



RAM COUNTRY NEWS

CUBA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Special Edition FALL 2020

Seniors adjusting to remote learning, looking forward to college, careers after high school

Class of 2021

October 10, 2020

With remote learning as the main mode of education right now, Cuba High School's 62 seniors are adjusting and many missing in-person school interactions.

Anna Brown, the Student Success Advisor at Cuba High School, explained Cuba Independent School District has been in remote learning since March 2020 and the governing board recently decided to stay in this mode until January 2021 for the safety of its students and staff.

"Our seniors have done an outstanding job trying to keep up on their own with remote learning—which is wonderful," Brown said.

Brown has gone on several home visits to meet with students that need help and extra support.

"By and large, they've done a really good job adapting, keeping up with their work and staying in touch," she said.

Brown explained most of the students have said they miss in-person school, they miss seeing their friends and they miss doing all the senior year fun stuff that usually happens.

"I encourage a lot of the students to join their Zoom meetings. That way, they can see each other and see their teachers, and kind of be in class together. I know a lot of them have

different group snapchats that they participate in, so they can also stay connected that way," said Brown. "It has been difficult for them since it is their last year and they are missing out on some of the interactive stuff that they would normally be doing with their senior class."

For senior Amala Quelo, 17, it took time for her to get acclimated to remote learning but she has gotten used to the format.

"At first it was kind of hard getting used to just doing assignments online but like a couple of months later, I got used to just doing my work," said Amala. "I just got used to not being able to be physically in school. Even though I'm at home, I still have to wake up early to do attendance which starts at 8 a.m. and we log into class between 8 or 9, so we still have to wake up pretty early."

Students also have to pay particular attention to deadlines with remote learning, similar to deadlines as if they were physically at school.

"Deadlines are challenging, especially for college classes," said Amala. "You don't have someone assisting you—you just have a deadline for assignments and make sure you get it done."

Amala is also currently taking college courses, Financial Literacy and College Algebra at Central New Mexico Community College. She previously took college-level Navajo History and Government last year with Navajo Technical University.

Although Amala enjoys remote learning, she would rather be physically in school. She has two younger sisters that also appear to be struggling but she does her best to help guide and help them with their schoolwork while her parents are at work during the day.

Amala has future plans to continue her education in the fields of criminal justice and forensics. While growing up in Farmington, N.M., she noticed there was a lot of crime where she lived and she was always interested in how crimes were investigated. She also watched a lot of "Law & Order," a popular drama television show.

"I just kind of got fascinated with investigations," said Amala. "I also want to contribute to my community and this field of work will help in doing that."

Jacqueline Sanchez, 17, another senior also enjoys being home and said she enjoys remote learning but would also rather be in school with everyone.

"I enjoy being home—I have a great home life. My parents are really amazing and I like spending time with them and I just enjoy the comfort of home," said Jacqueline. "I don't necessarily have to be up at a certain time and doing work for a certain amount of time, I can work on my own stuff at my own pace."

Jacqueline does miss the daily routine of school though.

"It kept me in check and of course, I miss my friends and the whole senior experience," she said.

After high school, Jacqueline plans to continue on with her education "preferably outside of New Mexico." She is still undecided about her career choice but is leaning toward teaching.

"I've thought about biology, like going into some career with biological research," she said. "I have a wide array of interests."

Fernando Sandoval, 18, is also enjoying his senior year and said it was "pretty great." He is excited to graduate high school but is sad knowing it's his last year. For him, remote learning has also been challenging because he doesn't get a chance to see his teachers face-to-face, he deals with distractions at home and time management has been problematic.

Despite the challenges, he said he has been able to keep up with his assignments.

Fernando said he plans to continue his education after high school and learn more about welding and build a career in that field.

Senior Jeremiah Sandoval, 18, said remote learning has been "pretty boring" and not what he expected.

"I was planning a lot of things for my senior year but things went downhill when this virus broke out," he said. "I had plans to be closer to my friends because I don't know what is going to

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happen next? I'm trying my best to get a scholarship but it is really hard doing classes online because of distractions and I can't focus."

