

# Our 2020-21 Lion Pandemic Staff

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# The Lion

April 1, 2021

1

*March Madness*

Senior Formation Class Bracket

2

*Stranger than Fiction*

Reflection during a Pandemic.

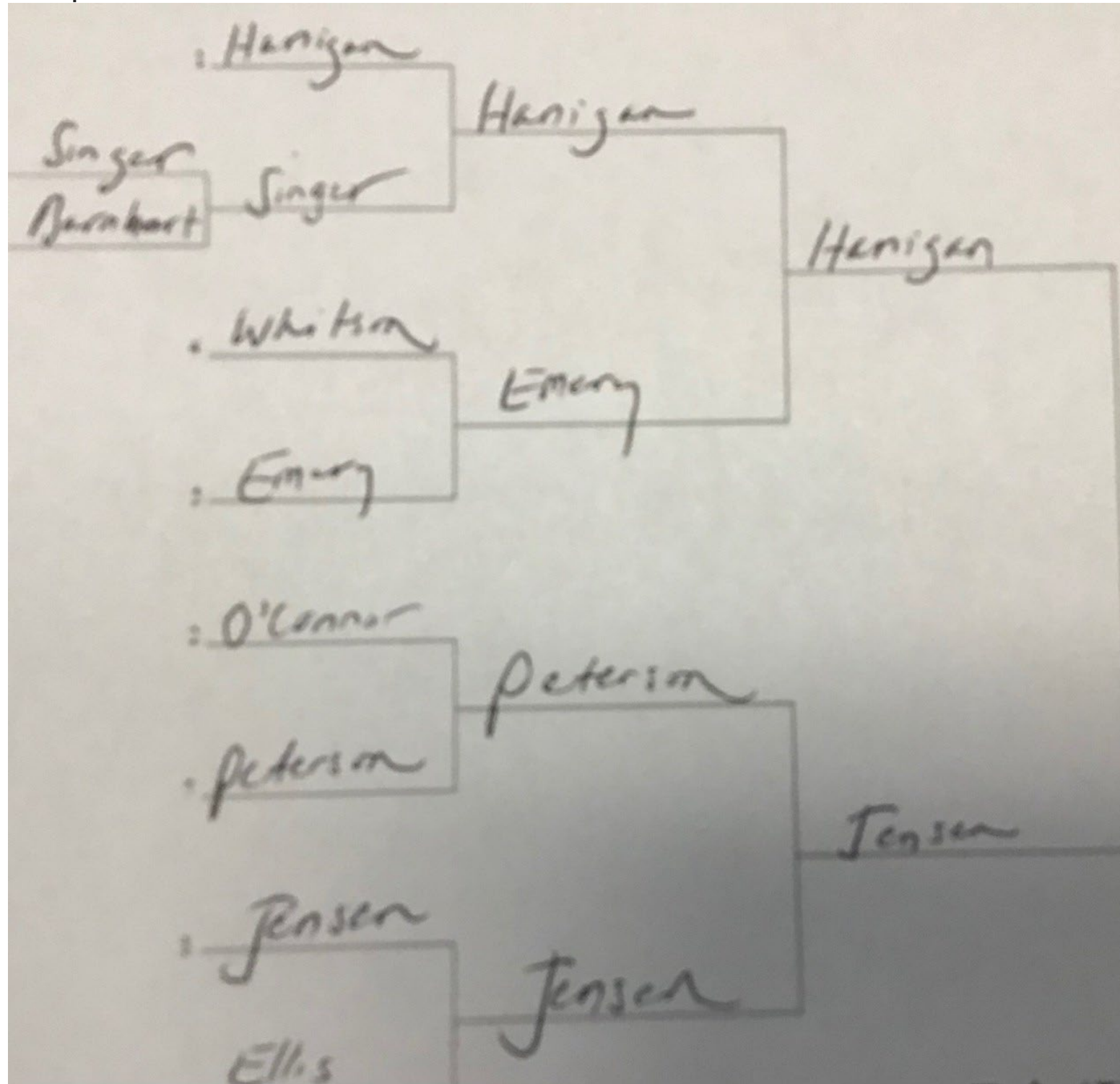
3

*New Safety Protocols*  
for COVID

True or False?

# 1 March Madness

Jack Christensen and Tashi Landers-Quinn



An eager March Madness 2021 fan scribbles out her bracket.

## Play in Game:

**Singer vs Barnhart-** A talent show to play into the bracket proved to be one to remember. Even though Ben Hall for Rick Barnhart's CP showed off his video game play, Jacob Singer on guitar with Sean Smith on the mic showed to be the school favorite, earning Singer's CP a spot into the Community Period Bracket.

