

Musical Chairs In A Pandemic

Candice Millow Editor-In-Chief

In such a sociable career, teachers have had to make a drastic change in their way of teaching. It has been an adjustment for many, but for our teachers, it is especially important to recognize the hard work and dedication they have put into this new way of teaching. We asked all chairmen at Clovis High School to participate in an interview to understand and hear how they are adjusting to virtual school and the pandemic. Here are some of the responses we've received.

How has the pandemic affected you as a teacher, specifically, what are the advantages and disadvantages?



Mrs. Howalt and her family

Missy Howalt: I'm not sure I can respond in terms of advantages and disadvantages. It is so very different in teaching this way. In a very brief amount of time, I had to learn how to exclusively use technology for the medium of instruction when I had been a paper and pen

girl almost exclusively in the classroom. The fact that I learned something new and useful should always be considered an asset.

Tracie Jones: The biggest change for me personally is that I do not get to see my students in person. Learning a language and culture takes a community - you have to use language with other people to learn it! I see this as a huge disadvantage. However, I have been able to spend more time with my family which is an advantage.

Adrian Lucero: I believe that great teaching is great teaching no matter if face-to-face or online. However, I have to work through obstacles and adapt just like everyone working during the pandemic. For example, I teach very hands-on technology classes and even if I find an acceptable simulation to use, it is no substitute for actual hands-on. My greatest advantage is that many supportive colleagues are only an email or Google Meet away with great ideas.

What has been the most challenging part of virtual teaching?

Missy Howalt: I miss the physical presence of

my students. I feel like I'm much more effective as a teacher when I can see their work as it's happening. I can check their progress and move students who are ready forward while helping students who need more instruction become ready to move forward. I miss the

audience. I miss the discourse. I miss the debate. I miss the silliness. I miss the wit. I miss knowing them personally and knowing what they're proud of, and where they struggle. I love celebrat-

near the same as in school. I can't do anything the same as last year - projects, group work, etc.

What lessons have you learned from the pan-



Mrs. Jones and her family.

demic that have affected your life and your teaching?

ing their accomplishments, and supporting them when they are hurting. The distance is just that... very far away.

Tracie Jones: Being on the computer all day is exhausting. I also wish more students would let me see their faces and interact with me in class. If I can only see people's walls or ceilings, it feels like I am teaching into a void.

How much of an adjustment was switching from live school to virtually for you?

Missy Howalt: It was a huge adjustment. Most of the time it felt like we were trying to build an airplane while we were in midair and hoping not to crash. I'm still not as proficient at virtual teaching as my colleagues. I depend on the expertise of my fellow teachers, especially the ones in my department.

Tracie Jones: This has been a huge adjustment for me. Teaching online is nowhere

Missy Howalt: I've learned that CHS is full of resilient people. The kids are juggling so much. They are sitting in front of computers for hours a day, sometimes while helping siblings the entire day. Some of them take college courses as well, so that's more time on the computer at night. They have assignments in all seven classes, which takes up time in the evening because there is no time to do the work during the day. Many students also have jobs.

Teachers are learning new technology, preparing lessons, trying to engage 30 silent boxes on their screen, grading work, performing social/emotional checks. All the while trying to maintain boundaries because the emails come at all hours day and night. Because it's in our nature to stop whatever we are doing to help kids.

Parents are trying to help. They want their children to be successful. They don't know how to do many of the lessons. Some of them had to quit their jobs to help their kids. They worried about the health of their families, and also about the mental health of their children.

Administrators and support staff, too, are working and helping and supporting as much as I've ever seen anyone try and help teachers, children, and parents. All of us as a community are pulling together because we have to. I keep relearning something that I have known my whole life: there is nothing tougher than a Clovis Wildcat.

Tracie Jones: 2020 has been a crazy year, so if nothing else I want my students to know that I am here for them - I think I am more focused on that and being supportive than anything else.

