portland Observer Publisher Mark Washington. "Congratulations seniors and best wishes to your future!"



# No End to Massive Protests

Black leader says streets is where change will be won

A historic leader of Portland's African American community joined thousands of protesters in northeast Portland Monday night to demand police accountability and an end to racism and police brutality against African Americans.

Kent Ford, 77, a life-long member of Portland's black community and the founding member of the Portland chapter of the Black Panther Party going back to the civil rights era of the 1960s, appealed to Portlanders to keep demanding change.

He said continued street protests are the best option to put on the pressure to reform police departments across the country, including Portland. He also voiced his astonishment at how the movement to end police brutality against African Americans has now drawn so many white and diverse supporters from outside the black community.

Change was "not going to come from D.C." he said. "It's not going to come from the Capitol. It's going to come from down here on the streets."

Ford's call out came as several thousand people marched from Revolution Hall, the former Washington High School in southeast Portland, to Northeast 15th and Alberta in the heart of Portland's African American community.

It was the 11th straight night of massive protests in Portland, sparked by the May 25 death of George Floyd, a black man who died under police restraint in Minneapolis.

More than 100 people have been arrested in Portland since the protests began. Police say they have struggled to balance allowing thousands of peaceful protests to march and confronting much smaller crowds that seem focused on clashing with officers at any cost.



Thousands of peaceful Portland protesters lay down for nine minutes of silence June 1 on the Burnside Bridge with their hands behind their backs to memorialize the time a Minnesota police officer's knee pinned George Floyd's neck to the ground, a black man who died May 25 under police restraint. (AP photo)



Portland Trail Blazer Damian Lillard (left) joins more than 10,000 people for a peaceful protest against police brutality and racism on Friday night, walking from Revolution Hall, the former Washington High School in southeast Portland, to downtown. Massive protests in the city have taken place for 11 straight nights, sparked by the police Memorial Day police custody death of George Floyd in Minneapolis and other officer-involved deaths of black Americans. (AP photo)

Protesters demonstrate on June 2 in and around Pioneer Courthouse Square, downtown. (AP photo)



## Black Honor Roll - Photo Correction Congratulations Geedi Ali



Geedi Ali was acknowledged as a Benson High School Honor Graduate in the May 20th Portland Observer issue, but his photograph was incorrect.

Congratulations Geedi Ali for your great accomplishment.



# The INSIDE



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# LOCAL NEWS



New Portland Police Chief Chuck Lovell attends a news conference Monday announcing his appointment to the top of command. He replaces Chief Jami Resch who suddenly stepped aside stating that Lovell was the better person to build community trust as police chief because of his strong ties with the black community. (AP photo)

## Rising to the Top

**Lovell named police chief to build trust**

BY MICHAEL LEIGHTON  
PORTLAND OBSERVER EDITOR

A black Portland police lieutenant and former resource officer at Jefferson High School who

earned praise for building bridges in the black community during his tenure at the school, was suddenly named Portland's new police chief on Monday.

Chuck Lovell, an 18-year-veteran of the Police Bureau, replaces Chief Jami Resch who announced at a news conference that she was stopping aside from the top command position in favor of Lovell,

saying he was the better person to build community trust as chief because of his record of success building ties with the black community.

The promotion was endorsed by Mayor Ted Wheeler and followed 11 days of massive protests in the city calling for police reforms to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



A group of young marchers in Portland move toward the Burnside Bridge on Saturday to protest racism and police violence against African Americans after the death of George Floyd, a black man who died in police custody in Minneapolis. (AP photo)

**After Protests, Mayor Re-Assigns Officers**  
Armed police pulled from Portland schools

Following massive marches to protest racism by police and officer involved deaths of African Americans in Portland and across the country, Portland Mayor Ted

Wheeler announced Thursday he was removing police resource officers from the city's public

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# Letters of support for Grads



## You Made My Year

**Dear 2020 Seniors,**

Those of you who were in MEChA (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán, the organization promoting Chicano unity and empowerment) gave me so much hope.

I was worried coming into Jefferson that I would not find students to be part of the programming, but within minutes you all came into my life. From then on I got to see you everyday in the classroom. I got to see you change and grow in just a few months.

I saw most of you prosper and your personalities be more present. You all made me think about what support I would have wanted at your age. From talking about school, to sharing all your hopes and dreams, you all made me so proud.

I am upset that I only got to be part of your lives at the end of your high school career, but just know you made my year. I will always be supporting you guys no matter what. Thank you for all the laughs, sarcasm and great music.

**Love, Fabi Mascote**

## Dear Lulu, Emely, Sebastian, Yunior and Misael,

**Felicidades!** You made it! When I met all of you I saw young powerful leaders and you have all proved to be just that. I wish you the very best in all you do. Please remember to never give up even when life gets difficult. Push yourself till you reach your goals then push yourself a little more till you reach your next goal! Si se Puede!!

**Sincerely,**

**Sofia Dominguez and the Latino Network Familia**

## Teachers and Staff Look Back

### SEI will always support you

On behalf of Self Enhancement, Inc., we want to wish all of our seniors the absolute best as you move into this next phase of life.

Some of you are preparing to further your education by going to college close by or far away. Others are jumping into the workforce right away, with hopes to pursue passions they'd always dreamt of. Regardless of what you decide to do in this next phase of life, we want our seniors to always remember that SEI will always have your back.

We will always be there to support you, help you, and cheer you on. We love and miss you so much! We miss you coming into the office just to talk, ask for snacks, and we even miss telling you to go to class.

Words are hard to find when it comes to how proud we are of each of you! We're so honored to be your coordinators and wish you nothing but the best for this next phase of your life. No matter what, you'll always be part of the SEI family, we love you!

**~Love, Ms. Ebony, Bubba, and Ms. Shy (inset)**



## PCC Partnership was Inspirational

### It's my honor to salute you

**Dear Jefferson High School Class of 2020:**

First, thank you for the honor of addressing you on this momentous occasion. It has been a source of great pride for me to see the partnership between Jefferson and PCC-Cascade grow and thrive over the years. Watching Jefferson transform from a struggling institution to being recognized for highest graduation rates in the state has been truly inspirational.

On behalf of the Middle College staff, Cascade faculty and administration, I offer congratu-

lations, best wishes, and sincere hope for a fantastic future.

This may not be the graduation you'd hoped for, or the conditions in which you'd wished to graduate, but I believe this singular moment in history provides you -- and your fellow graduates from around the nation and the world -- an opportunity to change the world for the better.

This moment in time is also symbolic. It symbolizes the end of one thing, but also the beginning of something new. You will have new opportunities, make new friends, and overcome new challenges in ways we're only beginning to conceive. Thanks to the Coronavirus, you will also have new ways of

studying and learning, interacting with others, and new leadership roles for you to assume.

You will help show us what this new world can look like. A world where everyone has the health care they need, the education they deserve, the income that human dignity demands. Where the presence of clean air and water aren't a luxury but a constant companion. Where the barriers that held some back while others prospered fade away. Where black lives matter. Where everyone, in every circumstance, has the freedom to fully enjoy the gift of life.

We'll be here to encourage and support you in this critically needed work, but we'll need your voice,



**Dr. Karin Edwards**

es, time and talent to lead the way.

We are proud of you, Demos! The future is yours to create. Go big.

**Dr. Karin Edwards,**  
**Portland Community College-**  
**Cascade Campus president**

## At What Cost?

### A forgotten letter to my future graduating self

BY SELAM GETU

When I have writer's block I often read my diaries. I've never found a perfect thesis statement in them and I don't believe it's caused any lightbulb moments, but I do it anyway. Unsure of what could possibly sum up all that I've been thinking and feeling during quarantine and my years at Jefferson, I pulled out



the diaries, picked some pages, and read. This time, however, I found something of actual use: A forgotten letter to my future graduating self.

Saturday, June 3, 2017 6:39 p.m. Dear Selam, I'm pretty sure the seniors are at their graduation ceremony right now so I thought I'd write this for you to read when you're in their shoes. You're probably in your cap and gown waiting to begin the end of this chapter of your life. Hopefully you have cords around your neck and maybe a speech in your pocket. Regardless, these past few years have been leading up to this moment, so take a deep breath because it'll be over soon.

Do you remember your first day of high school? The excitement, butterflies, fear? How do you feel now? Do you think it was worth it? I sure hope so.

Your journey hasn't been easy, but you've kept going. You've studied hard for every test, toiled over every essay, and I want you to know how much I love you for that, for all the stress you put yourself under to build a promising road ahead for us.

I hope you were able to keep straight A's and a 4.0 gpa during these past years and never let yourself doubt your intelligence. I hope you've gotten into your dream college and are leaving this small city. And I hope you've figured out what you're passionate about, what you want to spend your life doing. Mostly I just hope you're not afraid anymore.

At 15 years old, I also have a few questions. Who are your closest friends at the moment? Have you gone on a date? Did you ever run for student body president? I'm curious.



## From the Principal: Honored to Share the Journey with You

### Demo Class of 2020,

We find ourselves distant from each other during a defining moment for our country. We find ourselves navigating a health crisis of global proportion. We find ourselves in the midst of a societal reckoning with the violence of racism across our nation.

These realities serve as powerful reminders of how connected we truly are, how our individual actions reverberate throughout not only our community but also the world; how we both impact and are impacted.

Over the past week, I was reminded of the words Martin Luther King Jr. offered in his letter from the Birmingham Jail and subsequent writings almost 60 years ago:

"In a real sense all life is inter-related. All men are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a

single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be, and you can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be. That is the inter-related structure of reality."

We learn and grow together, and it is this reciprocity that is central to our Jefferson community. It has been an honor to share the journey with you so closely over the past four years. You bring authenticity, richness and complexity to our lives daily and you have changed us.

You are amazing people who are living through a marker of time for generations to come. We will not be the same, but we will always be here for you.

We love you and are so proud.

Demos for life!

~Ms. Calvert



Jefferson High School Principal Margaret Calvert, (left) with Vice Principal Ricky Allen, Vice Principal Khandice Love and former Vice Principal Kara Mortimer.



### From the Class of 1965

#### So proud to see you graduate!

Lucinda Turner-Baldwin, office manager at the Portland Observer and Jefferson High School Class of 1965 alumna.



Elizabeth Washington (JHS Class of '70), publisher of the Portland Observer, 1996-2018.