Like many other students, Jeremiah would rather have teachers explain concepts to him rather than reading about it. Some of Jeremiah's challenges include not having a good camera on his laptop and his internet at home in Albuquerque is sometimes too slow because other people in his household use it for school and work.

Jeremiah's goal is to complete his

senior year and then pursue a career in the music industry. He has always had an interest in making music.

Ms. Brown is happy to know many of the students are looking beyond high school and thinking about college and careers. As a school counselor, she helps students with college and career readiness but this year has been extremely challenging because of the pandemic. For now, she publishes event flyers on the school's website, has them posted on social media and she sends out email notifications but she receives little response or interest opposed to before the pandemic.

"Normally, we would have college recruiters come into the school and

there would be 30-40 seniors and juniors that attend the presentations," said Brown "This year, I've had three different college recruiters schedule Zoom meetings and only two students participated and I haven't had any seniors participate."

For now, Brown will continue checking in with students through Zoom, text messaging, phone calls and some in-person meetings to talk about grades and discuss classes. She also provides social emotional support resources for students that may feel isolated or anxious amid this pandemic.

"I'm here to help," she said.

For any questions about student

counseling, college applications, college and career readiness, contact Anna Brown at (575) 289-3211, extension 211 or at abrown@cuba.k12.nm.us. Students and parents can also call or text Brown at (505) 250-4132.



Cuba High School graduates 70 students amid COVID-19 pandemic

July 28, 2020

Cuba High School graduated 70 graduates July 25 complete with face masks, social distancing and abiding by all precautions amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The graduation was recorded and posted on YouTube.

This year's valedictorian was Celia Maria Chavez and the salutatorian was Christopher Cavazos. The top 10 graduates include: 1. Celia Maria Chavez; 2. Christopher Cavazos; 3. Jerome A. Salaz; 4. David Mitchell Benavidez; 5. Sebastian John Hernandez; tied for 6 is JoDee Maestes and Sharmeka Jo Toledo who both had the same GPA; 7. Sideano Guerito; 8. Hannah Maria Murphy; 9. Kyle Lucero; and 10. Fernando Devin Herrera.

Several graduates received scholarships, below is a list of scholarship recipients:

- Coyllynn Adams, NMSU Pete's Opportunity, NMSU "A" Mountain Merit Scholarship
- David Benevidez, Candidate for the 2020 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program – CTE
- Harmony Castilla, ENMU Foundation Starter Scholarship
- Christopher Cavazos, UNM Scholar's Award, Lottery, BA-MD Scholarship
- Cymonia Garcia, Fort Lewis College NATW
- Celia Chavez, Cuba Credit Union Scholarship, ENMU Foundation Starter Scholarship, ENMU Freshman Academic Scholarship, NMSU Hadley Honors, LANL Foundation Bronze Scholarship, Candidate for the 2020 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program,



- NMT Copper Scholarship, Tech Tuition Assistance, NM Legislative Lottery Scholarship, NM ASBO Scholarship, UNM Scholar's Award
- Eric Gordo, U.S. Army Signing Bonus
- Sebastian Hernandez, LANL Foundation (Sen. Pete Dominici Scholarship), Boy Scouts, MST Alumni Scholarship NMT, UNM Success Grant
- Gina Herrera, NMHU Institutional
- Kyle Lucero, NMHU Institutional,

- ENMU Foundation Starter Scholarship, "A" Mountain Merit Scholarship NMSU
- Hannah Murphy, NAU Blue Scholarship
- Jade Otero, ENMU Foundation Starter Scholarship
- Shanna Pinto, Cuba Credit Union Scholarship
- Jerome Salaz, 1888 Leadership Scholarship NMSU
- Jordayne Sandoval, Fort Lewis College NATW

- Jeremy Segura, NMHU Institutional
- Lashida Woody, Cuba Credit Union Scholarship

The class motto was a quote by Dr. Seuss, "Be who you are and say what you feel, because in the end those who matter don't mind and those who mind don't matter." The class song was "We Run this Town" by Luke Bryan and the class flowers was purple and yellow roses.