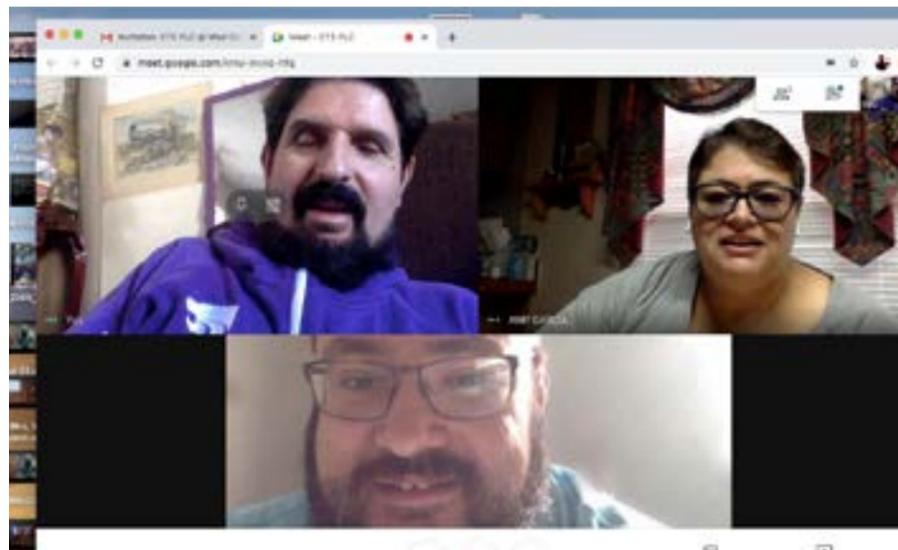
Adrian Lucero: I've learned how important it is to set

boundaries for work I do after school hours. It is important to take time for myself to exercise since I do not have the luxury of walking many steps around my classroom helping my students. I have to stay healthy and energetic to help my students.

What teaching techniques do you use to motivate your students virtually?

Missy Howalt: We do attendance questions. "What's your favorite food?", "What do you like about distance learning?" We try to point out silver linings together as a class. I schedule fun activities in my plans, so they have to unmute their mics and talk to me. I stay in the Meet when the class is over in case they want to log back in for help, or to talk to me. I make office hours where I'm available. I call my students to check on them, especially the ones that are struggling.

Tracie Jones: I want my



Mr. Lucero (bottom) in CTE meeting with Mr. Martinez (top left) and Mrs. Garcia (top right).

students to be able to see their progress in class - I am not wasting anyone's time, we are learning! I point out progress and we talk or write about it every week. This includes not just new things we learned, but also our confidence levels in the class.

Adrian Lucero: I let them know that it is okay to mess up on an assignment and how important it is to utilize the feedback they are given to make corrections and grow. I push a growth

mindset and remind students to place the word "yet" after phrases such as "I can't do this", "I'm not good at this", and "it doesn't make sense."

We are very appreciative of our faculty and all that they do to bring positivity to our classrooms, both in-class and online. Show your support and thankfulness whenever you can to remind them of how much we value our CHS teachers!



America's Choice: Trump or Biden

Alayna Mayo
Staff Writer

Pro Trump

There can be no doubt that anything even remotely regarding politics has become venomously contentious within our country over the past four years. While our individual opinions and beliefs should be protected at all costs, it has become increasingly clear that we, as an American people, have sacrificed our civility to share our thoughts, at the expense of relationships and respectability within our families and communities. While much of this contention is most

often blamed on one party or another, I would implore you to question, first and foremost, whether or not we are listening to both sides of the argument.

With an election merely days away, those of us 18 years and older have a decision to make: vote for President Donald Trump, or former Vice President Joe Biden. While the answer may come easily to some, others feel uneasy about the future of our nation. Americans are thirsting for clarity regarding the potential leader of America, as President of the United States.

Simply put, Donald J. Trump is a viable, credible candidate for the approaching election. While many would immediately disagree with this statement, I would ask you to listen. Do not let my opinion change yours, but rather, let it open your mind and encourage you to research each candidate further. I don't ask you to believe me, I would just ask you to hear me. Donald Trump should be considered for reelection in order to prove himself worthy of office, for a chance to rebuild the economy, and for an attempt to prove the integrity of his character.

