

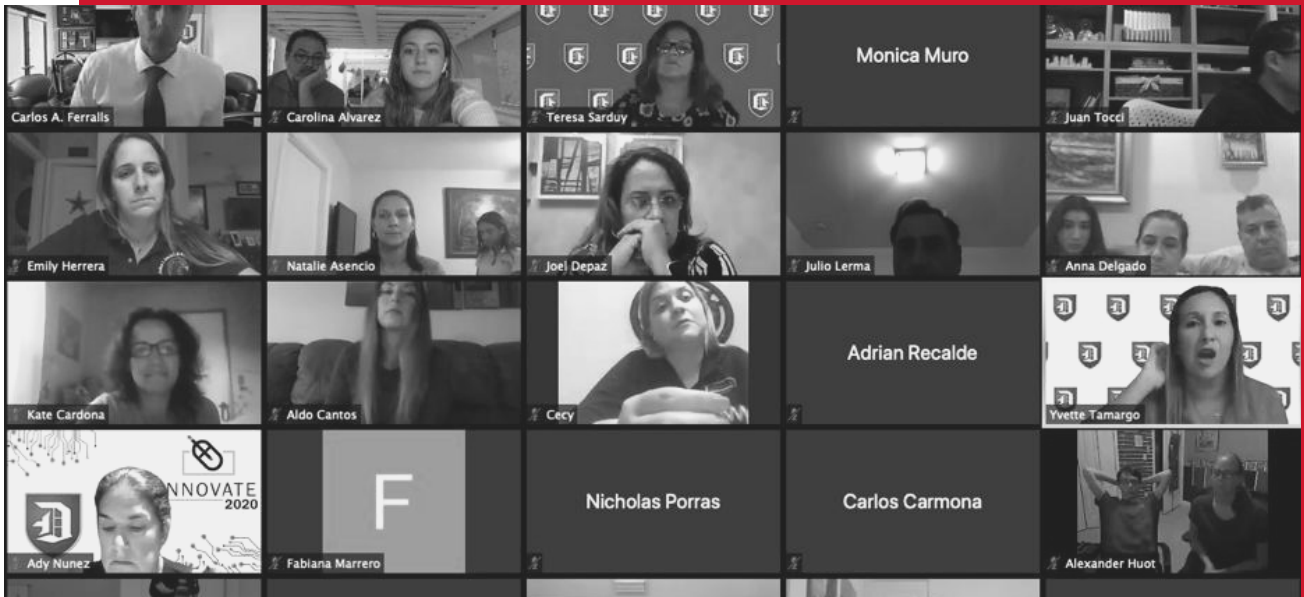
Issue. 2 | September 2020

Firebird Gazette



Rising above the occasion.

By: Gabriella Behar



CALENDAR



September 9th

- Eesac Meeting
 - 4:00 p.m.

September 24th

- Softball Informational Meeting
 - 2:30 p.m.
- Senior Parents & Students: Financial Aid Webinar
 - 6:30 p.m.

September 28th

- Teacher Work Day: No School

This year has been hectic, to say the least, and it's time to answer what's been on everyone's minds: when and how will students be returning to school? While conditions are not ideal, Doral Academy is doing the best they can to ensure safety and efficiency. Nothing is guaranteed as of now but there have been many theories circling. There will surely be plenty of modifying but the current plan is the best possible under the circumstances.

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SEASON 2

EPISODE 1



The Rise: Season 2

By: **Kassandra Mirabal**

Upon our return to school, our Firebird TV students have been working vigorously to keep us informed through our weekly morning show, The Rise. This year, they began the second season of their show that includes informing teachers, students, and parents on in school activities such as sports and clubs as well as entertaining segments that keep students involved--even through this virtual reality. Each year our Firebird TV students “rise” up to the challenge of producing not only weekly shows but daily shows as well. These students are dedicated to improving their craft in the TV production world while also balancing school and their high workload. With the guidance of Mr. Viruet and Mrs. Elayne Diaz, these students are destined for nothing but greatness.

The Rise is composed of students from grades 9-12 that are selected from our TV production branch of performing arts. Each year the students in the program select a president, vice president, and secretary to take charge of the program and all the things they are involved with. This year the president of the club is Marcelo Villar- Ojito; alongside him as vice president is Isabela De La Grana and as secretary is Ricardo De Olivera. The court’s responsibility is to keep everyone on task, ensuring everything gets submitted on time. They also keep their fellow classmates informed on any competitions and online submissions such as FSPA, STN, and Shortcuts. Our Firebird TV students have won several awards from both FSPA and STN and continue to challenge themselves to win more.

