

# THE POINT

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## Growing Up and Moving On

### The Opinion of a Rising Senior

By Johvan Merilus

Life is one of the fastest things to ever exist. It comes and it goes as it pleases. It can be given and can be taken whenever at any time or place. We grow from birth only to go through all the experiences life has to offer: the mundane, the beautiful memories, and the ugly moments.

As teenagers of the class of 2021, the juniors rising to seniors, are ascending upon their last and final year of high school, things begin to appear. Decisions are put in front of us in which solely that individual will have to bare the effects. We must choose on where we want to apply for college or tech school or nothing, what we want to do in life as a job or career, what we want to do in live in general, and how we chose to live. Freshmen year came and left in the blink of an eye, and now we are beginning the year that phase us out the door. Times like these make you cherish your last chance to experience things such as high school because you only go through it once in life.

This is the year we officially begin taking the baby steps that push us to adulthood. We begin writing out our lives from this point moving forward. Life will change but the more important question is how much do you have to change to live the life you want?



Senior Pick-up day, when seniors retrieved their graduation regalia, one of the last steps before high school graduation.

## A Note from the Staff:

The Poinciana Newspaper Staff would like to sincerely thank you for reading this year. We were able to fully publish 5 editions of the Poinciana Point, which is absolutely incredible! Thank you for taking the time to be interviewed, for providing pictures, for providing feedback, and for reading. This school is full of activities, from sports to science experiments, and it has been our pleasure covering these events this year. We can't wait to do it again next year!

# Senior's Reflection on Graduation

By Susan Viera Norford

When kids begin school at the ripe ages of 4-6, there is only one long-term goal in mind... high school graduation. They then spend about thirteen years working, studying, stressing, and doing all they can to accomplish this goal that can make or break their lives. When these kids get to their seniors year, it is painted to be the best year out of the four that you spend in high school. But for the past few months, senior year for the Class of 2020 it has been



pushback after pushback. The original date for Poinciana High School's seniors to take the final step and walk the stage into "adulthood" was Wednesday, May 27, 2020. However, due to a global pandemic and social distancing rules, the date has been pushed back to July 8, 2020. And the seniors are devastated.

When the news of the pushback came out, there was a whirlwind of emotion. Even though, due to the COVID 19 pandemic a reschedule or even a full on cancellation was expected; the news still was felt deeply. Senior Solimar Vidal describes it as "truly disappoint[ing]," as she like all seniors have waited their whole academic lives for this one event.

And as time goes on, for some students, feelings have not been improving. For senior Ronaldo Maldonado, motivation to graduate has not been the same. "Right now, I am struggling to find motivation to do my online classes," Maldonado explains. He mentions that the online classes are "just not the same" and has the want of graduation, but not the motivation he once had, to do so. Many students are feeling these emotions of being unmotivated and upset due to the unexpected results of their senior year. Yet, other students feel an added motivation during these unpredictable times. Senior Shane Gober says, "I'm a little stress about the whole situation, but am more motivated than ever to get my diploma and graduate." Overall, students while still saddened, are ready and willing to graduate.

# Reflection, Cont.

Yet again, this still doesn't take away the other impacts this has on students, whether it be good or bad. The push back of their graduation experience is not the only thing that has students devastated, it is also the experiences that get pushed back with it. For Ronaldo Maldonado, it was his ship out date for boot camp. Originally scheduled for June, the date was postponed due to the pushback. Other students like Solimar Vidal feel "robbed of my memories and the moments I worked and waited thirteen years for.". In addition to the time lost with friends and peers that usually make senior year memorable. But, the pushback of the graduation indirectly has taken weights off some students' backs as well. Breanna JeanPierre explains, "There are actually some good things that come out of this situation; testing is not accountable this year. We don't need to stress over testing." Students also noted the added time they may get to complete projects and assignments. This pushback may have been unfortunate but his has brought good things too.

In experiencing the pushback and rescheduling of the Class of 2020's graduation, there are lessons to be learned through this. Shane Gober expresses what he wants future graduating classes to take away from 2020's experience saying, "I want future generations to know that anything is possible. And don't lose hope on dreams or goals even if the worse happens.". This experience has made the students stronger and more grateful for what they have and the people they have around them. Breanna JeanPierre's hope for the graduates for years to come is, to not take school for granted: "Do not take anything for granted, because it can be taken away from you in a second. And to live senior year to the fullest."



# Poetry: Behind The Clouds

By Cheyenne Pero

*\*This poetic prose writing was written as an exploration of the schism between mental pain and relief and how that affects life.\**

These days, pain comes in waves. The sun sets ablaze a mirage of colors; fiery oranges and crimson reds, yellows that enliven the world amidst its glow. But it's hidden behind clouds of pollution, the very ones that darken anything walked upon. Everything becomes a reason to hurt, until pain fades into numbness like sound in space, as though it were never there. When every breath of air you inhale only seems to impale you, shackling like wind chimes against your ribcage, threatening to tear you apart. When you are a raincloud walking through a sea of people holding umbrellas. A misanthrope ailing oneself into the comfort in Sorrow, because you remained in its embrace for too long.

But if I can offer you the serenity that comes within the three words: "*I understand you*", I would explain to you the way you can't see the sun behind the clouds, but still feel its faint warmth. That one can pluck out the way the beat of your heart falls behind that of the unified crowd, and proceed to tell you that the band is incomplete without you.

Perhaps happiness is a fleet in which overrides those very waves of anguish that come towards you, but you are the wind hustling it into another direction.

You've embraced pain until chaos manifests itself within you. You're made of the blunt cold that traces permanent goosebumps across your soul until it's too hideous to be accepted, too aware of its ability to make you feel unwelcome in a society of twisted perception.

Though the sun will never stop radiating.