### From the Class of 1970

Jefferson High School Class of 2020! We are so proud of your accomplishments! The world needs your creativity, compassion and leadership now more than ever. I know Charles would say the same and he would have been thrilled to celebrate this milestone with you. Congratulations!



The late Charles Washington (JHS Class of '70), publisher of The Portland Observer 1996-2012.



# Gambling Issues?

Reach Out for Free Support

**OPGR.ORG**  
OREGON PROBLEM GAMBLING RESOURCE

**877-MY-LIMIT**



# *Congratulations Class of 2020!*

## Jefferson High School Middle College for Advanced Studies



True's Ambus



Emery Ashdown



Gabriela Azcorra-Uicababriela



Reggie Blue



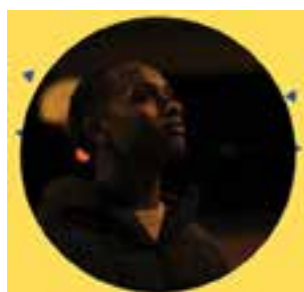
Zachary Brant



Asaiah Brazile



Sierra Briscoe



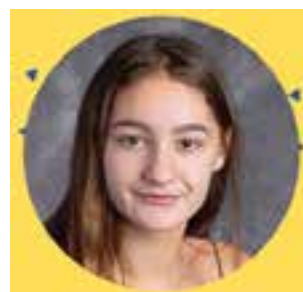
Aries Brock



Mellanie Broussard



Nadijah Bunn



Azzurra Cappuccini



Robert Chandler



Ethan Crawford



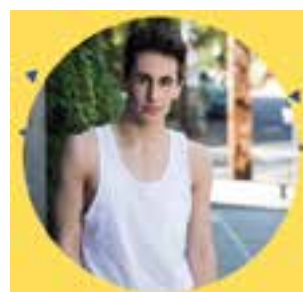
Precious Dangerfield



Yunnior DeLeon-Juan



Samuel Densmore



Emerson Donohoe



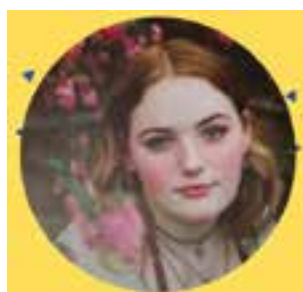
Rene Douglas



Calvin Dunleavy



Christopher Durrett



Brennan Fadel



Lourdes Flores-Herrera



Richard Garcia



Deonetae Gates



Selam Getu



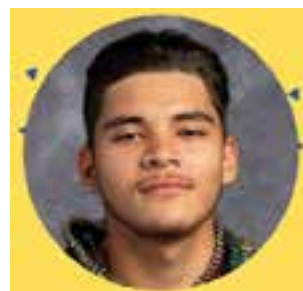
Ethan Gillespie



Velicia Glass



Nicodemus Glaze



Octavio Gonzalez-Rolon



Leif Gregory



Kayla Gulley



Shiyao Guo



Ashon Hale



Seraiah Hardy



Ethan Harmon



Datrevoa Harrison

Lanairoje  
HayesMaaliyah  
HepburnSebastian  
Hernandez



# Congratulations Class of 2020!

## Jefferson High School Middle College for Advanced Studies



Mekdes Hilete



Brett Hinsley



Myles Hoggans



Inyla Hollis



Rachel Huckans



Arianna Hunter



Aidan Hutapea



Fisher Jackson



Makiah Jackson



Clarissa Jennings-Ramsey



Sonia Johnson



Jaliyah Jinter



Parvaneh Karch-Agnew



Shyrel Katlaps-Issac



Max Kenck-Crispin



Mykala King



Aaron Kluever



Amaya Krasnitz



Amelia Layton



Christopher Leon-Diestra



Kelsey Linnell



Stella Rae Lynch



Magpie Mack



Alatini Mapapalangi



Olivia Martin



Jacina Mathis



Maisie McCarley



Lauryn McCarthy



Finnegan McDonald



Jaylen McDonald



Jade McKinney



Valeria Michel-Garcia



Tamia Miller



Maria Mohulamu



Da-Nae Monroe



Fayth Moore

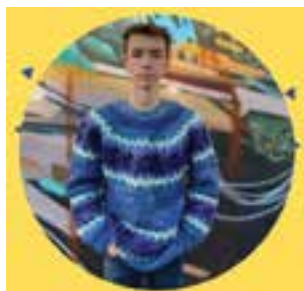
Samaya  
Morgan.Maxwell  
MossMariana  
Naranjo Dove

JEFFERSON GRADUATES  
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# *Congratulations Class of 2020!*

## Jefferson High School Middle College for Advanced Studies



Max Nathe



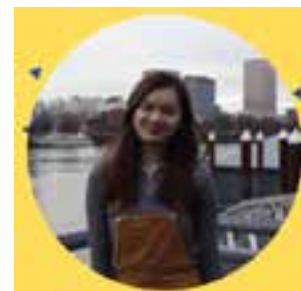
Olivia Olson-Roberts



Lola Pedegana



Tristan Pena



Loan Pham



Michael Preston-Kurney



Jayla Pride



Joneyo Prom



Pablo Reese



Max Rego



Jay Riggins



Cynthia Riley



Christina Robinson



D'Androse Robinson



Zuriah Rohm



Anneka Root



Erika Salazar-Medina



Richard Sanchez



Anna Saunders



Ashton Sawyer



Gavin Sheaffer



Asha Shelayev



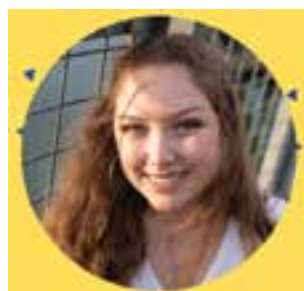
Brookly Sherman



Tarisha Spencer



Aaliyah Stone



Sarah Sullivan



Misael Torres-Granados



Estelle Torrey



David Uppinghouse



Emely Valenzuela



Antonio Veaudry Casaus



Lauren Walters



Sabine Westby



Nellie Wilcox



Alivia Williams



Atticus Wilson

Velo  
YoungKathryn  
Zipper



# Grads Reflect Back on Senior Year

## It's a time...

when people should be able to put trust into the systems that are supposed to take care of them, but no one, at least no one I'm around or often exposed to, really trusts the government right now. People are out of work, the ones that aren't are often over-worked. All of the numbers about cases reported and percentages of those infected mean almost nothing, with the lack of testing and the high number of false negatives.

At the same time, it almost feels like nothing is happening at all. It's surprisingly easy to stay at home and kind of feels like summer break. The biggest difference is not being able to go and see my friends all of the time, but things like FaceTime make even that easier. The other day I had a "date" of sorts with my best friend where we both ordered food and ate together on FaceTime so that it could feel like we were eating at the restaurant we like together. I know that I'm experiencing this differently from a lot of other people, though.

At the end of the day, the virus will run its course. It will last as long as it lasts, and I can't do anything more than my best to not contribute to it. It's easier to immerse myself in projects and the day by day than by trying to guess when or how things will get back to normal, if they do. And so I'll keep doing my projects, and learning what interests me. I'll text and call my friends to keep from feeling too lonely. There isn't much else to do.

--Ashton Sawyer



Kayla Gulley (left) and Jaylia Joiner examine archived documents with classmates during a visit to PSU.

## The Good and the Bad

Let's start with the bad parts about quarantine.

You can't go anywhere. This means the mall, movie theater, almost any fast food place, and the worst for me, the barbers. Two, you can't see your friends and family. If you don't already live with them, you can't hang out with your friends. Or at least you're not supposed to. But even when you do, there aren't many places to go. Three, it's a bad time to look for employment. If you're like me and looking for work, it's a lot more difficult than it already was. Four, graduation. I was really looking forward to a graduation party because I worked so hard to pass my classes.

Now, here is the good stuff about quarantine. One, it forces you to keep in touch with your friends. Even though I said you can't see your friends and family in person, you can still text them and keep in touch with them. Also, I talk to my parents more. Two, I have more time to work on my fitness. Three, I get to talk with my grandparents more and mow their lawns to get paid.

Now that I don't have to worry about graduating, I can focus on my plans to attend PCC. I can work on things that I'm interested in. For example, I have been trying to write song lyrics for myself to sing. I just try and keep positive during this time. Now I just hope this thing ends soon.

--Brett Hinsley

## Alberta Park in Quarantine

While taking pictures it was interesting to notice how many people were in the park and sitting far apart from each other, and it was such a shock to me because Alberta Park is never that full and it was nice to see people go outside and enjoy the sun.

During this whole Covid era I myself have been going outside and spending more time in nature areas. Last week I went to the Deschutes state park which is a little past The Dalles and on the way back we went through Hood River and up to Timberline lodge which was pretty empty and they required masks to go inside. I've also been on a lot of hikes.

I really like exploring the nature and I think without this pandemic I wouldn't have done all those things.

--AJ Brazile

## The Good Times at Jeff

Who would've known? Unfortunately our important and exciting senior year had to be cut short by COVID-19. It's been a change in our lives and turned out to be a strange year. I miss a lot of my family and friends. I miss all of the funny moments and good times at Jeff.

I really appreciated how much some of the teachers and also my SEI coordinator cared and really put in effort to make sure I was up to date on schoolwork. This school year was fun and I'm glad I got to strengthen friendships.

A day in the life of Covid-19 isn't too exciting. I try to do different things each day, stay close to the family and continue adapting to the next things that come my way.

--D'Androse Robinson

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

## ALLIES FOR CHANGE



### We stand with the Black community.

Our community, our nation, is hurting. As a company that cares deeply about the health and resiliency of our region, we stand in solidarity with those seeking justice and advocating for an inclusive society.

We want and can do more. To nurture future leaders, employees and suppliers of color. To welcome all eaters and neighbors. To show the business community that building community resilience must include nurturing and welcoming diversity.

We are committed to doing better. We are looking at blind spots. And we are taking action. Our first steps are to:

- Commit to companywide leadership and employee training that helps us understand and eliminate prejudices, biases, disparities, and inequities.
- Redesign the recruitment process to better attract and serve historically underrepresented people, beginning with the Black community.
- Partner with community organizations that prepare Black youth for employment and nurture Black farmers and food entrepreneurs.

We won't always get it right, but we embrace the responsibility of contributing to systemic change. It's what "serve with love" looks like.