Each week these students are assigned to produce an approximately 10-minute long show informing faculty and students of upcoming events as well as keeping us up to date with national and local news. To keep things entertaining, an entertainment/interactive segment is placed each week to ensure the viewer’s undivided attention. On days of remembrance, such as 9/11, The Rise gets a little more formal in honor of our country, and on holidays, such as Halloween, the show will revolve around that holiday’s theme. Occasionally, our firebird students will include a short cooking segment giving us scrumptious recipes you can do right from home. We cannot wait to see what’s in store for our fellow firebirds this year and have nothing but faith that they won’t disappoint.

 SCAN ME



Builders Club

By: Samantha Alvarez

What is Builders Club?

Builders Club is a student-led organization that allows middle school students the privilege to begin serving for their school, home, and community. It is the largest service organization for middle school students, with more than 45,000 members worldwide.

What is the Vision and Mission?

The ultimate goal set for Builders Club is simply to grant students the opportunity to build character and develop leadership while getting involved to help make a change.

What will some events entail?

Some events that will be presented to the students will be clean-ups, cards for special occasions, drives, and more.

What are the Covid-19 guidelines and accommodations? Amongst the pandemic, it is understood that volunteering at in-person events comes with one too many risks; Therefore, we have many virtual events for members to participate in.

What are some organizations Builders club will be working with?

Builders Club will be working with the following organizations: Society For The Blind, Blessings in a Backpack inc, Bookshare, and StoriiTime.

How does the Mentorship Program work?

All members will be matched with an 11th or 12th grader that matches their interests. This mentor will provide guidance and serve a helping hand for his/her personal development within the club as well as issue academic advice when needed.

Who was the club founded by? Builders Club was founded by 3 high school students, Amanda Alvarez, Danielle Gelpi, and Maria Manrique. The trio decided to start a club to supply middle school students the chance to take part in making a change.

Who is the Sponsor?

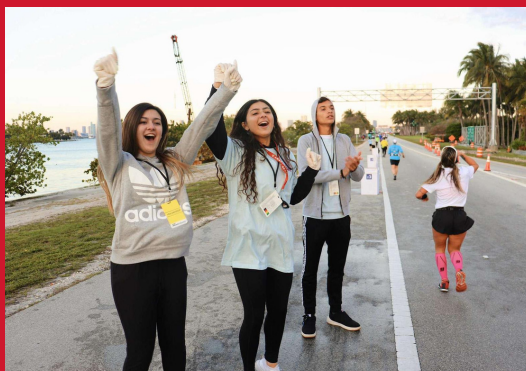
The sponsor is Mrs. Rachel Gonzales, who hopes for this year to fulfill many expectations regarding the start of the club and its future potential growth.

How does the point system work?

Attending the monthly meeting will result in students receiving 5 points, Donating to a drive is 10 points, Attending an event whether physical or virtual will result in 15 points, Taking leadership at events is rewarded with 7 points, Random acts of Kindness and coming up with realistic fundraising ideas is worth 10 points each. 50 points are required at the end of the quarter, out of the 50 points, 30 must come from 2 separate events. The member with the most points at the end of the quarter will be granted a reward. Keep in mind members who do not fulfill their monthly requirement will be kicked out and club fee will not be refunded.

Club Fee?

The club fee has yet to be determined but it will include a club shirt. For eighth-graders, the fee also includes the cord/specific recognition which you will obtain at your eighth-grade graduation ceremony. However, in order to be honored with the cord, members must actively participate and stay involved throughout the year.



Firebird Digital Transformation

By: Lauren Cordero

Doral Academy does a fantastic job of informing and bringing light to what is going on in the school for the students on all social media platforms. But what many students fail to realize is everything that goes on behind the scenes. Firebird digital is a group of talented, hardworking students that make what is seen on the school's social media possible. Led by Ms. Alvarez and Mr. Iglesias, these students have been able to excel in creativity and develop their artistic and communication skills.