A Message from **the Superintendent**



August 26, 2020

Congratulations to the Class of 2020!

We are very proud of all your accomplishments and now your new adventures of college and careers have begun.

This past school year, Cuba Independent School District had the highest number of high school graduates and the highest number of students that attended post-secondary training and college entrance.

You will always have a special place in our hearts and hold a place in history.

Sincerely,

Dr. Karen Sanchez-Griego, Ed.D

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Karen Sanchez-Griego, Ed.D
Superintendent

Arsenio Jacquez
Principal, Cuba Middle School

Amy K. Romero
Principal, Cuba Elementary School

Dr. Donna Navarrete
Executive Director, Data & Accountability/Federal Programs

Dr. Matthew Williams, Ph.D
Director of High School Turn-Around

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District 4

Taylor Pinto
Vice President
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District 3

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Member
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CONTACT

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Congratulations



class of

2020

Most photos provided by students



Coylynn Adams



Antawn Antonio



Briqan Armijillo



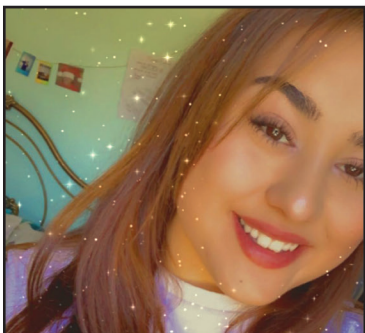
Miles Augustine



Ally Augustine



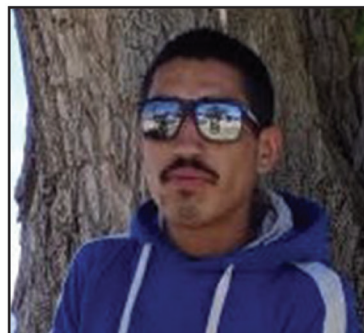
Shannon Augustine



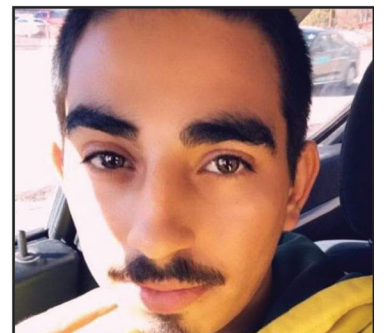
Brianna Baca



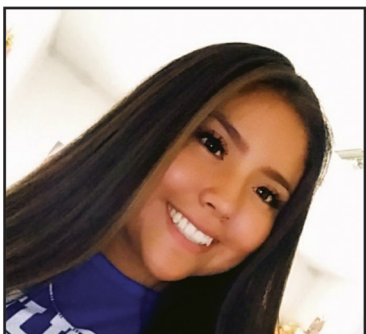
David Benevidez



Marcos Casas



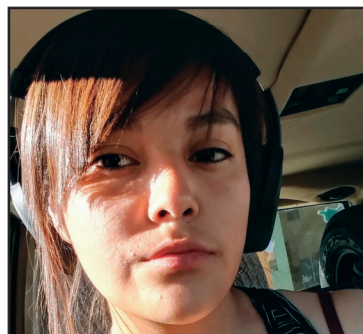