First, it's no secret that the media are divided by partisan politics. This is merely human nature. No matter how much one tries to eliminate bias in their works, one can never totally eradicate it. Many mainstream media networks have sided with more arguably liberal views, whether intentionally or not. Consequently, this means that they have sided against Trump, seeing as how he belongs to the Republican party. While I'm not asking you to not discredit the work of mainstream media platforms, I will ask you to locate bias the next time you watch or read any popular news site.

I believe that you will find, more often than not, many platforms have taken the liberty of personally insulting the President. Despite provocation, those that would claim to be better than their enemy would do well not to act like him. After all, how could one claim to be the “good guy” when their actions are nothing more than the mirror image of the “bad guy”. Donald Trump receives a lot of hate for the things he’s done, and, whether justified or not, being cruel or hateful to anyone is not right.

Additionally, we should remember that Donald Trump is not a politician. He did not center his career on political science, nor did he work his way up the congressional ladder to office. He is a businessman. I think that it is worth noting that a man with no political background was able to negotiate one of the most powerful positions in the world with the American people. This is evidence that this man can get what he

wants. However, it has been an ambition of Mr. Trump’s for a considerable time. Perhaps a number of the younger generation aren’t aware, but Donald Trump has attempted to run for office several times now. He first contemplated the idea in the 1980s. Which begs the question: what did he have in 2016 that he didn’t have in 1987? I don’t think that there’s any one right answer. But I do know that



Trump accumulated a movement around himself in 2016. A crowd of devoted people flooded him with support because of the power and

wealth he had acquired over the years of his career. He was surrounded by notable names and faces from his days as a reality TV star and the empire he inherited from his father. There was a sense of power the American people were ravenous for, and he delivered with more influence. He was a businessman making promises.

It must be said that four years is hardly enough

time to deliver the liberties, freedoms, and economic prosperity that President Trump has promised. After all, former President Barack Obama was elected into

office twice. Why shouldn’t Mr. Trump be given the same?

As for the response regarding COVID-19, I do believe that our president was given a bad lot. As someone who has no medical education or experience, it was undoubtedly frightening for someone in such an important position to be burdened with the weight of enormous responsibility. However, should President Trump continue to analyze the data and stick to the facts, I am sure he could get us out of the crisis we have found ourselves in.

Nevertheless, it is important to research the facts for yourselves and draw your conclusions. My opinions on the candidates running for president should not affect yours. However, I do thank you very much for hearing me through until the end. And I would ask everyone 18 and older to vote. The future of America is in your hands.

Noah Luscombe Guest Writer Hailey Larson Guest Writer

Pro Biden

Joe Biden is a very popular candidate. Not only is he an alternative to Donald Trump, he also has many promises on his website. Some of the many promises in place are things like a better reinstatement of the Affordable Care Act, LGBTQ+ rights (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning), and aid in the women’s movement. His plans are very great and larger than himself; they have even been labeled “Joe’s Visions” and titled “Bold Ideas” on his website (<https://joebiden.com>). These visions are very progressive and want to work towards our country becoming a truly better place. He wants equality for all people regardless of race, religion, and sexuality. This is stated on his website in the same

general area (the visions page).

To elaborate on what has been said about what he plans on doing, he has promised to give the oppressed people ways to climb out of the pits of attack and pain given by oppressors by building up laws to protect these people from hate crimes and general discrimination. He also wants to help the working class through the Great Recession that has knocked so many people off their feet into the dangerous and stressful territory of overwhelming debt and other financial issues.

Another promise is to reform the criminal justice system, which has incarcerated far too many people. Many of these people are black and brown. Lastly, the final promise is to respect our veterans and help keep them safe and secure before, after, and during war times.

In the high point of the economic crisis, Biden has stood by the people of color who have lost their lives, jobs, and businesses. He states that he will help

build up a better economy that aids BIPOC (Black, Indigenous People of Color) to have equity and equality. In another form of crisis is the global pandemic that Trump has downplayed, acting as though it is nothing to worry about. 227,000 American people have lost their lives in this global pandemic with even more 8.6 million people becoming sick and losing their jobs, homes, and vehicles because of it. Biden will help with the crisis by helping with the financial issues caused by COVID, as nobody can solve it without funding.