This new school year has been anything but simple for us all, however everyone apart of FB Digital has used the chaos as motivation, as they continue bringing the students valuable information regarding the school, and entertaining content to keep them going at home. Shifting to online classes has taken a toll on the program, making it that much more difficult to keep up with the social media. Although, this has brought every team closer together given the circumstances, and has increased their communication skills that much more.

The FB Digital program has grown substantially this year. This is the first year Ms. Alvarez can grow the program and get it more well known amongst the students. As more and more students become a part of this team, Doral's social media platforms become better as a whole, and it allows more students to be able to participate in creative competitions such as FSPA to represent Doral Academy.

It is important, now especially that we are not face-to-face, to have great communication with the student body and the staff to see what the viewers might be interested in seeing now during quarantine. Certain topics of discussion for the Doral Podcast (The Nest), Tiktok trends, etc. FB Digital has transformed in the best way possible over time since it began, now consisting of teams of students ready to take action and bring its viewers enticing content every single day. There is a bright future ahead for this program, and the firebirds in this team will continue to work hard, in hopes of releasing the best content possible on all Doral Academy social media platforms.

FIREBIRD DIGITAL

STUDENT LIFE, COLLEGE TIPS, ACADEMIC HELP, AND MORE.

Want to see all of our posts? Check out the [Student Life](#) page!



How Teachers Have Adjusted To Zoom

By: Isabella Vega

Compared to our previous years, our Doral teachers and students have taken a different approach due to the challenges that we have faced this year. They have adjusted very smoothly even after everything that has happened. All the teachers discovered apps that they didn't know about and as a result of that, students can turn in their assignments online. It was a tough time at first for the students and especially for the teachers but the teachers still manage to teach just fine even through a computer! Above all, even after a different type of environment, Doral teachers and students are doing better than they had expected.

When we started doing online school, teachers and students started having a difficult time adjusting to virtual because it was the first time for them. After weeks of doing class online and then months, they started to get the hang of it. Teachers now can share their screen and us students can see what they are trying to educate us and it's like if nothing has ever changed. They can either show us a video, powerpoints, notes, etc for us to be able to understand what they are talking about throughout the period. Teachers use apps such as google classroom, edmodo, and for us students to be able to upload our classwork or homework assignments in which it has helped us students receive the grade for it. Therefore, teachers and students have adjusted perfectly through just one small app, zoom.

The way the students at Doral have to be set up is by sitting at a desk with some space for them to be able to take notes on what their teacher is talking about. This helps students acknowledge what the teachers are saying. The teachers in Doral seem to have control through zoom and know exactly what they are doing. The students have found zoom pretty straightforward to manage because the faculty in Doral made it very direct in what they are supposed to do. Even after the obstacles the teacher and the students have faced throughout this whole time while doing online school, they have managed to adjust fine to the whole zoom process.



Form elements for a login page:

- A "Password" input field with a blue border and a blue label. The password is masked with black dots.
- A "Forgot?" link in grey text to the right of the password field.
- A checkbox labeled "Keep me signed in" with a checked mark.
- A blue "Sign In" button with a white mouse cursor pointing at it.

Opening Update

By: *Marian Navarro*

This year has been hectic, to say the least, and it's time to answer what's been on everyone's minds: when and how will students be returning to school? While conditions are not ideal, Doral Academy is doing the best they can to ensure safety and efficiency. Nothing is guaranteed as of now but there have been many theories circling. There will surely be plenty of modifying but the current plan is the best possible under the circumstances.

The school has provided students with choices as to how they would prefer to return: RLI (Remote Learning Instruction) or FCL (Flexible Combined Learning).

Those who chose RLI will continue the school year virtually as they have been doing but those who chose FCL are more complex than that.

To reduce crowding and contamination, they will be divided into two groups (e.g. red group and blue group) and will attend brick and mortar different days.

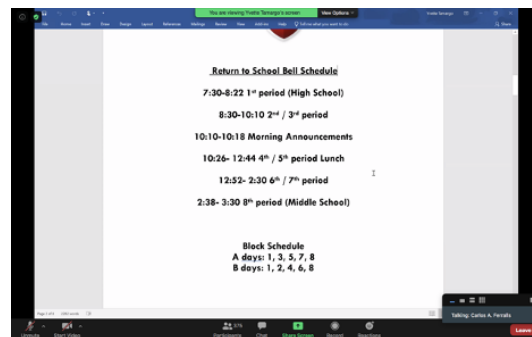
For clarity purposes, we'll use the example that the red group is last names A-L and the blue group is M-Z. The red group would attend school Monday and Tuesday, Blue group would attend school Wednesday and Thursday, and both would do virtual school on Fridays. This format would allow for minimal contact and maximum efficiency. This isn't the only thing that would change, however, there will be new rules applied as well.