## First Round matchups:

**1 Hanigan vs 8 Singer-** In a CP basketball game, it comes down to the wire at the end of the second half; however, Libby Hearon receives a pass from CJ Piccio for Jeanne Hanigan's CP to make a buzzer beater three pointer. She advances Team Hanigan to the next round in thrilling fashion.

**4 Whitson vs 5 Emery-** A Jeopardy tournament of two rounds of two brainiac teams. The deciding factors were Michael Monroe for Anita Emery's CP and Sara Anel's for Casey Whitson's CP. Both had large effects for their teams, but Monroe closed it out when he swept an entire category on the board for Team Emery. With that, he advanced his CP to the next round.

**3 O'Connor vs 6 Peterson-** A competitive soccer game between the two CPs became one sided occasion, considering Michael Peterson's CP had Kevin Coleman in goal who wouldn't let one ball by him during the game. This outstanding goal play and gruesome offense carried Michael Peterson's CP to the next round.

**2 Jensen vs 7 Ellis-** A CP football game was the activity in this competition and this was a tight game. Mario Turco had an outstanding game at quarterback for Matt Ellis's CP, but the dynamic duo of Jacob Hanigan and Ava Pierson ran Ellis off the field. combining for the most points on the team. Under Brian Jensen's coaching, Jensen's CP was onto the next round.

## Second Round Matchups:

**1 Hanigan vs 5 Emery-** A highly anticipated matchup between the two CPs was an ultimate frisbee match that had the whole school on the edge of their

seats. Team Emery came out firing with players such as Ashley Uskovich, Cooper Clarke, and Cece Mwangi. However, Hanigan's CP didn't show a sign of slowing down as the number one seed in the bracket as players like Jacob Neeb and Maya Holden left it all out on the field to take Hanigan's CP to the championship!

**2 Jensen vs 6 Peterson-** A dodgeball game that would prove to be unforgettable between Peterson and Jensen CP. Peterson put the pressure on early by knocking out four of Jensen's players out early. However, Aniya Thomas, Benny Jasper, and Jack James had enough and took out the other team one by one. A final showdown between Maria Romero from Jensen and Rex Rainsburger from Peterson ended in unique fashion, when Rex through the ball at Maria, but she caught it, moving Jensen's CP onto the championship against Hanigan's.

## Championship:

**1 Hanigan vs 2 Jensen-** A competitive held at a place unlike any other, Memorial Field. The setting held the championship game, to hopefully find a champion to call the Best Senior CP. This competition was a 40-yard race down and back that would prove to be very exciting. Fast forward to the last two runners for each team, Devoney Webber and Mussa Guzha for Jensen; Jacob Neeb and Aiden Patel for Hanigan. Jacob Neeb gave the slightest advantage to Hanigan by beating Devoney by five yards to advance Aiden Patel for the last lap. It was looking like the first seed would take over the tournament, but the race wasn't over. Devoney gets to Mussa to advance him, and Mussa blasts off. Known for his speed, Mussa passes Aiden Patel on the way back, beating him by two total yards! Jensen's CP wins the race and after all the competition, comes out on top to win the title of Best Senior CP at Bellarmine.

## Winner: Jensen's CP

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It's so strange to look back on all it was -that we didn't know what was to come.

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## 2 | We had no idea (about COVID)

Inga Larson

The idea that 12 months ago, we truly believed that we would return to school after a casual two-week break is certainly a cheerless, unfortunate thought. But, we've also had a lot of cheerless, unfortunate thoughts over this time-- so why don't we take a moment to giggle at the absurdity of our innocent, year-old beliefs. This confidence in a 14-day reset period, and many other pre-March-2020 habits and thoughts, are the type of thing that make us go "we had no idea!"

Senior Anna Gallagher said, "It's weird how now when you take a photo, and they say smile, it doesn't really matter anymore because no one can see half your face." Thinking back on how often we used to greet people with a smile in the hall, or smile wide for a picture, it's such a peculiar thing that we can't see that anymore. Gallagher also noted the oddness of "when you go to leave the house people used to say, 'don't forget your wallet and keys,' but now it's 'don't forget your mask!' or 'do you have a mask?' or 'did you bring your mask?'" Imagine how strange it would be for someone in 2019 to hear that bringing a mask everywhere would be a requirement!

Back in March 2020, after our two-week distance learning was announced, a teacher told me, "I don't think we will come back at all this year"; to this, I was shocked and thought there was no way.

My friends and I, partially jokingly, and partially seriously, took a photo in the parking lot as we were leaving school, on the crazy off chance that this was the last time we would be on campus together for the year. One of the three friends in this picture was a senior, and this picture was a documentation of his last moments on campus-- an unfortunate thought, but also such a bizarre thought. Looking back on that picture gives me such a strange feeling, thinking we had taken that picture almost jokingly to document our "last time on campus," and then it actually being our last time on campus for the year. How crazy!