Black Lives Matter is a movement that has been around for over 7 years, but in recent years it has become more and more prominent, overall becoming its highest in recent months. Biden has stated that he will help fix racial injustices and fight to help black people and their problems in the economy and justice system.

In women’s issues, there is a lot of injustice, femicide, and assault. Women have had horrible

oppression for centuries, and Biden has promised to help women get ahead and in a better place in society. He has been working to help with security and the ending of violence.

Overall, Biden is a good choice for the presidency as he plans to do amazing things for this country. He wants to help those who are down and fix what is broken. He aims to help America become truly great again.



COVID-19 Update Part 2

Candice Millow
Editor-In-Chief
Alayna Mayo
Staff Writer

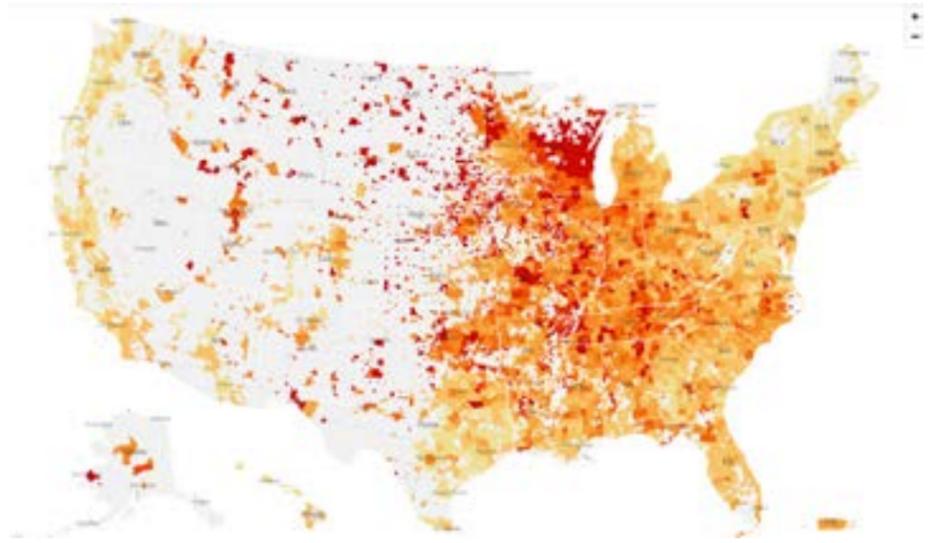
All data collected in this article have been retrieved from Johns Hopkins with the link provided <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/us-map>.

As of October, there have been roughly 40,240,00 confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally. Of that number, roughly 8,177,148 of those cases were American. America is currently the number one country in the world for COVID-19 cases. In second and third place: India, with roughly 7,550,273 cases, and Brazil with 5,235,344 cases respectively. Russia is the fourth country

with the highest number of cases: approximately 1,406,667.

The United States is also the country with the highest death toll. As of October 19, the death count resides at approximately 219,880 deaths. There have been about 1,115,907 deaths globally. The US, Brazil, India, Mexico, and the United Kingdom are the top five nations with the highest death counts in order. The COVID-19-related deaths of the United Kingdom stand at about 43,816.

In the United States, New York City, Texas, California, and Florida are the five highest-ranking states/ areas regarding the



death toll. New York City stands at 33,336 deaths, Texas with a confirmed 17,468 deaths, California holding 16,979 confirmed deaths and Florida stands at approximately 16,021 deaths.

New Mexico stands at approximately 934 deaths and about 36,788 cases. The

state's response regarding COVID-19 currently stands in the middle ground, however, there is a high increase in cases compared to September.

By the time our newspaper is published on October 28th, the numbers will have changed.