The rules would be adjusted to fit the situation and keep students safe. They are as follows: students must bring their own device and masks, ill-feeling students must stay at home, assigned seats will be implemented, all gatherings will be online, and there will be no changing for P.E.

While these are all effective methods, how would lunch work? The maximum capacity would be 300 people rather than 1000 in the cafeteria and students can eat all around campus. Students must also bring pre-packaged lunches (no deliveries) and their own water bottles. Early releases are also being modified. There will be no hanging around at 6 am while waiting for classes to start or after 3 pm while waiting to be picked up. The pickups have also changed: students must now be called and walk to their cars.

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All in all, the school has done a phenomenal job of ensuring students' safety during the pandemic. While these procedures are still under evaluation and editing, it seems it is the most functional for the time being. If cases spike again and students' health is compromised, Doral Academy will revert to virtual learning. As a whole, the circumstances are not ideal but the steps taken will facilitate the transition into our normal lives.



Open House

By: *Isabella Vega*

In the open house that Doral held, the teachers and the administration talked about the difference between zoom learning and physical learning. Although it will be difficult for students to adapt in coming back to school, the Doral teachers will make sure that the students get the same safe environment they had before transferring to zoom. Teachers also mentioned what students need to expect when coming back to school and how grades will work differently than how they did in online learning. Parents will have the opportunity to help out and make sure the students do what they are supposed to and understand everything possible.

It is very important for the students to come back to school safe and sound. The teachers at Doral are doing everything possible to maintain the school a safe environment for the students to feel safe when they go back. Students are expected to know how it will be through online learning and through physical classrooms. Moreover, the tests and the weights of grades were also stated in the open house, and in addition to that, it will help students that are physically going back to school, maintain their grades how they have it till today through zoom learning. There will be certain conditions that students at Doral have to maintain in going back so doral can continue on being a safe environment for the faculties and students

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Parents can be a huge help and especially at a time like this one. Where we have to protect the students and teachers when they physically go back to school. Another way that the parents can help and it was brought up in an open house, is that they can help their kids so they can be able to succeed and for them to maintain their good grades. In addition to that, if some students chose to continue on zoom learning then their parents can be on top of them so they won't have to get distracted by small things in their household. Same as if their kids are physically going to school, they can still help their students maintain their grades and for them to advance. If the students and teachers take precautions and carry on being the amazing school they are, then everyone at Doral will be safe and cheerful and everyone will have an unforgettable year!

COVID Safety

By: Marian Navarro

Amid the Coronavirus pandemic, there is much speculation about how the students and faculty of schools will stay safe. While schools have begun the year virtually, Doral Academy has been hard at work making sure everything is flawless by the time students return. When schools reopen, Doral will make sure they're safe through their newly implemented precautions and rules.

To start, there are "one-way" arrows in the hallways to prevent major crowding during the commute to class. This eliminates the risk of having the virus spread through the contact of students and staff walking the halls.

Also, there have been signs put up in the bathrooms and around the school to provide helpful reminders as to how to stay safe. Besides the physical additions to the school, there have also been new rules implemented to help keep you safe. Some of these rules include mandatory face masks and staying 6-feet apart from people at all times. With these new precautions, the school is minimizing the spread of the virus through contact and air.

The janitorial service is also working to clean surfaces regularly. Doral Academy prides itself on making sure all who enter it are safe in the learning environment which is why these regulations have been put in place.

As another special addition, Doral Academy is selling face masks. Face masks aren't readily available to everyone so for \$10 Doral will give you a reusable one. They can be picked up in the office and come in a design specific to the school. This is a simple way that students and faculty can show their school spirit. From regular disinfecting to Doral face masks, the school has made it so that our return will be as safe and seamless as possible.

Visual and Performing Arts

By: Kassandra Mirabal

On September 17th, our performing arts students attended this year's Visual and Performing Arts Assembly. The guest speaker was Deborah Magdalena and she spoke on behalf of the Young Arts program.

