

COYOTE CHRONICLES

Chandler Early College Newspaper: Back to School Edition



WELCOME BACK, STUDENTS!

Written by Savannah McIntyre

Starting a new school can be tough, especially the “making friends” aspect of it. It doesn't have to be hard, though. We can all do our part to make our new students feel welcome!

This year, we have twenty-one new students and one new staff member, Mrs. Brown! So, how exactly do we make them feel welcome? Well, for one, you can introduce yourself-- don't forget to ask for their name, too, though. A great time to do this is during passing-period/break, or at lunch. If you see someone sitting alone, don't be afraid to go up and say hello (who knows, you might make a new friend). And just be confident!

Some of our returning students gave input into how they have made friends. Joe Jackman says, “Mrs. Hickson partnered me up with Aaron in Criminal Justice and the two of us worked on an assignment together, from then on, the two of us became buddies.” Junior Jazmin Mendivil reveals, “I just talked, said, ‘Hi, I’m Jazmin,’ and made a conversation.”

But, how have the new students been adjusting? Well, for one, when Mrs. Brown was asked if the students have been welcoming, her thoughts were, “They're kind. I believe a smaller environment allows for a more genuine connection.” A new student, Tarah Tisdale, adds, “It's different from Casteel, but everyone is nice for the most part.” Joey Kammerer states, “I like the smaller environment, it makes it much easier to adjust and be comfortable. Also, the students are nice and the staff, too.”

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Now, you must be wondering... who *are* the new students?

For our freshman, we have: Alex Warkentin, Tommy Southmayd, Rihanna Silver, & Khamara Holmes

And for sophomores: Tanner Gordon, Angelina Sierra Perea, & Anish Sharma

Our juniors are: Victoria Jackson, Joey Kammerer, Kirra Kaufman Johnson, Brayden Keith, Vyn Nuckolls, Laelah Nuriddin, Tarah Tisdale, Elane Washington, Ashley Hayes, & Emily Myers

Seniors: Hailey Adams, Evan Ashby, Chase Hendrickson, Lily Kent, & Johana Pena

So, maybe the next time you're at lunch, say hello to your neighbor; it might just make their day! Even simple things like waving and smiling at others can make a world of a difference. As CEC students, it's our responsibility to make others feel appreciated and accepted because truly, they are.



How to Make Friends

101 *Written by Jazmin Mendivil*

How does one make friends? There are many ways in fact. Here are a few tips.

- Don't be shy! Go up and talk to them.
- Be your **real** self.
- Don't judge a book by its cover.
- Compliment them.
- Be respectful.
- Look approachable.
- Be confident.
- Ask them a question.

We asked Joey Kammerer some questions about friendship. Here's what he had to say:

- **How do you make friends?** You just have to talk to someone a little bit and be kind to yourself. If you treat yourself with compassion and can be happy alone then people will pick up on that and want to be friends with you.
- **Do you know anyone at CEC?** I know all the teachers and I have a few friends now already.
- **What do you think makes a good friend?** A good friend is someone who respects you and other people, won't talk about you badly behind your back and is someone who you can just talk to/go through things in life with. There's many different forms of friendship.
- **What breaks friendships?** Most often just time. People usually just live their own lives and then you talk less and less and that's not a bad thing; it just means you're growing. But sometimes you don't want to be friends with someone anymore because you don't want to be a part of their behavior. Like if they disrespect other people or they start making you feel bad about yourself. Sometimes you can also realize that you are allowing someone to influence you in ways that you don't want them to. (Like you might adopt their selfish behavior of putting other people down to be accepted by them and then realize that's not who you want to be.)

Back to School Fashion

Written by Jazmin Mendivil

There are so many different types of styles. Fashion is a way for people to express themselves and show their uniqueness. So, without further ado, here are some different styles we have this year at CEC!

How would you describe your style?

Lily Kent

Very 90s grunge, I like old school styles and not new trends.

Mia Barriga Chavez

I'm an old-school style really, but I'm not allowed to dress like it because I'll get in trouble.