Victor Casas



Harmony Castillo



Kasey Castillo



Tevona Castillo



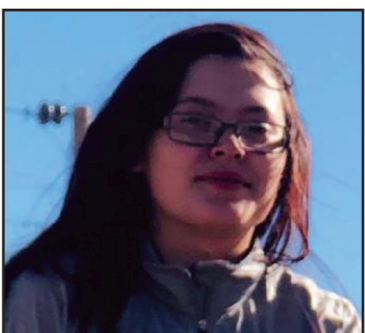
Christopher Cavazos



Morgan Chacon



Celia Chavez



Gabrielle Chavez



Mila Cordova



Lucas Crespin



Paul Francisco

CUBA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



Laurence Gallegos



Cymonia Garcia



Danielle Gonzales



Eric Gordo



Iris Gordo



Sideano Guerito



Sebastian Hernandez



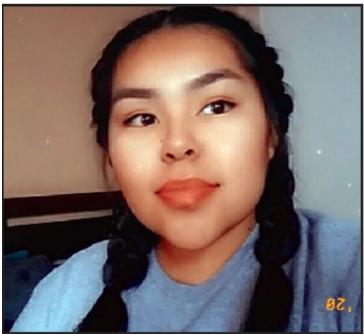
Fernando Herrera



Gina Herrera



Lane Herrera



Monique Herrera



Eriq Hopkins



LeAnndra Jake



Crystal Lopez



Lashanti Lopez



Santos Lovato



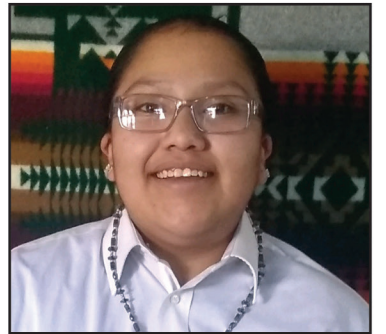
Kyle Lucero



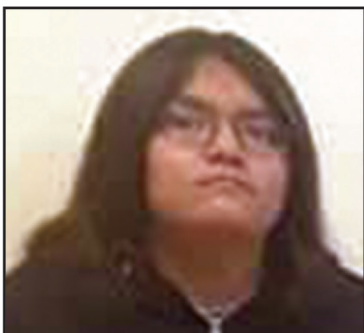
JoDee Maestas



Shadrick Mariano



Kaylynn Martin



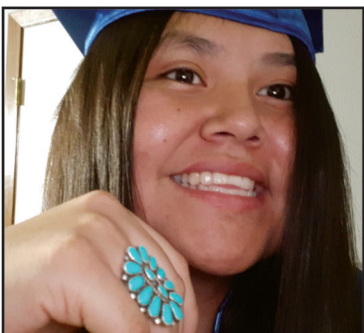
Lasiah Martin



Jesse Martinez



Keshon Montoya



Hannah Murphey



Jade Otera



Faron Pinto



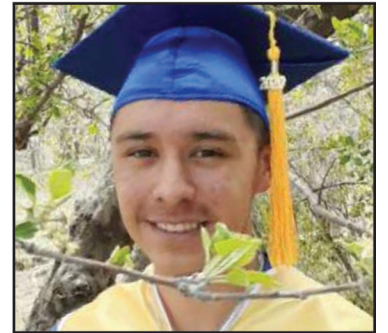
Shanna Pinto



Thaddeus Pinto



Tynesia Pinto



Osiris Putnam



Jesus Ramirez-Vasquez



Jerome Salaz



Rayelle Salazar



Devereaux Sam



Tristan Sam



Emilio Sanchez



Jeremiah Sandoval



Jordayne Sandoval



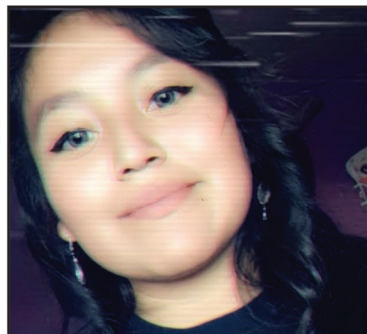
Dallas Schmidt



Jeremy Segura



Malacai Shorty



Sharmeka Toledo



Hannah Walker



Matt Walker



Lashida Woody

Congratulations
GRADUATES

CUBA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



STOP COVID-19

Protect yourself
and others from
getting sick



Avoid close
contact



Clean your
hands often



Stay at
Home



Healthy
Lifestyle

Rams



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