

AVID continued.

“Yeah I would say the last day was the hardest because we were all tired and we all just wanted to go home.” Our first college of the third and last day was CSU Stanislaus. CSU Stanislaus was unique because there were ponds inside the school where you could find ducks and geese, which was very beautiful to see. The only bad thing about there being so many ducks and geese is that there was a lot of excrement on the ground, but other than that, CSU Stanislaus was a very appealing school. The second school we visited was UC Merced. UC Merced was very different than the other colleges because there was nothing around UC Merced, it was very isolated. UC Merced was a very modern school and is still under construction. The last college we visited was CSU Fresno. CSU Fresno was also a very large public school, there were many students in the student union, and there were many clubs in the student union.

The AVID 2021 Senior Trip was an experience I will never forget, it opened my eyes to the different colleges there are and what it takes to get admitted into those colleges. Thanks to Mrs. Orrison and Dr. Kelly for making this senior trip possible for us.



LAST YEAR Opinion

by Anthony Lopez

Did you enjoy Distance Learning? In my opinion, it was awful because of how much we had to change the way we learn, such as online homework, class meetings, etc.

There are many differences from 2020 and 2021 school year, because most of us are going to school face to face and not staying in the comfort of our homes. Online has changed us. Some for the good, and some for the worst.

“It was okay. At first it was easy but got harder,” explained Junior Jacob Camarena. “As long as you tried, it was all good, but there were too many distractions.”

“Face-to-face [learning] is better than online because you can be more concentrated and focus more on your work than when online, where it is easier to get distracted.”

Echoing these sentiments was sophomore Emanol Guzman.

“It was harder to concentrate, as well,” he confided.

There were some perks and benefits to taking classes in the friendly confines of your home.

It was “very relaxing that I could sleep in, [and] stay in a warm bed, when it’s cold outside,” chuckled Guzman.

But Guzman, like the rest of his peers, did not get to formally experience the graduation-like process of transitioning from middle school to that of high school.

Resident substitute teacher, Gilbert Villegas, also underwent a magnitude of hurdles during Distance Learning.

“It was challenging at first but once I got the hang of it, it wasn’t too bad—it was a whole different experience because I’m used to interacting with students in person and when I would present and I would point at stuff students couldn’t be able to see it, but there were no behavior issues,” he reported.

“I prefer face-to-face [learning] because we get to know students better and online, students wouldn’t turn on their cameras, so you couldn’t put a name on students’ faces. In person, you get to know students more and you get to at times, socialize more with them,” assured Villegas.

Like so many others, Villegas enjoyed the leisure of rolling out of bed and moving over to a nearby desk with his computer. However, like all things, that routine grows old. Whereas behavior issues were non-existent, Internet and power-outages made up for the would-be lack of headaches and stress.

“I liked that we only had four classes. I thought that was really nice schedule for students and teachers, alike,” remarked Physical Education and AVID teacher, Ms. April Marshall.

“I disliked not coming to school. I do not like staying at home—the whole time it was hard for me to separate work from home, and I got distracted like students and it was very difficult to stay motivated at most times,” she elaborated when asked about the disadvantages of Distance Learning.

“COVID affected my school year in many ways—it affected my coaching softball season but now, we are really excited to be back in school and play!”

COVID really pushed our boundaries, both in a physical and mental sense. How students and teachers learn/teach was turned upside down and really made last year an experience we will not soon forget.

In order to ensure we remain as in-person learning, it is important for us all to properly wear our masks covering out noses and mouths, practicing social distancing when needed, using hand sanitizer and wiping clean surfaces, and avoiding unnecessary physical contact.



by Briana Lopez and Grace Hernandez

What do you consider the best gift ever? Most people might say getting a car, video games, or a new phone as the best gift you could ever receive, while others might say that making memories with family and friends is the best gift one can receive.

We think the best gift you can ever receive is cash—no doubt about it. You can save up that cash and buy anything your heart desires. No matter what your answer is to this question, you cannot deny that this “best gift” to you means something special.

“I mean to be honest; I don’t have one but one that can be considered would be when my mom gave me my first phone in 5 fifth grade,” recalled freshman Francisco Serrano. It is safe to assume that anyone, now a days, would cherish the donation of a phone being how much we rely on them in our daily lives.

“Well, the most memorable thing I was ever gifted was a silver necklace from my grandma when I was ten,” confided Dominic Curayag (9).

Sophomores Luis Vargas and Francisco Soto-Robles actually were gifted presents that require lots of love, attention and care: dogs!

“The most memorable gift I got for Christmas was when I got my dog in 2015. That was the best Christmas because I always wanted to have a dog and finally got one,” exuded Soto-Robles. Similarly, when Vargas was five, he too received his puppy. “I got him when I was like 5 and I’ve had him ever since I was little,” he reported. Is it possible for your favorite gift, to also be your best friend?

Jesus Montes exclaimed, “My most memorable gift would probably be the one that my friend gave me which was a 2020 Aston Martin that cost around 400,000 and he bought it off a lease with ASRP of 2% which is a pretty good deal and right now he is still paying it off, but I have the Aston Martin parked in the back of my garage which is really cool.” If only we all had friends that would buy us a car, am I right?

“I think the best gift ever would be money just because you can buy yourself anything you want and if you get a gift like clothes and you don’t like the gift then you are basically stuck with an ugly gift to keep but with money you can buy clothes, shoes, or just save it up for whatever you want,” reflected junior Cassandra Contreras.

“I think the best gift I’ve ever received is my Playstation 4 from last Christmas,” responded Cloey Caprio (12). The gift meant so much to Caprio because she had been wanting and waiting to have one since the Playstation 3 was released. Good things do come to those who wait, apparently.

Finally, Xavier Arce explained, “The most memorable gift I received for Christmas was my first ever iPhone because all throughout middle school and elementary I never had

Continued on ensuing page.