Jeremiah Zamani

I would describe my style as pretty simple. I don't have many clothes that have crazy designs or a bunch of different colors. I mostly keep everything simple, which is the exact opposite of what I used to be, but that is definitely for the best.

What is your favorite fashion trend right now?

Lily Kent

Chunky trainer sneakers.

Mia Barriga Chavez

Old fashion that's coming back.

Jeremiah Zamani

I know nothing about fashion, so I have no idea what is trending right now.

How did your style come to be?

Lily Kent

I take a lot of inspiration from how my mom dressed in the 90s.

Mia Barriga Chavez

Grew up in a Chicano household.

Jeremiah Zamani

My style came to be by finding clothes that are comfortable and don't make me look fat.

Do you have any influencers that inspired your style?

Lily Kent

Bella Hadid, Emma Chamberlain, and Kendall Jenner, I also like the styles from the show "Outer Banks".

Mia Barriga Chavez

Anything that I like inspires me.

Jeremiah Zamani

I don't have any influencers that inspired my style .



Academic Stress

Written by Joey Kammerer

If you're feeling stressed or burnt out, you're not alone. Here are some helpful tips for reducing stress.

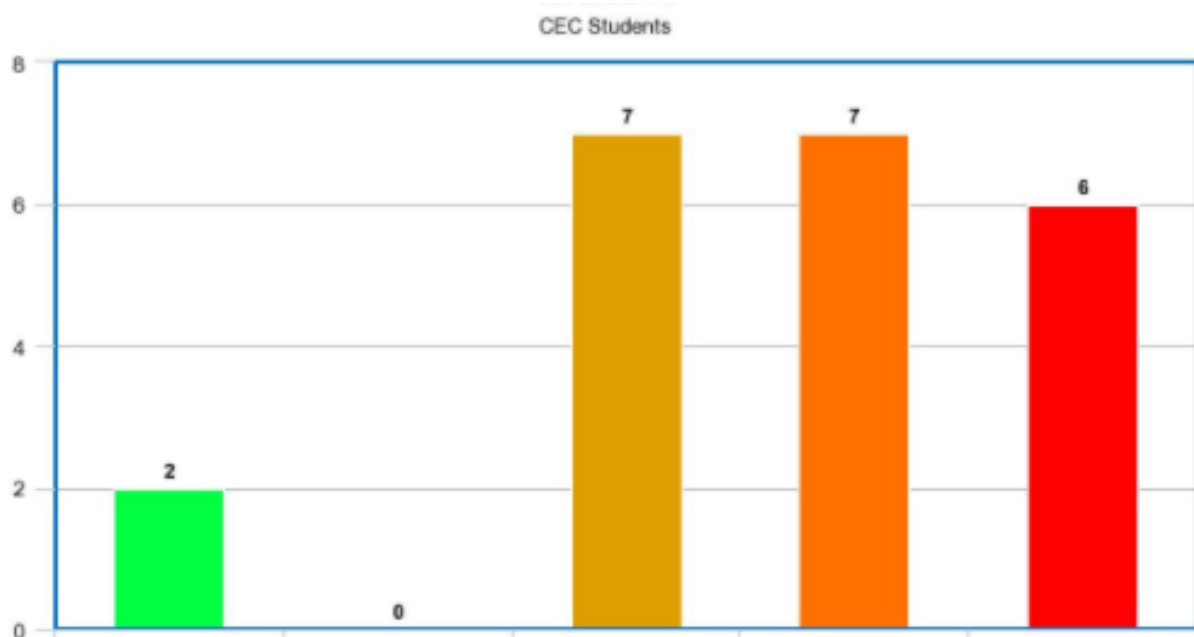
- Ask teachers for assistance when you don't understand.
- Take clear and concise notes.
- Get enough sleep and take good care of yourself. Remember, a cup can't pour water if it's empty.
- Don't procrastinate. Procrastination only leads to more stress and less time to finish assignments.
- Balance responsibilities. Make time for the stuff that you like by getting all your homework done beforehand.
- Take breaks when you can. Get up, walk around and take a second to check in with yourself. You'd be surprised how much of a difference 5 minutes can make.
- Study. Just something as simple as using a Quizlet or looking at your notes for a few minutes can make a difference.