Read more at: [Burgerville.com/allies-for-change](https://Burgerville.com/allies-for-change)



# Rising to the Top

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

end of racial discrimination against African Americans sparked by the police custody killing of George Floyd, a black man in Minneapolis, and other killings of black Americans by police officers in Portland and across the nation.

The shakeup also comes as Portland police have been sharply criticized for using what some people called inappropriate force against some protesters. It also follows a complaint over the lack of diversity in the Police Bureau's leadership ranks.

Three African American groups wrote a letter over the weekend saying the city's commitment to diversity "rings loud, hallow and tone deaf" considering an "all-white leadership team" under Resch. According to the Oregonian, the letter was signed by

leaders from Black Male Achievement, Word is Bond and the Coalition of Black Men.

During the news conference, Wheeler agreed the bureau hasn't done enough to support people of color for promotions and succession to leadership positions. Lovell said that his appointment was completely unexpected and he's going to care about the community.

Lovell, 46, a native of Brooklyn, N.Y., and a former member of the U.S. Air Force, served as a school resource officer in Portland from 2007 to 2011 and rose to the rank of lieutenant. He served as an executive assistant to Outlaw during her tenure as chief and for Resch he oversaw a new community outreach division.

Lovell was able to gain the trust of students at Jefferson by dealing with problems with compassion and a steady level-headedness,

according to Antoinette Edwards, who recently retired as director of the city's Office of Youth Violence and Prevention.

"He has real humanity," she told the Oregonian.

Daryl Turner, the black president of the Portland Police Association, released a statement saying he looks forward to working with Lovell as the bureau "heads into a new era in policing and continues to evolve and grow along with the needs of the diverse community we protect and serve."

Resch, a police officer for 20 years in Portland, had been chief for just six months. She plans to stay employed with the bureau. In December she replaced former Portland Police Chief Daniel Outlaw, the city's first black female police chief, after Outlaw moved to take command of the police department in Philadelphia.

## After Protests, Mayor Re-Assigns Officers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

schools.

The decision will impact all of Portland's high schools and include Parkrose and Reynolds High Schools.

"Leaders must listen and respond to community," he said. "We must disrupt the patterns of racism and injustice."

In conjunction with Wheeler's decision, Portland Superintendent Guadalupe Guerrero agreed he

would discontinue the regular presence of school resource officers in all of the district's high schools, pledging to invest in more social workers, counselors and culturally specific support for students.

For years, advocates for police reform have called on schools and local governments to remove armed officers from local high schools, including Portland City Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty, the first black female member of the Portland City Council.

Hardesty had earlier proposed defunding \$1.6 million from the police bureau's budget for the school resource officer program that provides for 11 armed police officers to patrol the halls of the city's 11 high schools.

Police officers on regular patrols will still respond to emergency calls from school campuses regardless of the program's fate, officials said.

## The COVID -19 Pandemic

*I feel like I'm stuck my whole life now messed up*

*I went from waking up and accomplishing my goals to laying in bed thinking about the dead*

*How many lives have been taken from something in disguise? What's in the win for us? Is it all just for a prize?*

*We got some chuck duck as a president making me wanna look at my amendments*

*We got a right to free speech and I'll tell you right now duck I hate you with everything I preach*

*I'm laying in bed contemplating in my head why there's a conspiracy theory that you're the one to blame and this is just a game*

*We are the pawns to your board game and you have us right where you want us obeying and bending down while you the king sits on the couch holding his crown.*

*I guess that's what I get for blaming the one above us*

*Dear god if you're out there I don't think I believe*

*I don't know how you could let something like this happen. You have me on my knees.*

*I pray and pray this all goes away but the truth of the matter is it's not and that's not okay.*

*I've spent eighteen years waiting for my freedom and now that I have it it's taken away*

*I feel i've been stripped and used for play*

*My senior year like most was something I was looking forward to now it's something I wanna fast forward to twelve years of fun, laughing, making friends, crying, and playing the dog ate my homework game for a diploma and a walk across the strange but now that has to wait*

*I might come off as mad but it's because I am*

*Out of six years of working non stop my life now on pause my biggest sigh is not being able to say goodbye to the kids I taught the laugh and cries I'll never miss my performances with my little look alikes*

*Although this is sad i'm quite glad this happened because i'll never take anything for granted again*

*This opened my eyes to see more than the sky and more of what life looks like when time is stopped and life as we know it becomes a date in history that people will never forget.*

--Amaya Krasnitz

## A Year that Went Astray

*I wasn't expecting the senior year to end this way*

*With coronavirus, it went astray*

*From vacay to decay,*

*Our spring break of delay*

*Never ended and felt like it was stuck on a replay*

*With summer comes jobs and new lives to start*

*Hope we stay friends together and don't grow apart*

*I'll go to college for arts*

*I hope I can get a good start*

*So I can sing songs and reach the top of the charts*

-- Gavin Shaefer

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## Waited All My Life for 2020

*New year senior year waited all my life for this  
Now it's here and i'm full of fear  
First day all my friends are there  
Now I can breathe some fresh air  
Kulak and Machuca are my teachers, yah!  
Now i can survive another day  
They are the best  
School is better than the rest  
Cause I know they will help  
When I scream help*  
--Kayla Gulley

## COVID 19 Thoughts

*Time has frozen!  
I miss Senior-ing!  
How are my friends?  
When is this gonna be over?  
I'M LOSING MY MIND!  
-- Myles Hoggans*

## Life Under Quarantine

*At first this quarantine thing sounded terrible honestly  
But now, I go on walks  
I find creative things to do, or I do nothing at all  
I face my feelings and troubles face on rather than  
distracting myself with life  
I finally wear my hair natural because I don't feel  
anxious at home*  
*Quarantine doesn't seem too bad  
But now we have another month added  
I'm starting to run out of things to do  
I miss going on adventures with my friends  
I miss going out to eat  
I miss my teachers  
I miss my peers*  
*I have a love/hate relationship with this quarantine  
I can freely be lazy but I won't get to walk the stage  
I don't have to see anyone from high school anymore but  
I kind of miss them*  
*I can get take out but I have to eat it in the car  
I wish I never took these little things for granted but I'm  
also glad we all got a break from life. I think we all  
needed it. It needs to be over now though.*  
--Aneesa Bussey

## Four Years in a Flash

*My 4 years flashed before my eyes,  
but not too fast because I reminisced everyday.  
I can't believe we finally done.  
My freshman year I wanted to touch a couple different  
sports so  
I played football and  
I wrestled and  
placed 3rd in state  
it was painful.  
I was trying to figure out what I wanted to be  
or how I wanted to spend my life.  
I decided to further my basketball experience down in  
CALIFORNIA*  
--Christina Robinson



Students reading through material in Senior Inquiry.

## Hallowed Memories

*Deep within soul reach is a boy  
Needing guidance but not any lies  
Breaking the point of no return  
Letting go of fond toys  
Buried beneath lives  
Getting nothing in this life  
Pounding not in sight  
Losing control he may might  
A ghost will be his true fright  
Fire in between places he goes  
Stops in the night  
Seeing no one in the darkness he ignites  
Flames burn from within him  
He will burn bright  
Hollowed out by motives  
Keeps him going and follows  
Joining a place where he belongs  
Coming to a place where fire is one  
The wind breaks through, spreading  
Touching the fire as raining fists  
Leaving the field to open mists  
He can't speak  
His words are gone  
His fire isn't  
Solace is what keeps him going  
It what keeps him glowing  
The bright star that will be  
Will show the way, a different path  
Leaving false value behind  
Giving up child, growing bold  
He burns as bright as gold  
Nothing within it's quake  
Never speaking just break  
Onto life will be another bloom  
Roses never die wither away  
A future with one  
Death may be daring.  
Scared boy turned to be in  
One after one is scary*

*Cool substance washes away  
Leaving the angry quake of fire  
A girl emerges from the cold  
Strikes a cool stare  
Leading the boy away he may  
Sought destruction no more  
Never seeing red again  
Saw purple instead  
Remembering the words his teacher spoke  
You will meet an equal, learn to  
extinguish your fire  
Wants to do that  
His heart says otherwise  
He is tired of all the lies  
He wants to be free of burden  
Not all in love  
Free...Free...Free  
Trees around him whoosh when  
thoughts matter more  
Sorrow filling his heart  
Cold reaches him and smiles  
Fire noticed and thinks about what was  
taught  
A lie or a truth  
Fire smiles as well a lot after  
Adventures await young heros  
Your time is now  
Your time is valuable  
Leave knowledge behind  
Let the wind let your burdens go  
This may be the last time  
They ever see the sunset  
Fire bites more than he can chew  
Injury would suffice  
Cold saved his life  
Looking astonished as she took the final  
blow  
Her body flowed with wind  
Her body went limp again  
As she took one final smile  
At the flaming boy*

*Wishing more time would go by  
His thoughts cloud his mind  
Where is his mind  
No more lies  
Repeating over and over  
Chanting under his breath  
Anger flash destroying everything  
around  
Turned everything brown  
Defeating evil was good  
Fire didn't feel better  
He sat wondering  
"Why am I so weak"  
A voice chanted in his head  
No you are strong  
The boy asked the voice  
Who are thou?  
No answer...  
Then the voice continues  
A weak person shall never feel the  
burden of pain and sorrow  
A strong one feels everyday, in  
order to be strong you have to  
be weak  
And in order to be weak you have  
to be strong  
The more you do failure will  
happen  
The less you do you can't fail  
The boy listen with wary eyes  
Voice said no more  
Looking up to the sunset sky  
Revealing more than he wants to  
see  
A trance of energy is United with  
him  
Cold is gone no longer here  
Believe in destiny he fears  
Shattered his beliefs  
Never seeing anymore  
A clear future he is uncertain about  
Forgetting a friend was a specialty  
Cold was a necessity  
For him to feel no pain  
He now needs a lane  
Thoughts linger in his mind  
Freeing doubts from within  
His is still scared of his sin  
Still feeling burden by sorrow  
What had he learned  
He forgets the sky is dark  
Memories awakes his mind  
He still cannot see  
Has he learned anything?  
--Jay Riggins*



### Joyce Washington

Born: 1937 - 1996

Joyce Washington Believed in this Community  
and all those that made this Community Great.

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“Dare to dream your next steps of climbing the ladder of your dreams!”



Your hard-fought journey to reach this level of success in your young lives is a tribute to your steadfastness, your discipline, and your ideals for success on your life journeys. This is just the beginning. College at all levels awaits you! Dare to dream your next steps of climbing the ladder of your dreams!

