

Creating laughs in rough times

BY NEELEY GREENE

Sharpless Intel HQ is composed of four Cherokee High School students. Tyler “Tater” Haun, Taylor Sharpless, and Dalton Pearson created the Instagram page “Sharpless Intel” under the user sharpless_intel.hq. Later on, Trenton Kennedy joined their team. On their page, they post humorous videos and school updates. The group of boys “came up with it as a joke at first.” Due to all the positive feedback from their followers, the boys decided to keep posting. Haun says, “People really liked it and thought it was funny. So, we are trying to keep it going now because we enjoy making the videos.”

Member Trenton Kennedy created the group’s logo. You may even find this logo walking around the school campus. The boys have created t-shirts with the logo. Several students have purchased these shirts and are representing proudly.

The group is definitely content with the growing success of their page. “Sharpless Intel” was created on February 1st and already has approximately 330 followers as of February 21st.

The group also shared that they were just trying to make the best out of a bad situation. As a result of the pandemic, lots of students have been struggling with life in and outside of school. The group wanted to create something that would cheer others up. Haun said, “[We] just wanted to add some laughter through these rough times.” They have done exactly that. Thanks for the laugh boys!



This image shows a screenshot of the Sharpless Intel Instagram page

IMAGE COURTESY OF NEELEY GREENE

Canvas: A New Way To Do Virtual School

BY ETHAN LAWSON

The initial transition to virtual learning

As schools across the globe started to shut down in 2020, Hawkins County schools followed suit. The last in-person day of school for the 2019-2020 school year was March 16, 2020.

It was announced that Hawkins County would be going virtual on March 16, 2020, which only gave students and teachers a one day transition period. The school had already been working on back-up plans for the unfavorable transition to virtual learning. These plans required every teacher to create a Google Classroom for each of their classes and have each student of theirs to join it.

Google Classroom to the rescue, for now

Google Classroom was the initial answer for virtual school. This was how the teachers were going to be able to stay in contact with their students and post assignments for them to complete. Likewise, the students were able to submit assignments through google classroom and were also able to contact their teachers.

As Hawkins County started announcing their plans for starting the 2020-2021 school year, it became evident the school year would begin virtually, just as the previous

semester had ended. This meant resorting back to Google Classroom to be able to begin the school year; however, Cherokee would not be using Google Classroom for the remainder of this school year.

Enter Canvas: a new way to do virtual school

Canvas is not a new program; however it is mostly new to the students and staff at Cherokee. Cherokee received a grant to use Canvas. The school transitioned to Canvas after returning back to virtual school from winter break.

In the first week back, the school uploaded Canvas tutorials through each homeroom teachers’ Canvas feed to aid students through this transition. Also, to help students when needed, Loralee Price, Hawkins County Schools’ Technology Coordinator, hosted Google Meets to aid students and answer questions about anything regarding Canvas.

Pros and Cons of Canvas

One pro to using Canvas is the organizational ability within the program. Mrs. Kooienga stated, “Canvas can be very useful when organized properly.” Canvas is equipped with several more ways for teachers to organize and post classroom materials. Therefore, the materials and assignments are easier to find on Canvas than Google Classroom. Junior Randi Fletcher reported to the school newspaper

that “it was hard at first, but after getting adjusted, Canvas is easier to use. I really like the ‘dashboard’ feature on Canvas.”

Another pro is that a handful of students have already had an opportunity to use Canvas by taking a class through Niswonger. This is the same program used by Niswonger. There are several students who take Niswonger classes to complete some of their required classes when they do not have room in their schedule.

One con is that several seniors have expressed their concerns for switching to a new online program for their last semester of high school. Some of these students have also said it is “pointless” to make a change this late into the school year.

A second con is the unfamiliarity most students have with Canvas. Even though the school had transitioned to Google Classroom last March, most students were already familiar with the program because it had been simultaneously used with in-person instructions by several teachers prior to the pandemic.

Given the pros and cons of Canvas, It is safe to say that it seems to be more effective and useful than Google Classroom is. Some still are not on board the program, but that does not stop Canvas from being the better option of the two.



Erica Brock won second place for her Mardi Gras shoebox floats

PHOTOS COURTESY OF LARRY JUSTIS



Jacob Kenner won third place for his Mardi Gras shoebox floats

PHOTOS COURTESY OF LARRY JUSTIS



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CHS

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1st — Emma Mowell
 2nd-Erica Brock
 3rd-Jacob Kenner
 This event allowed Cherokee students to participate in a cultural event in a fun and creative way, and there are hopes to continue this tradition at CHS for years to come.