School can be stressful, especially because of time constraints and deadlines, tests and homework, pressure to succeed from parents, teachers and yourself.

Sometimes our parents, having done so much for us, it can make us feel like we're not good enough or like we haven't tried hard enough when they see our grades. Realize that they probably just want you to succeed because they want you to grow up to be safe and happy. Maybe they didn't get the same opportunities that you have a chance at now.

Remember that no one in the whole world could ever be perfect. You'll be just fine as long as you try. School is important. Participate in class and do your work. Invest in yourself. You're so much more than worth it. Believe in yourself. Remind yourself, it's okay to make mistakes. No one can ask you to do any better than your best.

"Everybody is a genius, but if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid." -Albert Einstein



We asked 22 students at CEC, on a scale of 1-5 (5 being the most) "How much do tests stress you out?"

CEC Athletes

Written by Cameron Herrera

At Chandler Early College we don't offer sports but there are still some athletes that still manage to play sports outside of school.

While keeping up with school, some of the athletes are running through their daily life.

Our athletes all wake up at different times but some read their Bible or more intense athletes start their morning with exercise.

Some athletes practice at parks or some have a club and can practice there or may even go to a gym.

Our basketball player Alyanna Rivera (11th) prefers the number 15 or 16 "because they're my lucky numbers." And Bryce Gray (11th) who does basketball and boxing "likes the number two....because it reminds me that I always get picked second or below so I think people should sleep on me." Jazmin Mendivil (11th) who plays softball says her number is 7 because that is her lucky number.

Beyond a friendly game after school, CEC student-athletes have developed skills and routines that have carried them through their individual seasons.



How to Stay Awake in Class Written by Regina Washington

Falling asleep in class can be a frightening experience! When you don't know what is going on around you, you could miss vital information. Plus, not knowing if the teacher has noticed is a scare in itself. When done right, it can be a relaxing and even fun experience, but is it worth the risk?

The possibility of missing key topics in a lesson, getting embarrassed by your teacher waking you up, *and* finding drool all over your assignment? Well, fear no more, here are some tips and tricks on staying awake in class.

- Water has many attributes such as keeping you hydrated, focused, and alive. There are many ways to get some of this delicious life, as it can be found all around our beautiful campus. You can get it for free at the water fountains, the snack cart for .50 cents, or at the vending machines for \$1.50.
- Another way to keep you from dozing off in class is to participate-- you won't be able to find the time to even think about going to sleep when you're participating.

Ways to help you outside of school is to get a good night's sleep, then you won't be sleepy in class.

- Try avoiding your phone at least an hour before bed; phones and tablets can suppress melatonin levels and delay sleepiness.
- Don't try to pull all-nighters, that means doing your homework at home or during lift-lab. Try to finish everything you need to do at least 2 hours before bed.
- Don't lie in bed awake. If you can't fall asleep after 20 minutes, do something calming until you feel sleepy, like reading or listening to soft music.
- Avoid taking naps after 3 p.m, and don't nap longer than 20 minutes. Napping for longer than 20 minutes will leave you feeling even more tired.



How Do Students Feel About COVID?

Written by Evan Ashby



As of August 5, 2021, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is urging fully vaccinated people in certain parts of the country to start wearing masks indoors and in public areas. The CDC guidance first stated that unvaccinated individuals should continue wearing masks until they are fully vaccinated. But, with the new delta variant CDC guidelines state that to maximize protection from COVID, people should continue to wear masks in public if they are in an area of substantial or high transmission. According to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Arizona currently falls under a “high transmission” zone. Opinions on this vary; when asked if masks should be required in schools, many students at CEC agree with Alyanna Rivera, stating that, “I think leaving it up to the students is the best choice.” The US Center for Disease Control and Prevention also states that all people ages 2 and older should wear masks in school because of the delta variant. With the delta variant, children under the age of 12 are more susceptible to the COVID-19 virus. With children under the age of 12 still unable to get the COVID vaccine, there is a major concern in schools.