**Margaret Carter**  
*Oregon State Senator, Retired*

“Remember the shoulders that you stand on and that we will *ALWAYS* be here for you.”

Our hearts beat with pride as we celebrate your accomplishments. Through hard work and determination you kept your eyes on the prize and can proudly say “I graduated!” Our community believed in you and had high expectations that you would be successful as we stood up and spoke up on your behalf when we needed to. Graduation is a rite of passage and as you move into the next phase of your journey, remember the shoulders that you stand on and that we will *ALWAYS* be here for you. Congratulations.

**Joyce Harris (Mama Joyce)**  
*Albina Ministerial Alliance Coalition  
for Justice & Police Reform*



# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2020

“I’m holding a seat on Portland City Council for you.”

What a world in which you are graduating. We need you desperately. You are the ones who will build a new world where equality will be at the core. We need you to build a world that is not dependent on fossil fuels, a world without hate, and a world where everyone has opportunity to thrive. I can’t wait to see what comes next. And I’m holding a seat on Portland City Council for you.



**Jo Ann Hardesty, Portland City Commissioner**



“If you keep an open and curious mind you won’t ever stop learning and growing.”

Congratulations! I’m so proud of you! I know you’re probably overwhelmed with advice, so I’ll keep this short! I just have three things I want to tell you: First, your education doesn’t have to ever be over. Regardless of where you’re headed next, to college, to a job, to travel, if you keep an open and curious mind you won’t ever stop learning and growing—it’s one of the best things about being human. Second, remember there is more than one way to get there!

Not everyone knows who or what they want to be at 18. Not everyone has an easy or conventional path. And that’s okay, you’ve got plenty of time to figure things out. Third, your voice is so important and your generation is already having a huge impact from climate change to police reform. Keep it coming—**THE WORLD NEEDS YOU!**

**Chloe Eudaly, Portland City Commissioner**

“Above all, believe in yourself and know that your community is proud of each and every one of you.”



You have done it! You have persevered! You have prevailed! In spite of the chaos, the distractions, the political noise and a global pandemic, you graduated. We are looking forward to the positive energy and ideas you bring to our city, our country, our world. We know you will be a positive force as you move towards making real, your vision of a different and better world.

It will not be easy but you have already shown that you are strong and courageous. We need your strength, your courage. Keep in mind the people and values that are dear to you and let them help to guide you.

Above all, believe in yourself and know that your community is proud of each and every one of you.

**Kathleen Saadat**  
*Human Rights Activist  
and Recording Artist*





You have faced disruptions we never could have imagined even a few months ago. And yet, you persisted. The world needs your talents, skills and knowledge. And especially right now, we need your determination as we tackle the big challenges that lie ahead.

**Kate Brown**  
*Oregon Governor*

**“Go forth and be the builders of the ‘Beloved Community!’”**



What a milestone, a remarkable achievement! You have successfully completed twelve years of education that allows you to spread your wings and soar. The wind is behind you!

**“Go reach for the stars!”**

Today, I congratulate you and encourage you to

dream big, work hard and remember to give back to your community. Your dreams, your efforts and your perseverance will allow you to write your own success story. You will do so and you will do well. Congratulations! Go reach for the stars!

**Kay Dean Toran**  
*President & CEO of Volunteers of America Oregon*



The great South African President Nelson Mandela said: “No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite” and “There can be no greater gift than that of giving one’s time and energy to help others without expecting anything in return.”

Jefferson High School Class of 2020 – the world needs you to internalize these words, and to become great and compassionate human beings. Go forth and be the builders of the “Beloved Community” that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. taught generations to envision.

**Avel Louise Gordly**  
*Oregon State Senator, Retired*

# GRADUATING CLASS OF JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL

Although I’m sure this was not the graduation you expected, I urge you to embrace this challenge by stepping into the future with renewed resilience, vision, and purpose. Please spend some time thinking about how you, our future leaders, can use what you have learned to help your community, country, and the world.

This crisis has brought to light many inequities and challenges that exist in our society. I have been inspired by the work your generation has already done to address the climate crisis, gun violence prevention, social justice, and so much more. I know that if anyone can take this curveball that life has thrown you and use it to make a home run, it’s the Class of 2020.



**Earl Blumenauer**  
*U.S. Representative*

**“Use what you have learned to help your community, country, and the world.”**



This advertisement was envisioned and paid for by Thomas Lauderdale and his band Pink Martini. Thomas and the band have a long history with Jefferson. In addition to spearheading fundraisers for the school, Thomas and lead singer China Forbes stepped in to teach the Jefferson High School Gospel Choir when its director Maurice Wright II moved to Ohio to attend Wilberforce in 2002. Earlier that year, Thomas took the choir into the recording studio to record backup vocals for the song “Tempo Perdido”, which was released on Pink Martini’s third album, *Hey Eugene!* Once in the studio, he had the choir record several of its own songs with pianists Janice Scroggins and Tetteh Kofi. This group of songs remains unreleased.

I am so proud of you. When faced with this pandemic, you pivoted when tested, kept going, and built up your resiliency.

Your graduation marks your passage into adulthood. As you continue to live your life, take strength and wisdom from Maya Angelou, who said, “You may not control all of the events that happen to you, but you can decide to not be reduced by them.”

I hope that you’re inspired to make the world better than you when were born. I can’t wait to see what you do. Congratulations on your achievements!

**Adrienne Nelson, Oregon Supreme Court Justice**





## Don't Shoot! I can't Breathe

Don't shoot! I can't breathe  
 Blood covered tattoos and ripped  
 sleeves, laid on the streets  
 Money and Power motivates  
 greed, washing off stained  
 sheets  
 Living in social misproportion  
 ignites sacrificial unabiding  
 mental distortion, tired of being  
 the bigger man  
 I'm out to get the ham  
 Livin life like if the 50's was still  
 the norms  
 Tired of going through the worse  
 of storms  
 Shit is mad outrageous to live like  
 ape ages  
 Where you gotta protect yourself  
 from 12 gauges  
 That's one shot too many, our last  
 breath is coming real heavy  
 Battle wound scars that still  
 scream loud, willing to die for  
 rights it's why we remain so  
 proud  
 Ignorance is envy but it's not the  
 first time we kill our enemy  
 Too divided will cause more drug  
 and violence, It's proven shown  
 those who lack of parental  
 guidance, no option to choose  
 but life of no morals when you  
 live for survivance  
 Mino in a pool of piranhas, where  
 you don't know who all is really  
 ya patnas  
 Even if ya keep your bond  
 metamorphic,  
 there's no telling who will really  
 be behind your rigormortis  
 Rest In Equality Ms.Chisholm  
 We Are Unbought and Unbossed.  
 --Octavio Gonzalez-Rolon



Jeff Seniors pose for a group photo.

## 4 Years in One Poem

Born sinner, the opposite of a winner  
 All the lame \*\*g\*\*s showed me what not  
 to do  
 Not easy to ditch fear, believe it  
 The fact that I may never make it  
 Born sinner  
 I dont trust people enough beyond they  
 surface  
 Let these words be your earth and moon  
 You consume every message  
 Born sinner  
 You can't imitate me  
 How clutch are the people that say they  
 'love' you?  
 And who pretending  
 It's all over now  
 Ain't nothin finna break my stride  
 Nobody gonna slow me down

Born sinner  
 If you don't like me you gone hate me  
 The secret is i'm actually broken  
 If I have to go I hope my soul is still eternal  
 And my momma don't forget about me  
 I pray my bestie wont forget about me  
 Saw things I imagined  
 Born sinner  
 Learning on the low key, shining  
 Tryin' to keep to myself  
 You can mind yo business  
 How could I be mad that I aint yall  
 Every trial and test is a lesson  
 Knowledge is the most powerful weapon  
 But how'd I win if it was on 2% knowledge  
 People always told me I was bad I was  
 misunderstood  
 I was born sinner but THIS IS IT (WHAT?!)  
 Born sinner, DIDN'T QUIT (WHAT!)  
 --Rene Douglas

## 2020 Senior Year

It started out great,  
 I met new people,  
 Made new friends,  
 But December came and Coronavirus hit the  
 world,  
 Schools are getting canceled,  
 People aren't able to leave their house,  
 For their safety of course,  
 Than March came and it hit Oregon,  
 School gets canceled,  
 Senior year is ruined,  
 A year we've been waiting for 13 years,  
 It's not just any other year,  
 It's a huge milestone in all of our lives,  
 "Waiting to see what happens in the following  
 months, before graduation gets canceled"  
 Says the district,  
 Well there's one piece of good news,  
 Most of it's bad nowadays,  
 Parents say,  
 "I feel bad"  
 Or  
 "I don't know how to help"  
 There is no way to help,  
 We just had this huge thing ripped out of our  
 arms,  
 We were almost there,  
 We may never walk the halls again,  
 Sit at lunch eating with friends,  
 Talking to teachers and laugh about classes,  
 All of it,  
 It's just gone,  
 Class of 2020,  
 'The lost opportunities'  
 --Jayden McKinney

## Black and Female

Try being black and a woman  
 Constantly I'm working my butt off to  
 prove that I'm as smart and strong as a  
 man can be  
 By also having to deal with the fact that I  
 sometimes can't get a job because of my  
 f\*\*\*\*\* name,  
 Or being racially profiled, also while  
 being followed around in stores,  
 and when a cop pulls me over I'm  
 praying that I don't end up on national  
 television  
 I can't just pick one or the other  
 I have to struggle with both.  
 As black people we can't jog in a  
 neighborhood without being lynched  
 We can't walk outside wearing a hoodie  
 We can't walk with a bag of skittles in our  
 hand  
 That's why we scream Black Lives Matter,  
 Because all lives will matter once ours  
 does.  
 --Samaya Morgan

## Dear Covid-19

We should call you Covid-20 but  
 we're going to leave that alone.  
 Covid, why did you come to  
 bother us  
 You ruined most of my plans to  
 become an adult  
 Because of you I haven't seen my  
 friends for 2 months  
 Because of you I've been bored  
 and I had to find something to  
 do.  
 I can't take the news anymore  
 Covid, you've really stirred up  
 some mess  
 Covid I will never forget you but  
 you probably feel the same way,  
 you'll be back  
 Covid! I can't believe you had me  
 thinking it was the end of the  
 world.  
 Damn, who would've thought that  
 this would happen so soon?  
 Coronavirus, Coronavirus,  
 Coronavirus.  
 Thank you Covid for teaching me  
 how to: cook, have patience,  
 become more humble, learn  
 about myself, and distancing  
 me away from the negativity  
 that surrounded me on a daily  
 basis.  
 --Sonia Johnson

## Thoughts on a Senior Year

Guess what happened?  
 This is the last homework i'll ever do!  
 Where is my mom?  
 What are friends for?  
 What am I supposed to do? Huh?  
 Where am I supposed to be?  
 What are they talking about?  
 Where's the heater?  
 I promise I won't go to sleep!  
 Can you help me with this?  
 Yummy Yummy Food!  
 All I did was laugh!  
 I got a PROBLEM!  
 Nice view of the football field!