The sun does not tuck itself away when those dark clouds remain at bay. Nor does it cease to exist as the superlative entity it is.

And clouds are temporary. They come and go with time, declaring that sorrow is a prevalent part of life that only ought to remind you of the importance of the sun when it passes; the importance of warmth that will never fail to embrace you once you welcome it.

But the wind, the wind can always change direction.



# Opinions: Time Management

By Crystal Maldonado

In our daily lives don't you ever feel that time goes by too fast or there aren't enough hours in a day to get everything done? Simple tricks and tips on how to make sure you get everything done in the right amount of time involves time management skills.

A simple tip in achieving good time management skills is investing in an agenda. Agendas are good for many reasons, simply to keep track of everything you need to do or up-and-coming dates that are important. Taking time out of your day at the beginning of each week to sit down and write in your agenda

everything that you have going on in that week or future weeks will help you become less stress and not feeling like everything has to be done all at once. When a day comes that you have something to do you will look in your agenda and see everything is listed out for you that way you don't get behind on your work or forget to do anything.

To help improve on your time management skills you may need to overcome some obstacles. Whether those obstacles are procrastination, a lot of stress, or always having the need to multitask, you can overcome them. Starting early on assignments can help release some of that stress building up, stress also goes along with always multitasking. If you multitask you are stuck with that feeling that you have so much things to get done all at once and feeling like you can do it. This can easily make you overlook simple details in your work since you're not actually focusing on just one thing at a time, you are paying attention so multiple things and that isn't always easy.

Time management is essential in a person's everyday life when you have multiple things going on at once or even just to help you plan out and have a visual of how much free time you got and when. Invest in an agenda and improve on the obstacles holding you back. Doing things such as starting early, stop multitasking, avoiding stress, overcoming procrastination and much more will change your life in a positive way.



# Entertainment: Live Action Hercules

By Paola Andujar

It has been confirmed that what many of us have been waiting for is in the works. A Disney classic is once again making its way onto the big screen, only now, it won't be animated. Hercules is coming back in a long awaited remake.

A student, Mya Colon, shares her opinion on the movie. "I think that it's cool, because you can see a classic on a live version."

Over the last few years, Disney has remade many classic movies into live actions such as; Beauty and the Beast, Cinderella, and the Lion King. Now, Hercules is officially the next in line.

It has not been confirmed who will play portray any of the classic characters, but the Internet is having a lot of fun creating their dream casts for the film. Many have wished for Jennifer Hudson as one of the muses and Elizabeth Gillies as Megara. A more obvious choice that has countless users on the internet agreeing on is having Danny DeVito play Phil, Hercules' mentor.

Many have assumed Tom Hiddleston will play Hades in the film. The lovable Marvel villain has been guessed by many fans to play Hades in this remake. Seeing as the Russo Brothers who directed Avengers: Endgame, will play as producers in the live action remake of this classic.

Although the premiere date has not yet been confirmed, the progress has officially begun and now our guess is as good as yours. The actual production of the film may be put to a halt during this time but the producers are hard at work to have this film ready the second production can begin.

Producers, the Russo brothers, of Avengers fame, have confirmed it will not be exactly like the original. Anthony Russo shared, "Well, I think you always have to bring something new to the table because from our perspective as storytellers, it's not compelling for us to do a literal translation." We can expect a new story from the Russo brothers, something we have surely never seen before.

The excitement of this brand new live action remake has many fans of the classic on the edge of their seats, counting the days until we get to see this movie. It has become something to look forward to during this unusual time!



# Celebrating the Seniors of the Point Staff

As the end of the year nears, seniors are busy making plans for next year. All across the school, students are finding ways to celebrate their achievements within their clubs, activities, and extracurricular. In the final edition of the Poinciana Point for the 2019-2020 school year, we are proud to spotlight our graduating seniors: Skylynn Deleon and Susan Viera Norford. Both have been long-term members of the newspaper team, who provided valuable contributions to creating truly fantastic documents.

Skylynn is looking to pursue either early childhood development or education somewhere beyond the state of Florida. While she doesn't have a particular school picked out, she knows that she wants to attend a four year school to help her reach her goals.

Susan's goal is to attend Brown University to study history, eventually getting her doctorate degree. Her goal is to become a professor to help share her passion for the subject. She plans to first attend Valencia to help her start her "adult life:" learning how to drive, getting her first job, and getting her general education classes out of the way.

Both girls say that the team is their favorite part of being in newspaper: "I feel like my team is another family to me. Even if we're not all that close, we still have a strong bond," Susan says of her peers. Skylynn follows that, with very similar sentiments: "My favorite part of newspaper was getting together as a team and brainstorming. That's where we can really see each other's creativity." Both show how much the group means to them.



Senior, Susan Viera Norford

When asked to shout out who helped them the most at Poinciana, both called back to newspaper, yet again. They both said that Miss Kirkpatrick helped to motivate them with college applications and school work, and felt that while they were in newspaper class, with both the teacher and the team members, they felt like they had a family. They both pointed out the support and care coming from everyone when they are in the classroom.



Senior, Skylynn Deleon

As we say goodbye to our seniors, we wish them luck. Both Skylynn and Susan have been full of enthusiasm and joy when covering everything from sports to world issues. They are amazing team players and care so much about everyone in newspaper, and even the yearbook staff, that they often work closely with. Both will leave Poinciana this year and become great representatives of what Poinciana stands for: respect, education, and pride. They will shoot for the stars and reach their goals, making Poinciana and the newspaper team proud of their accomplishments.

Susan and Skylynn: I am so proud of the work you have done for the newspaper and for everything else this year. You two are truly rock stars and will shine in the world, with whatever you set your mind to.

***Good luck in everything,  
Miss Kirkpatrick***