Planning For A Hybrid Model

Candice Millow
Editor-In-Chief
Nicole Neyra
Staff Writer

Although not many would admit it, students are missing a classroom and face-to-face interaction with their teachers and classmates now more than ever. With the outbreak in COVID-19, schools had to adjust by

closing down and switching from in-school learning to online learning, to keep the students and faculty safe. This change has affected not only the students but the teachers as well. Attempting to put such a social environment online has been a struggle for many, but now, Clovis Municipal Schools have the opportunity to reopen schools as safely as possible using hybrid learning, and here is what you need to know about it.

If you are not familiar with hybrid learning, it is simply



By our publication date, Elementary Schools will remain in Hybrid Mode.

dividing the school into three cohorts labeled as A, B, and C. Cohort A will go to in-school learning on Mondays and Tuesdays, and Cohort B attends on Thursdays and Fridays. Wednesday will be used to sanitize and deep-clean the schools. On the days that students are not attending, they will be able to access their classes online. Cohort C, however, will be fully online by choice. This way, there is less exposure and social distancing is easier to accomplish.

Whether we attend school online or in-person is

determined by what mode we are in as a district. There are three modes: green, yellow, and red. These colors represent what stage Clovis Municipal Schools are in regarding the learning style status. The red represents remote mode, meaning students have to stay in the virtual until further notice. Yellow represents hybrid mode, meaning students can go back to school in divided cohorts explained earlier in the article. The green represents traditional mode, meaning that students can go back to school for all five days of school.



After a couple of months with online learning in mode 'red', we are finally seeing schools reopening in the transition to the hybrid model. Recently, all

elementary schools have opened and students are now attending school following the hybrid model procedures. The plan is to open schools gradually, first being elementary, second being

middle school, and lastly, the High School.

This entire process will take patience and caution to ensure that students are entering school safely. As we

prepare to adapt to another style of learning, remember to wear your masks and practice healthy habits to be strong and ready to go back to school!

A Socially Distanced Halloween

Alayna Mayo
Staff Writer

The celebration of Halloween is highly regarded among the communities of America. In fact, it has been celebrated around the world for years. From Celtic traditions to Roman and Christian influence, to the commercialized holiday we know and love today. The celebration of Halloween takes place around the globe, and this year, it can take place right in one's own home.

The following information is derived and interpreted from a paper penned by the University at Albany. Research credit belongs to them.

The earliest beginnings of Halloween can be traced back to a holiday known as Samhain, a Celtic festival regarded as the New Year at that time. It was thought to be a day in which the souls of the departed could commune with those of the living. The New Year took note of the harvest season and the beginnings of winter, a season that largely acted as an omen of death associated with humans who had passed away. Most who celebrated the idea of revisiting deceased loved ones were considered Druids, or Celtic Pagans. They believed



that the spirits of the dead walked the earth once more on Samhain night.

The Druids danced around bonfires to ward off evil spirits and dressed in costumes while divining the fortunes of friends and family. It was believed that the night of Samhain was the most effective night to read the futures of the people around them.

Nevertheless, history intervened and the Romans conquered a large portion of the Celtic territory by 43 AD. Two festivals were celebrated to honor something similar to Celtic traditions. The Feralia festival and the celebration of Pomona, Roman Goddess of fruits and trees. Feralia was seen as a day to recognize the passing of the dead.

As Christian influence began to grow around the

world, the integration of cultures did as well. All Saints' Day was established by Pope Gregory IV to replace Samhain. Christian children that lived in villages would dance and dress up to acknowledge the significant deaths of specific Christian figures.

And finally, as Europeans emigrated to America, cultures collided once more. Communities of immigrants incorporated their traditions into those of their new neighbors. Eventually,

the traditions caught on and we have a modern-day Halloween.

As we continue to learn and adapt, we will infuse our own traditions into the cultural phenomenon known affectionately as Halloween. While this year has thrown everyone dozens of learning curves, we can still celebrate in a safe, healthy way. For those feeling apprehensive about Trick-or-Treating this year, know that there are a lot of fun ideas and activities the entire family can enjoy at home. Remember to be safe and have a great time while we celebrate a socially distanced Halloween.