This program offers the students in performing arts to apply to their branch of art to win awards such as money.

It's also beneficial because it holds national recognition and will supply you with the knowledge that can be used throughout your life. Young Arts offer auditions in voice, theater, film, music, art, writing, dance, photography, and other visual arts with cash prizes ranging from \$100-\$10,000 depending on how far you get in the competition. It is a great way for students to gain experience in what they love while also making money that can be used towards college tuition.

Applications are open from now until October 16th at 11:59pm and in order to be eligible to apply, you must be from the ages 15-18 or in grade levels 10-12. The great thing about Young Arts is that you don't have to meet both requirements; if you were 19 but still in 12th grade, you can still apply. To apply, there is a \$35 fee per submission;

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Young Arts is a great opportunity offered to students to challenge them to perform to their best ability along with the push of the competition. It's a great way for students to earn money that can be used towards college also while doing something related to what they want to pursue in the future. One of our very students, Isabela De La Grana, was one of the finalists in Young Arts for film just last year. It looks great on college applications and will make you stand out from the rest of the crowd. If you are looking into pursuing any type of art in the future, this is definitely the opportunity best suitable for you.



**DORAL PERFORMING ARTS
& ENTERTAINMENT ACADEMY**
A Fine Arts School

Senior Parent Night

By: Nicole Suarez



To the class of 2021, Senior Parent Night was recently conducted through Mr. Ferrals zoom on September 22nd, 2020. This meeting is organized to get the parents involved in the upcoming senior activities that celebrate their kids' accomplishments and successes in their years as a student. Considering the unprecedented times this Senior Parent Night has come with a little extra information than usual. It began with the biggest lingering question, when will the students return to school? As the information being provided is still subject to change our hardworking administration has put together the best possible schedule to give everyone a fair opportunity. School hours will return to the normal and instead of our traditional "A-Day" and "B-Day" we will be transferring over to "Red Group" and "Blue Group" and will be divided depending on your last name. $\frac{1}{3}$ of our school will be returning to campus, but online learning will still be available at all times for those who choose to remain online and the entire campus is required to conduct online school on Fridays. All students will be required to wear a mask at all times and will be as distanced as much as the school can provide. If you'd like to read more upon the school opening information you could refer to the "Opening Update" Article by Marian Navarro. Most importantly Students and Parents, please keep in mind that the information being provided at the moment is not finalized as this is all subject to change, there will be new and updated information provided by the school through our website and our Social media Platforms.

To the seniors' parents and or students who didn't have the opportunity to attend the meeting some of the important information being provided was the State of Florida Graduation Requirements that all seniors must complete such as the: 24 Class Credits, passing 10th grade FSA Reading, passing the Algebra 1 EOC, a minimum of a 2.0 GPA, and a minimum of 25-hour requirements. Then, our CAP Counselor Ms. Suarez discussed the important information that all senior students must know such as FAFSA, Bright Futures Scholarship, and the 10 steps application process. Most importantly to the seniors, If you have not joined please join Ms. Suarez Edmodo, vwf8zq, she is constantly posting Scholarships, Application Deadlines, internship opportunities, etc. Now, to the most important part of the meeting, Senior Activities. Our Activities Director, Ms. Ady Nuñez, touched upon the upcoming activities. Parent Hours and all financial obligations must be completed and turned in no later than January 19th, 2021, if not purchased the senior will not be able to participate in activities such as Gradbash, Prom, and Graduation. While some activities are already becoming available it's important to keep in mind all this information such as dates, prices, locations, etc. may change due to the global issue. With everything being uncertain our Administration is still actively working for these activities as if they will occur. So to our graduating class of 2021, keep your head up and stay positive your senior moment will soon arrive.



\$30

Hoodies



BLINK AND IT'S OVER
MAKE SURE TO
GET YOUR
DORAL
MERCHANDISE
WHILE YOU CAN

THIS CAN BE PURCHASED
AT OUR A-BUILDING
OFFICE



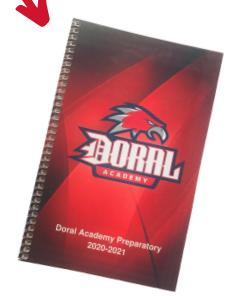
\$15

Masks



\$18

Agenda



\$10

SEE YOU SOON
— FIREBIRDS —

SEPTEMBER 2020