Did I leave my blanket in here/ can I?  
 Surprise!!!  
 I'll be back in a min!  
 Pajama day is everyday!  
 Where are my chips?  
 I was right!  
 This senior year sucked!  
 I'm a stronger person now!  
 I'm wiser now!  
 THANK YOU PEOPLE!!  
 Thank you for pushing me to be the best I can  
 be  
 Where do I go from here?  
 I don't want to move on  
 I don't like change  
 The things I do for people  
 I am proud of who I have become through my  
 high school experience!  
 --Clarissa Jennings-Ramsey



## Charles Washington

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Musician Amine speaks with Daved Sakho.

## Grads List Top Tunes to Remember

Music that most inspired the Jefferson Class of 2020. Playlist provided by seniors Alatini Mapapalangi, Mykala King, Olivia Martin and Lauryn McCarthy:

SimXSantana - Flexin N' Flashin  
 2kbabysage - Old Streets  
 Roddy Ricch feat. Ty Dolla \$ign - Bacc Seat  
 Toosii - Truth Be Told  
 Toosii - Red Lights Toosii - Why You Think  
 Lil Uzi Vert feat. Pharrell Williams - Neon Guts  
 Lil Muk - Best for You  
 Lil Muk - Ride With Me  
 YoungBoy - Never Broke Again  
 Rod Wave - Dark Conversations  
 Rod Wave - Fuck the World  
 Zay Bang - No Relations  
 Lil Zay Osama - Trencherous  
 Lil Zay Osama - Back When I Was Young  
 Lil Zay Osama - Changed Up  
 Lil Zay Osama - Way Better  
 Lil Zay Osama - Old Days  
 DSteez - Will You Ride  
 DSteez - Wat You Need  
 EBK Young Joc - Put Me in the Game  
 SahBabii - Tonight  
 Celly Ru - VLone  
 Cdot Honcho - Topic  
 DaBaby - Find My Way  
 DaBaby feat. Roddy Rich - Rockstar  
 DaBaby - Pick Up  
 DoaBreezy - Thug It Out  
 Rod Wave - Pray 4 Love

Rod Wave - Cuban Links  
 Lil Baby & Gunna - I Am  
 Raphael Saadiq - So Ready  
 G-Easy feat. IAMNOBODI - For This  
 Lil Wayne feat. O.T. Genasis - T.O.  
 Jeremy Zucker - End  
 Keyshia Cole - (I Just Want It) To Be Over  
 Stef Silva - So I Can  
 Jennifer Lopez feat. Pitbull - Dance Again  
 The Beatles - Because  
 Robin Loxley & Smudge Mason - I Miss It  
 Ciara - And I  
 Sam Lachow - Miss My Friends  
 50 Cent - Just a Lil Bit  
 Kehlani - Too Much  
 Chloe x Halle - Do It  
 Brent Faiyaz - Skyline  
 The Scotts, Travis Scott & Kid Cudi - The Scotts  
 Kali Uchis - Dead to Me  
 GoldLink feat. Tyler the Creator & Jay Prince) - U Say  
 GoldLink feat. Ciscero - Fall in Love  
 Noname feat. Smino & Saba - Ace  
 Odd Future feat. Tyler the Creator, Frank Ocean, & Syd - Analog 2  
 Lonr feat H.E.R. - Make the Most  
 Khalid feat. Summer Walker - Eleven  
 Partynextdoor & Rihanna - Believe It

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# Valedictorians Deliver Parting Words

## All of You are Just as Worthy

At first, I wasn't going to give this speech. It's seemed unfair. Why does a number on my transcript allow me to speak at our final goodbye, compared to all of you, who are just as worthy.



The title, itself, was never something I strived for. Being valedictorian held a sense of power and privilege that I didn't want. That I didn't need. Valedictorian is supposed to be an honor for the hardest working, and I appreciate that, I have worked hard to be where I am. But who says that the number on our transcripts reflects how hardworking we are? Why does the education system rely on a number to credit us, to show us our worth, when we are so much more than that. There are so many of you I'd like to hear from, that I can't, because you weren't given the opportunity.

Because hard work isn't just about passing classes. It's about living, doing the best you can with the circumstances you have. Our lives are so much more than school. And Jeff proves that, because Jefferson High School is so much more than school. We're a family. And that's why it's so hard for me to wrap my mind around this. We stick together against all odds, so why, when it's time to hear from our peers for the very last time as one, we pick people off of their systematic success instead of who they are as people.

Though I am proud to say that this Valedictorian cohort is some of the most amazing I have ever met. But I also want to give credit to where credit is due. To those of you that showed up to every single basketball game whether it was miles away or at home court. Those that sacrificed your free time to have a job and support your families. To those of you that advocated for yourself when someone didn't believe in

you. To those of you that came to school with a smile on your face no matter what was going on in your personal life. Or talked your friends down off a ledge after a hard day. To those that send pictures of your homework to help the homies out. Or those of you that walked your friends down to breakfast even though you were already late for class. I want to credit the people that not only worked hard in school but those of you that worked hard at becoming the person you are today. Because we all have grown since freshman year and we deserve credit for that. Credit that our transcripts don't give us.

So I want this to be a reminder as we enter adulthood. You are more than a number, or a statistic, or any negative expectations anyone has ever set for you. You are your growth, your heart, your soul. You are who you decide you want to be. And you will always, ALWAYS, be a Demo!

--Tamia Miller

## We've Come Together in Incredible Ways

I'm so proud of our class for all of our hard work and perseverance that got us all to our high school graduation. We are about to enter a really big time in our lives where we are being challenged to find who we are as individuals and what we're going to contribute to this world, but I know that being a Demo has prepared us for this. We are a class that will go on to use our passions for good, and it is amazing to know that our class is going to make this world a better place. Jefferson taught us not only how to be good people, but how to be there for others and to question things when we're unsure. I think it really shows when you look at this Class of 2020, just how amazing



you all are. We are all going to incredible universities, incredible programs, and doing incredible jobs because of the hard work you invested in the past four years at this school. It's really inspiring to see.

Even though our year was cut short and we will be missing out on some pretty big milestones, our class will get through this because we are strong, motivated, and creative. We've already come together in such incredible ways, congratulating each other on college acceptances, celebrating over Zoom calls, and staying connected as a class in any way we can right now. The class of 2020 is historic. We're inspiring so many people to stay strong and positive in times that are scary and difficult. Thank you for setting such a wonderful example of perseverance, creativity, and compassion. We would not be the people that we are today without Jefferson and the teachers and students inside it.

Jefferson is a very special place and we're all very lucky to have been a part of this community. Community is very strong in our class, which really shows and I'm so blessed to be a part of this chapter.

Thank you for the memories I will cherish forever. As you think of the adversity the class of 2020 has had to overcome these past few months, and especially these past few days, there should be no doubt in your mind that you can accomplish greatness. Please continue to utilize the valuable tools you were given here at Jeff to make a difference in our society and the way we treat each other as human beings, regardless of what they look like. Fight for what you believe is right, and uplift each other. Show them what it means to be a Demo. Class of 2020 is going to do some amazing things, and I can't wait to watch you all flourish.

--Sierra Briscoe

## Hello Classmates of 2020

When our school closed in mid-March, I doubt that any of us expected the months of uncertainty and confusion that followed. While springtime for many generations of high school seniors meant fun, celebration, and coming together, ours has been a time of distancing and isolation. However, as we gather today, we have way more reasons to celebrate than to despair because our graduation is marked by—not



a few months of disruptions—but years of academic excellence and personal triumph. And so I say congratulations to the Class of 2020!

Earning a diploma means we have successfully gone through four years of high school. When assignments got hard, we persevered. When we had questions, we sought out help. And through our commitment to learning, we have gained valuable insights about ourselves and the world.

When senior year came, we had visions for our future. And through planning and preparation, we have moved closer and closer to realizing our dreams. Writing countless essays

and filling out applications, we have defined our stories and sharing them with others has given us the chance to own our voices.

As acceptances and congratulatory letters came in, seeing the fruits of our labor has only made us more determined to seize the next opportunity that comes our way.

Today we celebrate the great bonds of friendship we have been able to cultivate amongst ourselves. From sharing classrooms to sharing ideas, from sharing spaces to sharing meals, members of the Class of 2020 have grown stronger because of our interconnectedness.

--Mekdes Hilete

## We Achieved Against All Odds

"The truth can only stay buried for so long before the world unearths it." One of our classmates actually said something along those lines on what we now know to have been our last day at Jefferson, and the sentiment has stuck with me in an eerie, almost prophetic way.



In the months since we were last at school, we have seen so much. We've watched as death tolls rise in the midst of an unprecedented pandemic, have

witnessed false 911 calls, scrolled through our feeds to find executions and daylight murders, and we have seen this country burn.

On the eve of us reaching one of the biggest milestones of our youth, everything seems to be uncertain. Our plans have been upended, we have anxiously awaited answers about what our very near futures will look like, and it has dawned on us that as we make one of the biggest transitions of our lives, the world as we know it is also transitioning.

The things that once were important to us—prom and a traditional graduation, our grades and GPAs—seem much

smaller now. In these months, the Class of 2020 has become adults. After the truth was unearthed we began to see things differently.

Nikki Giovanni wrote "Everything will change. The only question is growing up or decaying," and I can say with my whole heart that in the midst of so much decay, I have seen us, the Class of 2020, grow against all odds. Our circumstances, rather than bringing out the worst, have revealed the best in us. We have mobilized in new ways, supported one another via Zoom Call and Google Meet, built community in our group chats and the comment section of the @jeffersonseniors Instagram page,

## I Couldn't Be More Proud



During an info night for incoming 9th graders this year, I was asked to speak to the families and tell them why their students should come to Jeff. I was asked to participate the night of the event and had no time to prepare, but I didn't need it. When I got on stage and thought of what to say, I thought of what made Jefferson so special to me.