 An advertisement for Taco Box featuring a collage of food items including burritos, tacos, and fries. A large "\$5" is prominently displayed in a black circle. A red banner says "includes a medium drink". The Taco Box logo is in the bottom right corner.

Meal Deals

\$5 includes a medium drink

(#1) Frijole Burrito & 2 Beef Tacos
(#3) Beef Taco, Chalupa, & Combo Burrito
(#4) 2 Frijole Burritos & Small Spanish Fries

Trick or Treat! Stay Six Feet!

Jovany Gomez
Staff Writer
Nicole Neyra
Staff Writer

Without a doubt, Halloween will be different this year. Due to the pan-

demic and the restrictions that were given, Halloween cannot be celebrated in its traditional way. Halloween can still be celebrated but everyone has to be at least six feet apart and wearing masks. In this article, we have given you a few ideas

on how to stay safe and as well have fun this Halloween.

Considering this Halloween will be untraditional, there are still ways to stay safe while celebrating the spooky holiday. CDC recommends multiple ways

to do so, one being to carve pumpkins with your household members. You can find pumpkins, as well as carving utensils, at your local stores. You can also impress your neighbors and passers-by, with your awe-inspiring and spine-chilling house decora-

tions. The best thing about this idea is that you can order your decorations safely through online shopping with the contact-free delivery method. Saving the best for last, you can change it from kids going from one house to the next for candy, to having them go room to room for the candy. The young ones will still receive that Halloween vibe while being

safe at home.

With the CDC guidelines, there is a good chance most of the events we have around town are not going to happen. If you still feel you need to go out, check the surrounding towns such as Portales, New Mexico, and Lubbock, Texas as there are multiple places to go in these towns. But before you

make the trip, be sure to call ahead of time and still check in with your local scary houses and farms to support our community.

Although we are in difficult times, much good can come out of this. Halloween can still be the celebration we are all used to, but with a twist. We can trick-or-treat indoors, make up fun cos-

tumes, and decorate our yards. There are still ways to celebrate Halloween but we just have to give in to the fact that this year, it will be different. For this reason, we have to stay safe and make smart choices this year. *Purple Press* wishes you a happy Halloween.

Horror Through The Decades

Kraven Long-Fisher Staff Writer

Movies are one of the biggest parts of entertainment and through the generations, movies have changed drastically. We start with some of the classics such as 1954's *The Creature of the Black Lagoon*, 1941's *Wolfman*, and 1931's *Dracula*. For their time these movies were terrifying and so new with all the different effects and technology. The '60s brought some of the best cult classic zombie movies of all time such as 1968's *The Night of the Living Dead*, and 1964's *The Last Man on Earth*. The '70's brought some terror to the table with 1975's *Jaws* and 1978's *Attack of the Killer Tomatoes*. As we move on to the '80's we start to get more kid-friendly horror movies such as 1984's



Gremlins and 1988's *Beetlejuice*. Kids could enjoy a scary movie with just enough comedy so they could sleep at night. Moving

on to the '90's we have some true horror sure to give you the creeps and keep your light on all night. 1990's *It*, 1998's *Ring*, and 1999's

The Haunting all set the bar high for the next generation of suspenseful attention drawers.

Now we welcome a new century, the 2000's. The 2000's brought highly advanced technology to the movie game. They brought more jumpscare, gorier, more realistic storylines, and special effects that the classics just don't have. To name a few of my favorites we have 2005's *The Ring Two*, 2007's *1408*, and 2008's *Clover Field*. From 2010 to now movies began to gain ground. Some movies I would suggest are 2016's *Lights Out*, 2010's *Insidious*, 2017's *Happy Death Day*, and 2020's *Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark*.