Jenny Phillips, Bellarmine science teacher, came across a reference to COVID-19 that she made in her biology lesson last February. Phillips said, "As I was preparing a lesson in Biology on viruses, I reviewed the one I created last year in early March. I had some prevention tips. They focused on lack of contact with surfaces touched by others and had no mention of wearing a mask!" How strange is it to remember how

little we knew about what was ahead of us; and how much progress we would come to make.

Phillips continues, "Remember when we were sanitizing our groceries and opening doors with our sleeves? There was no mention of a vaccine - because there wasn't one! At that time, the vaccine trials hadn't even begun! It was a reminder of how much we didn't know then, and how much more we know now." The rediscovery of this past lesson is similar to that feeling we get now when there's a "one year ago today" reminder on social media, or when we see old photos of large crowds.

Amidst all the misfortune of this past year, there is a bit of craziness and absurdity upon which to look back in awe. It's so strange to look back on all it was- that we didn't know what was to come. In a strange way, realizing how many things are subject to change is a refreshing reminder. Perhaps it can help us be more grateful for what we have already, and more hopeful that current negative things can always turn around in the future.

### 3 | New Safety Protocols for COVID

Riley Baerg



It has been over a year since Bellarmine first made the change to distance learning. These protocols were finally lifted as Bellarmine returned at a 25% and then 50% capacity in the winter. The school is planning on returning to 100% capacity on Monday, April 19, tentatively. But speculation would lead The Lion, the Bellarmine Journalism staff, to uncover a plan to return to the Hill at 150% capacity.

Thanks to insider information from Vice Principal of Academics, Bill Baerg, administrations seeks to inform the Bellarmine community how it is possible to return at such a rate. He told our staff that, “returning to in-person schooling at 150% will require a lot from our students; it will take everything we have and more to make this work.” Along with these changing max-capacities, Baerg hinted at new solutions to possible health hazards. He followed this up with these statements. “With the number of students growing three times its original size will include an uptick of safety protocols. We do not have a concrete list yet, but these new rules will include triple masking, temperature scans at the start of each class, and the demerit system will return for those not social distancing.”

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With these abilities being impaired, Bellarmine’s Safety Task Force is calling for a uniform. Instead of wearing a typical prep school uniform, students will be mandated to wear a mask that serves as a form of identification. This “Face ID” will include the student’s name, date of birth, address, social security number, and the three little numbers on the back of each student’s credit card. Bellarmine administration has specified that these details are required for any student who wishes to continue to attend the institution.

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The demerit system is used for when students commit an infraction against the school’s code of conduct, resulting in the involved students receiving a point for bad behavior. Enough demerits will land any student/perpetrator in JUG, suspension, and, in extreme cases, expulsion.

The changes coming to Bellarmine do not only pertain to the Coronavirus Safety Protocols but to the clothing people wear each and every day. According to a study done by the University of Stirling in Scotland, there is a correlation in identifying a person with and without a mask on. Dr. Daniel Carragher of the Natural Sciences department at Stirling wrote: “Our study demonstrates that surgical face masks significantly impair our ability to identify both familiar and unfamiliar individuals, and that the impairment is similar whether one or both faces in each pair are masked.”

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serves as a form of identification. This “Face ID” will include the student’s name, date of birth, address, social security number, and the three little numbers on the back of each student’s credit card. Bellarmine administration has specified that these details are required for any student who wishes to continue to attend the institution.

Evidently, with the upcoming spike in students on campus on the horizon, the chances that a student-led rebellion or riot should occur has skyrocketed. With this dilemma presenting itself, the Bellarmine Security Department will be taking measures to ensure that students stay in line. Schoolhouse guardian, Rory Johnson, will receive an upgrade to his security vest immediately in exchange for full riot gear.

What some may call these protocol changes over the top, they are just safety precautions for what the future may hold.

*“Triple-Masker Looks Down On People Who Only Double Mask.” Photo courtesy of BabylonBee.com*

On Thursday, March 12, 2020, Bellarmine had a rare Unified Day. When the students left campus, they assumed they would return in a couple of weeks. Little did they (and everyone else) know that school would not resume on campus until 2021. Even now, things are not back to the way they were that fateful day a year ago. But what is the new normal? The Lion speculates on what has transpired these past few months. Some of these things are stranger than fiction. Some of these things deserve some farfetched speculation. Some of these things are just plain fun. We hope you enjoy this April 1 newsmagazine based on fact, but with some wiggle room for some fiction.

# The Lion



April 1, 2021