I thought of all the moments in freshman English where from week one, we had already become a community. I thought of all the moments I'll never forget from playing sports, I thought of the times we stopped class to discuss something more important going on in the world at that moment. I thought of how no matter what the topic, how we valued each other's contribution to the discussion.

So when it was time to tell these families why they should send their kids to Jeff, I told them that Jefferson is where kids are taught to be human at its most core meaning. Kids are taught what it is like to be a part of something bigger than themselves, where they learn to respect each other and thrive with one another. As I look at everyone now I know I couldn't have been more right.

Before I ever even step foot onto 5210 N. Kerby Ave., I knew Jefferson is where I wanted to be. Jeff was the best choice I could have ever made. Having a place to be 5 out of the 7 days of the week, where no matter what I was doing or who I was with I could learn something new, has been a gift that I will never forget.

The class of 2020, though we may be a small graduating class compared to others, we are large in our knowledge and experiences. Never in my life have I been part of a group of people so talented, whether it be artistically, athletically, or academically, and in most cases all three. I believe we have all been blessed to grow up in a space that develops such a true sense of community. To grow up in a school that isn't afraid to speak its mind, a place that isn't afraid to take action.

As I think of everyone in the class of 2020, I couldn't be more proud of everyone. I couldn't be more thankful for the relationships I've created, and friends I have made. And before I say goodbye I want to say thank you. Thank you for easing my worry about the future, thanks for reassuring me that everything will be okay. Because I know with people like us shaping the future everything will be okay.

--Leif Gregory

and we have shown that our bond is not tied down to Jefferson High School. It exists beyond it, and our relationships with one another will continue as we go our separate ways into the greater metro area, region, country, and world.

In short, we have been tested in fire and came out as gold.

So, Class of 2020, I want you to know that we are the class of overcoming; of dusting your shoulders off and keeping it moving. We are the class of the pivot, adjust, and continue onward. And we will set a new trajectory built upon our ideas, values, and visions. We've seen too much to close our eyes now.

--Selam Getu



# Grads Reflect

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

## Jefferson, O School of Mine

My reflections are on the friends I've made, both students and teachers. Jefferson changed me, for better or for worse.

In middle school, when I told classmates I was going to Jefferson, I got asked "Aren't you afraid?" or "You know you're gonna get beat up, right?" Those people made me worried, but when I entered the halls of Jefferson, I was instantly greeted with warmth and a kind outstretched hand. People are wrong about Jefferson, nobody here fights you just for being the wrong person. Instead they nurture your difference, draw it out and help you be who you want to be.

I've been asked what is my biggest regret is from my years here, and I always say the same thing, "I regret that I didn't participate more. I only went to one dance the entire time I was there and it was the best experience I had. I tell them that if I could go back to that first Homecoming dance way back in 2016, I would have gone.

Jefferson was more than a school to me, it was a community. A place where I felt I could be myself without being judged or bullied. From the friends I made, to the teachers that taught me, to the classes I took, Jefferson was almost a second home. I am grateful for the time I spent at Jefferson and the support that I've received.

--Atticus Wilson



Series of photos collected by Brennan Fadel and Lola Pedegana.

## Bringing that Demo Pride

It has been an honor for the past 3 years to call myself the captain of the JHS Men's Team. It has been a wild 4 years. As a team there were games where we had big wins and games where we had terrible losses, but we never let the losses define who we are. We are a team that never dies, even in the last moments of every game.

I wore the JHS jersey with pride, passion and heart. Every game was special, not because of the score or team we played, but because of all the students, teachers, family members, and community members supporting us even after the final whistle. To all of our sports I would just like to say thank you for always bringing that Demo pride.

And thus I say farewell and good luck to the future of this amazing program at JHS.

--Antonio Veaudry

## Setting an Example

I lasting legacy in my personal life would be having children who are open-minded and kind. The word "kind" is often used synonymously with caring or sweet, and although I do want that for them, I want my children to be their own kind; someone of a unique disposition.

I am still young and have learned little of what the world has in store and I also know that I am not a perfect person and that no one is, but when the time comes and I do have children, I will teach them the good and bad of our society and teach them that there are infinite walks of life and that with every encounter and every issue that arrives, there are equally infinite ways to approach them and I want them to approach it in their unique way.

--Da-Nae Monroe

## Days Now All the Same

Waking up in the morning has never been fun, but these days especially so. It seems like just yesterday that when I would wake up and dread going to school. Now I dread waking up knowing that the days are all kinda the same.

I fill the time up by making and practicing music, reading and doing some other things. It's always the mornings that seem the hardest though. Knowing that the day is probably gonna be just like the last and wishing it wasn't and hoping at some point someone says something that things are getting better and that we will be able to go back to life as we knew it.

This pandemic has definitely made me appreciate some things a lot more. It has also provided time to and reflect on how my high school years went and just who I am as a person in general. I've actually enjoyed that part of the quarantine strangely enough. Hopefully though this ends sooner rather than later.

--David Uppinghouse

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20



Zach Brandt takes notes during a visit to PSU.

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# Interpretations of Life through Art

## Creative works give Jefferson seniors a voice



When I came to Jefferson, art became a huge part of my identity. In my four years of high school, I discovered that I really enjoyed drawing buildings. For the Portland Observer, I decided to draw the school that represents a second home to me.--Jayla Pride

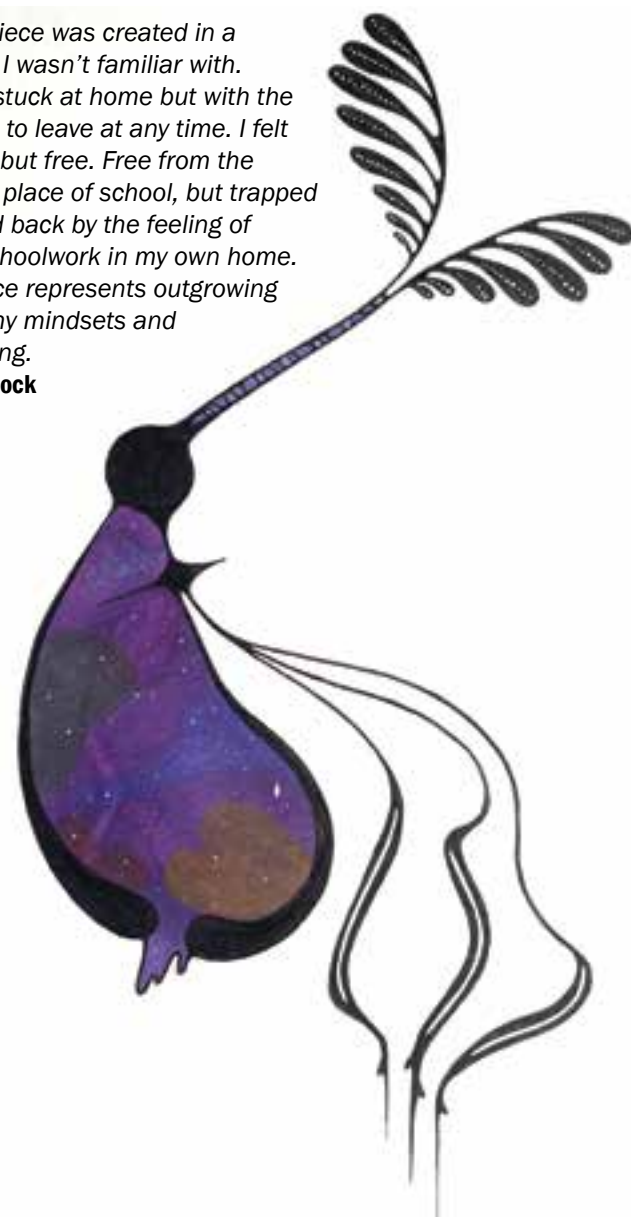
There's so much going on in the world right now and a mass of it is destruction, so this painting is a reminder that there will be good things coming out of the pandemic that wouldn't have happened without it.

--Samuel Densmore



My art piece was created in a mindset I wasn't familiar with. Feeling stuck at home but with the privilege to leave at any time. I felt trapped but free. Free from the physical place of school, but trapped and held back by the feeling of doing schoolwork in my own home. This piece represents outgrowing unhealthy mindsets and prospering.

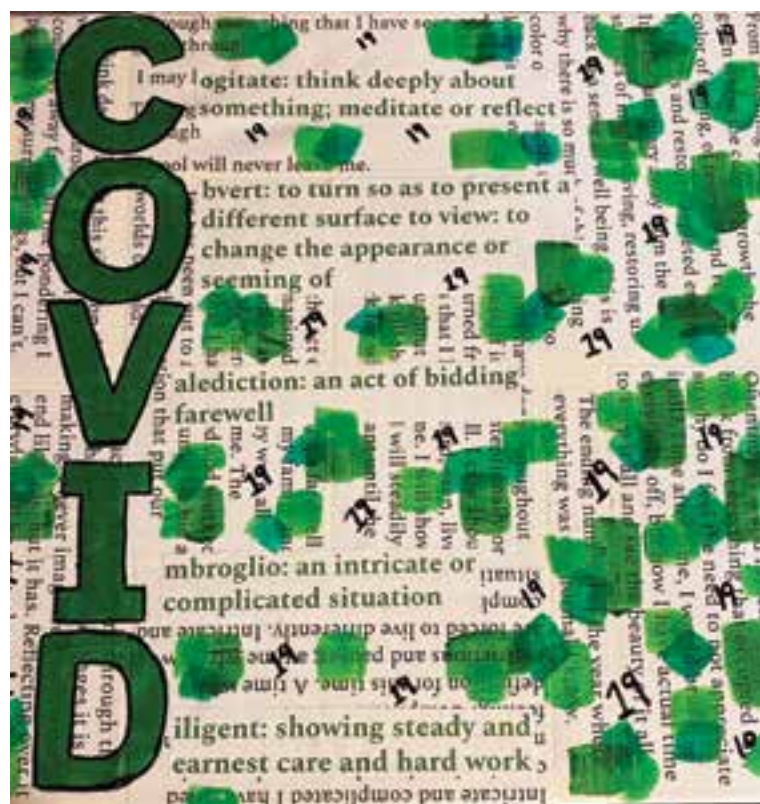
--Aries Brock



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The background of the canvas include words I chose for each letter in COVID, providing an alternative acronym for the coronavirus; Cogitate to think deeply; Obvert to present different views; Valediction for an act of bidding farewell; Imbrogio to show a complicated situation; and Diligent to show steadiness. I drew each letter and its definitions in green, a color associated with new beginnings and a time of renewal and rebirths. The color green is what I believe connects us most to this time.