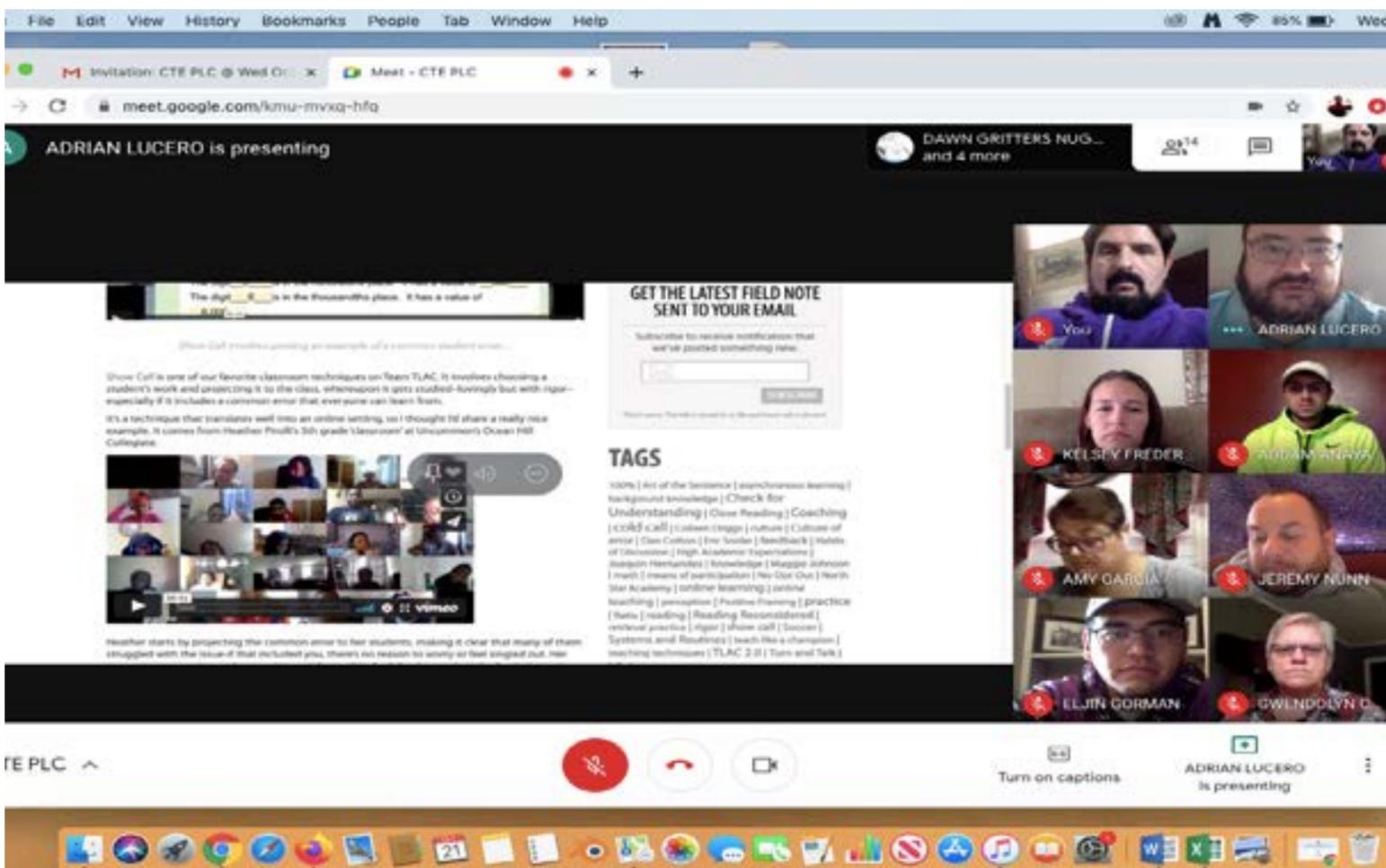
Over the decades, movies have been evolutionary and have had so much progress it is amazing. We can never replace our classics but in general, horror has come a long way and will only achieve more progress. I can't wait to see what the future holds for horror.



Virtual Learning: Continued



October Newspaper editing with Staff Writers



CHS faculty Professional Learning Community of CTE meeting.





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Publisher: The Eastern New Mexico News • 521 Pile St
PO Box 1689 Clovis, New Mexico 88102, (575) 763-3431