-- Gabriela Azcorra-Uicab





My artwork is based on how I was passing the time in quarantine. Digital collages reflect the long walks and bike rides I went on to pass the time. Other drawings represent my boredom when I didn't have anything to do. They represent my perception of time being distorted in lockdown. I hope other people are inspired by what they see in my art. --Robert Chandler



This piece was inspired by a school writing assignment and art piece from earlier in the year in which we created visionary fiction for a book. Titled "The Butterfly Effect," it is made to look like a mural that might be on a temple wall. You can see there is always an eye somewhere in the mural and it is extremely colorful. The eye is supposed to look like it has static in it and be a bit unsettling to look at. It also contrasts with the rest of the piece by being in black and white, standing out by not having any color. It was made by drawing shapes and lines and then filling it in with even more shapes and lines, first by sketching it out by hand on paper and then outlining and coloring it digitally. --Pari Karch-Agnew



The world today is strange, and looking back on the world before all of this chaos ensued seems almost cartoonish. --Max Moss



There's so much going on in the world right now and a mass of it is destruction, so this painting is a reminder that there will be good things coming out of the pandemic that wouldn't have happened without it. --Sabine Westby



A stark painting full of symbolism and dramatic color. --Valicia Glass

The goal of this piece is to communicate the roles of good and evil in our life. Some people unrealistically believe that life is only good. However, we wouldn't know what a good life contains without facing the bad. The good and bad have a sort of yin-yang relationship where they both contribute equal parts. We live in a world that requires balance which is similar to the Law of Conservation of Energy. Despite what may happen in the world, the good and bad will balance out. --Seraiah Hardy



The reason I created this piece was to learn and explore the anatomy of the human face. --Precious Dangerfield



I chose to submit some of my journal entries from these last couple months because I think it will be valuable for me to look back on after all of this is over. We are living through a time that will be talked about in history books so I have been journaling as a way to document these times and to ground myself when it feels like too much. --Sarah Sullivan



# Grads Reflect

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

## Focus on Less Fortunate

Despite COVID keeping me inside for the past couple of months, it has not affected me as much or as severely as it has others. My dad is still able to work and my mom received a stimulus check with a bit extra because she is caring for a dependent. Others are not so fortunate.

Focusing just on the problems of renters; some are able to withhold on rent payments due to the obvious. However, many landlords are not as caring and are trying to evict tenants. This puts renters in an awkward position because even if they go to housing court and win their case they will still be blacklisted in finding a living space in the future. Property owners don't have it too much easier. They have to pay things like the mortgage, utility bills and property taxes.

COVID has made me grateful for how easy I have it. Sure like everyone else I'm at least somewhat inconvenienced. But at least I don't have to choose between feeding my family and paying rent.

--Ethan Gillespie

## A Year of Growth

More than anything, this year has been a year of growth. The world may never be the same as it was before this year; and I feel like that may be for the best.

A clean slate can be good; starting over and looking at our past selves gives us a chance to learn from any mistakes we might have made, and become better people.

This strange time has taught us a lot, even with so many people out of school. Because of the need to stay apart, we're realizing just how much we need the company and support of our friends and family. We're



## Pandemic's Random Days

Staying busy has been my life. Because working is what gets you places, working is what will help you get to where you want to be in life.

For 18 years I have been told that life after high school just gets more tough, no matter if you go to college or go straight to work. But now that everyone from all ages is being stopped from working because of COVID-19, it provides a window

on humanity. Life isn't about working all the time. It's not about how much money there is in someone's bank account. It's not about appearances. Being around loved ones is the most important thing in life and this pandemic is proof of that.

During these days there is so much room for thinking. Some days it gets to me and other days it doesn't. Some days I think of world issues and others days I think of dumb things that probably don't matter.

--Emely Valenzuela

## Missing My School Family

Does anyone remember when we couldn't go a week without a fire alarm being pulled and how much relief it gave you in the middle of a test or a rant from an angry teacher. Or walking up to the D-floor afterwards because you couldn't snag a ride on the elevator. Or how about the random dance parties on B-floor, the random group singing in the hallway, the long talks from Pettiford that you try to escape from but can't. Don't you just miss it?

March 13 was our last day guys. That was it. No more getting stuck in Mr. Dixon's office as he asks all these questions that have nothing to do with what you actually needed from him. Are you sad? I am. I'm also conflicted cause I'm usually ready to leave Jeff and now I wanna be in it. I miss the close bonds and relationships I built with people whom I didn't get the chance to say goodbye.

I miss my school family. I miss breathing in Jeff's unique scent. I miss sitting at my locker or visiting Dalton's room just because. As I embark on the next part of my journey, I will take Jeff with me, the good, bad, the ugly, all of it.

--Jaliyah Jointer

## Reflecting on the 'What If's'

It isn't unusual for me to procrastinate. But because of COVID-19, I've realized that in my past I took time for granted. During quarantine, I've looked out my window and thought of so many scenarios. The sun makes me miss Peninsula Park, ankle deep in the fountain water. Or, the rain makes me miss board games inside the Middle College office.

I wonder how my days would have been spent if 2020 was like the years before. If a pandemic wasn't the reality, what would I've been doing? Skipping class most definitely. I would be in the halls eating food from Cherry Sprout or harassing Mr. Causey. Ducking and dodging counselors, because I don't want to talk about college. I was busy counting the days until graduation, now I wish I made the days count.

Quarantine has allowed me time to think about the adventures taken and the adventures that have been lost. Though I've focused on the what if's, I want to move on with the I will's. I cannot get back the time COVID-19 has used up, but I can plan for my time in the aftermath. I will make the most out of another time.

--Jayla Pride

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

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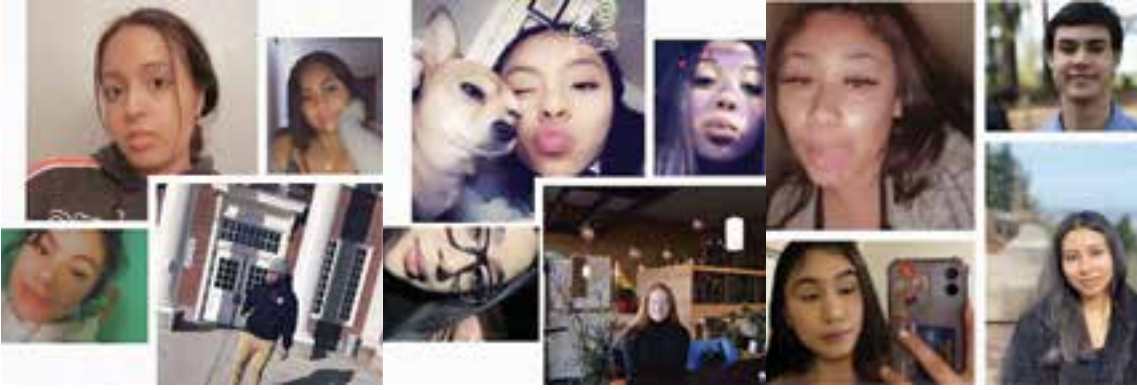
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Jaylen McDonald (Left) and Alatini Mapapalangi celebrating a Demo victory.



# Shout Outs to Jefferson



## To New Friendships and Old Ones

A shout out to all the friends shown here, as we have made our friendships through our high school.

## You Helped Me Find Myself

The most interesting thing from my Jefferson experience was finding myself. I always was a shy person but you, Mr. Lennie Edwards, my digital media teacher, cracked me out of my shell.

I made things I never thought I could. I learned things I never thought I could do. I liked that this class lightens you up and makes you realize you are smart and have potential. Even though you are a very blunt person, you mean the things you say and put confidence in people.

I also learned not to care about what other people think of me because it doesn't matter as long as you know you have it within yourself.

--Anonymous Class of 2020 senior

## Looking Ahead and Finding Myself

Here in these uncertain and unpredicted times there is not much to do these days. Recently, I have been trying to start the next chapter of my life since the previous one ended so suddenly. I have been trying to find myself, eliminate toxic and unhealthy friendships, meet new people who I am about to cross paths with in three short months, and sleeping, of course!

---Naydiah Bunn



## Jefferson Staff and Teachers

These are some of the Jefferson staff that deserves a shout out, from those that submitted photos.

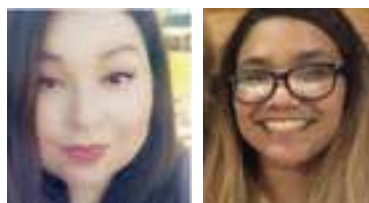


## MECHA

A shout out to Jefferson's MECHA group. This year we were able to couplet a lot and make some amazing bonds.

## Fabiola Mascote, Sofia Dominguez, Latina Network

A shout out to the Latino Network and the amazing people that work and help others there throughout the year.



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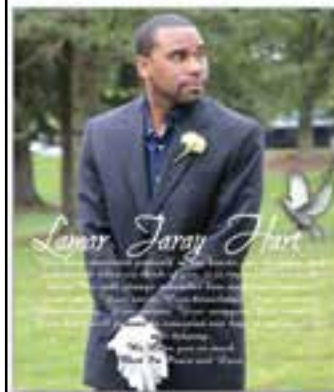
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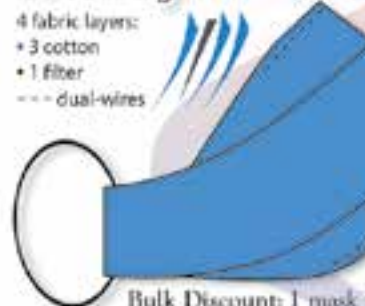
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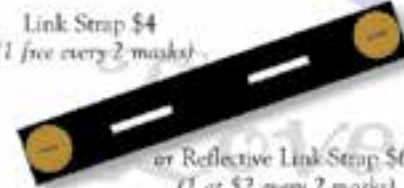
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## SUB-BIDS REQUESTED

### PCC Sylvania - Temporary Modular Units at Lot P12 Portland, OR

**Bids Due: June 15th, 2020 at 12:00pm**

The scope of work for the Temporary Modular Units at Lot P12 includes: Erecting temporary modular units on the parking lot P12 as a temporary swing space for the Health Technology classrooms and staff offices. Structural requirements for modular units include place & finish of footings, ADA curb cuts with truncated domes, and sidewalk alterations. Asphalt for trailer ramps and regrading / resurfacing ADA parking areas with new striping and parking signage. Earthwork scope includes excavation to tie into existing storm, sanitary, and water service lines as well as electrical and telecom trenches. Electrical scope includes new power transformer, electrical power for units, low voltage, fire alarm, and security. Plumbing scope to include connection to water and sanitary waste from Civil stubs. Interior build-out of the units to consist of interior wall framing, painting, window coverings, doors, frames, and hardware. Reconditioning of the parking lot after use of modular units to include removal of temporary ADA stalls, signage, curbs, ramp pads, and asphalt to patch over footings and a final sweep and seal for restriping.

Bid documents are available on Lewis' Building Connected Website and available electronically upon request.

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### PCC Sylvania - Dive Pool Repair Portland, OR

**Bids Due: June 15th, 2020 at 12:00pm**

The scope of work for the PCC Sylvania Dive Pool Repair includes: Removal of existing waterproofing product in the overflow gutter and re-applying new waterproofing product inside the gutter. Removal of existing ceramic tile at top and side of overflow gutter curb and re-installing with new ceramic tile. Removal and reinstallation of existing pool lights (Electrical) and new wall return inlets (Plumbing). Installation of new pool liner system over existing pool plaster wall and ceramic tile at bottom of the pool. Removal and installation of new pool ladders.

Bid documents are available on Lewis' Building Connected Website and available electronically upon request.

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# Grads Reflect

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

## I Struggled, I Excelled

When I first walked into Jefferson High School as a freshman, it was scary in a sense because I was now officially in high school. The halls were deep and empty.

Sophomore year stood out because that was the year I got Mr. Kulak as an English teacher. My brothers told me Kulak was the best teacher at Jefferson; but my brothers don't always have the best judgment so I thought I'd give him a chance, not knowing that he was going to give me the best year of my life.

Mr. Kulak made me think critically, use different words to expand my vocabulary. He made me think poetry was even better than watching TV. No matter how many times I complained, he never let me give up because he believed in me.

Senior year was a year of confusion, and deciding where to go to college was the hardest decision to make. Because of COVID-19, I was robbed of the graduation ceremony I thought was going to be my proudest moment, but I can celebrate all of my hard work over the course of those four years. I struggled, I excelled, I became me!

--Maaliyah Hepburn

## Senior Year was Great

I've had mixed emotions about high school, but my senior class was great. This year has been my favorite year so far because of how much we learned—way more than I learned in the past three years. But this was a weird year due to the coronavirus and how it cut the year short. I wish we could have had more time with the teachers that we had but it really was something to remember.

And I just want to thank everyone who helped me get to where I am now. So thank you guys and keep doing what you guys are doing.

--Jadon Callier



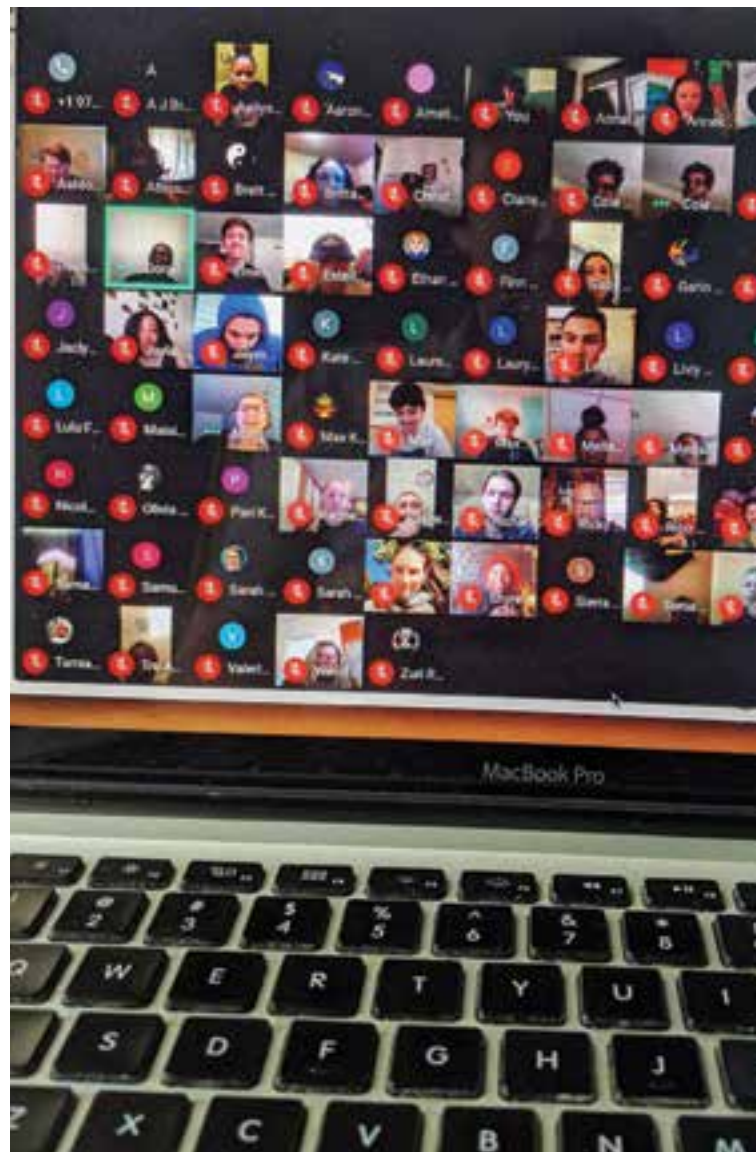
Rachel Huckans (Left) and Shiyan Guo do research at PSU.



Selam Getu (Left) and Sierra Briscoe hook up ramen during FreeStyle Friday.



(L-R) Tamia Miller, Sierra Briscoe, Stella Lynch, Maisie McCarley and Aries Brock start class with some reflective writing.



Senior Inquiry students log in to a Zoom class.



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Anneka Root is an aspiring photographer. This is an example of her work.

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# Giving Back at the Jefferson Food Pantry

BY RICHARD SANCHEZ

The Jefferson Food Pantry has been going on since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in April and has been going on every Tuesday and Friday. We get deliveries from Hopscotch foundation, Urban Gleaners, Main Spring, and many other small donations. With this food that gets donated to us, we have been able to feed over 400 people at one time.

We usually set it up in a straight line, just like any other food pantry. We have two canopies set up, with strings on the outside so people



know not to come so close to the tables. We have volunteers that come every time we do this. While they are there, we have some jobs that we need to do. We have about a couple of people that help us sort vegetables and fruits, while others set up and put together the tents and tables. Others have sorted and organized the food on the table.

When we get started, we have people go to different stations, so canned food, perishables, rice and grains, eggs, etc. We do this from 1 to 3 pm and while we do this, people can get back in line and get more food if they want. On Fridays, we have desserts that are beneficial to everyone. Urban Gleaners only come on Friday and they deliver some great food,

while also delivering food for volunteers. We also get boxes of food from them on this day, so if someone does not want to stand in line for a long while, they can come and just grab a box.

While it does get hectic sometimes, due to the number of volunteers we have, we are able to make do with them. While some of our volunteers don't make it sometimes, we always have enough people to do the job at the minimum. I also want to say thank you to the wonderful supporters that we have in this group and for all the volunteers that come Tuesdays and Fridays. Especially the Honl Family, my Father, my God Brother, friends, and other acquaintances.

## Scholarships Empower Class of 2020

*The Jefferson High School Class of 2020 continues to work hard to apply for and win a multitude of scholarships in varying amounts from private scholarship foundations, community organizations, colleges and universities. The following list is not comprehensive, it does not include institutional scholarships awarded directly by colleges or universities, and there are likely others we were not aware of at the time of publication. We can expect the scholarship dollars to keep rolling in for these seniors!*

### Self Enhancement, Inc. (SEI) Scholarships

- **Oregon Higher Education Scholarship - any school in Oregon \$20,000 over 4 years:** Aries Brock
- **Portland State University SEI Match - \$20,000 over 4 years:** Arianna Hunter and Maaliyah Hepburn
- **University of Oregon Scholarship - \$16,000 over 4 years:** Mykala King, Emely Valenzuela and Magpie Mack
- **University of Oregon SEI Match Scholarship - \$40,000 over 4 years:** Jaylen McDonald and Lulu Flores-Herrera
- **Inskeep Family Foundation Scholarship - anywhere in the US over 4 years:** Selam Getu - \$16,000, Olivia Martin - \$16,000, Jaliyah Jointer - \$32,000 and Inyla Hollis - \$100,000

### Jefferson High School Scholarships

- **Jefferson Alumni Scholarship:** Cynthia Riley - \$578
- **Frances Brunk Scholarship:** Samaya Morgan - \$689
- **Carl and Dorothy Crow Scholarship:** Brennan Fadel - \$1,000, Magpie Mack - \$1,000 and Jaylen McDonald - \$1,000
- **Glenna Teeters Scholarship:** Da-Nae Monroe - \$2,502, Leif Gregory - \$1,000 and Maaliyah Hepburn - \$1,000
- **Elda Washer Scholarship:** MaxNathe-\$2,000 and Emely Valenzuela-\$2,000
- **Horatio Alger Scholarship:** \$10,000 over four years - Kelsey Linnell
- **Kaiser Healthcare Career Scholarship:** \$10,000 over four years - Tamia Miller
- **Beat the Odds Scholarship:** \$16,000 over four years- Mekdes Hilete
- **ActSix Portland-Salem:** Full-tuition, full-need leadership award: Gabriela Azcorra-Uicab, Corban College and Valeria Michel-Garcia, Corban College
- **Jordan Brand Wings Scholars:** Full-ride scholarship to any school - Mekdes Hilete, Wellesley College and Tamia Miller, University of San Francisco



Myles Hoggans delivers a lesson on Japanese Anime.



(left to right) Alatini Mapapalangi, D'Androse Robinson, Jadon Callier and Cole Blue host a Podcast.

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