Being as new as they are, vaccines are very controversial at the moment, having different unknown side effects and risks. Many students' opinions on talking about whether or not they have gotten vaccinated, are like Maragaret Harsen, stating that getting vaccinated, “Is personal and people shouldn't have to talk about it.” Right now CDC is recommending that there should be universal masking for all teachers, staff, students, and all visitors to school, regardless of vaccination status. The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) agrees with the CDC, wanting schools to encourage the use of masks when physical distancing cannot be maintained, whether or not people are vaccinated. Although CDC is recommending universal masking in schools, at the moment, Arizona law prohibits school districts from mandating masks. By September 29, 2021, a state law will go into effect prohibiting the requirement of masks in all district and charter schools. President of the Arizona Education Association (AEA), Joe Thomas, stated that, “What the Governor has signed into law is dangerous and is putting the health of students in danger.” He stated, “As we saw during the pandemic last year, guidance is constantly changing as more is learned about this virus. Putting a blanket prohibition on masks and vaccines is irresponsible and reckless.”

Regardless of the new law going into effect, for the safety of the teachers and students, the Phoenix Union High School District will violate that executive order, and require masks indoors regardless of vaccination status on August 2, 2021. Twelve other Arizona school districts have followed the lead of the Phoenix Union High School District, requiring the use of masks indoors. Other schools, like Brophy College Preparatory, will take this a step further, requiring proof of full vaccination before students are allowed to attend. Additionally, students will be required to wear masks until September 13, 2021; 16 days before the law that prohibits the required use of masks in school goes into effect. So far, 214 Chandler Unified School District students have gotten the COVID-19 virus. With limitations on what universities can enforce, ASU has done things like making vaccinations available on campus, and raffling off prizes like scholarship money.

Whether or not masks are required, most schools still take the extra steps to protect against COVID, like practicing social distancing whenever possible. When asked about extra steps like this, Joseph Kammerer responded with, “If you're sick I think you should stay home... I think everyone should just practice good social distancing even if they're vaccinated.” CDC guidelines recommend at least three feet of physical distance maintained between people whenever it can be maintained. They also recommend handwashing, respiratory etiquette, and cleaning and disinfecting. Most students attending school at CEC agree with the need to take extra steps like these to stop the spread of the virus.

Life of a CEC Student

Written by Geoffrey Gordan

The average student, what do they do? Eat, sleep, and do homework; but that can't be all, right? Let's find out-

For example, take Justin Harper here- a smart, hard working student who doesn't enjoy school much but gets his work done:

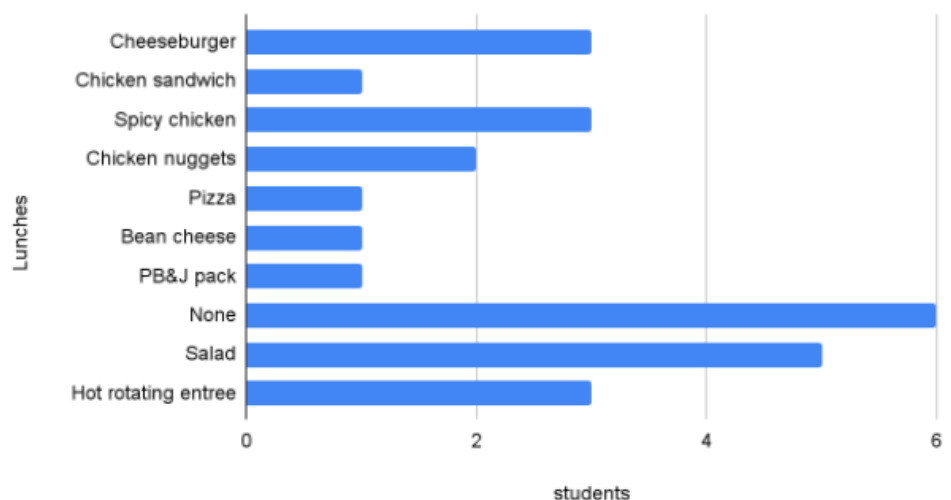
My daily routine starts off with an alarm going off at about 6:20, I then take a shower and get dressed, after that I go and make some breakfast (usually an egg and some bacon). After I put the food on the stove, I go and make some coffee and get my meds I take with food. After I eat, I start to get my bag ready for school. If I finish that early, I usually go and walk my dogs. By the time I get back, my alarm to leave is about to go off. When my alarm to leave goes off I get into the car and we drive to school. After I finish school, I go home (take a nap). After my nap I usually eat dinner and make some G Fuel, grab a Monster (around 5pm), then hop on the computer (start with KovaaK for about an hour and a half and then join my team call and listen to my coach and figure out what the plan is for the night). After that, I grab my backpack and do my homework. When I finish my homework it's usually around 10. Then watch some YouTube and get ready for bed and/or eat some food and by 10:40 I Am in bed watching a show for about 20-30 min. Then I go to bed. rinse and repeat. (If I have work I skip the nap)

Justin's routine is a very accurate representation of how early most of our students wake up. But Justin Harper is only a single student. There are certainly others that exist, and their schedules can vary. Take Joseph Jackman for example, a traditional student who simply likes to "get dressed and eat breakfast if I have time, then go to school." As well as Mia Barriga Chavez--a quiet old-school student who in her own words... "I wake up at 6:40 and get ready for school, I go to school at 7:30 and get out at 10:40, then go home to clean the house a little bit before my mom comes home and then I get ready for EVIT..."

On the other side of the table our students take part in their own extracurriculars such as Jeremiah Zamani who tells us. "I have a job at a restaurant called Valle Luna as a busser, so that might count as an extracurricular activity. I also play a lot of sports, but I haven't joined a team for any yet, so maybe that will happen soon. I also work out at the gym a lot, so since I usually spend about three hours there five days a week I'd count it as an extracurricular activity." Now of course, every person is different, but this just gives a bit of insight into a day in the life of a CEC student.

Now let's take a look at how CEC students feel about their schedules this school year. Here's Jeremiah Zamani again who reportedly says "I really like my schedule because I only have two classes, so I get out early..." But nevertheless, "I'm not too stressed just yet, but I feel like it will pile on more towards the middle/end of the year, because college is right around the corner..." Then there's also Mia who answers "I get ready for EVIT and after EVIT I go straight to work and won't get out until 9 then I head home and do homework."

What do our students order?



Another big part of everyone's day is lunch. Let's see how our students feel about the freely provided CEC lunches.

Brand New to CEC

By: Ashley Hayes, Johana Pena

How does CEC differentiate from your last school, and how did you discover it?

Johana Pena (Grade 12): "Getting transferred to a smaller school after being in a bigger environment with more than 3,400 students, and coming to a new school with less than 100 has been a big change. Starting school just a month ago at Chandler, I liked my classes. Everyone there is friendly, but just in general, both physically and mentally exhausting, having so many classes, and being stressed out made me not want to be there. Many students everywhere with a seven minute passing period, had everyone bumping into each other. With so much going on, after my counselor referred me to CEC, I was nervous thinking it was a big school by a college, but I found out I was wrong once I learned more about it. I really like it because you have a lot of opportunities and it is less stressful than having six periods and having to be all over the school then having only four classes. The administration and teachers will do their best to make you finish all the classes that are needed for you. I am so thankful that I got this opportunity that I wish I knew about this school before going into high school."

Ashley Hayes (Grade 11): "Transferring to a new school is usually difficult for most students, but for me it wasn't at all. When I began the school year almost a month ago at Hamilton, I really liked my classes. The people were friendly, but the environment was very overwhelming. The hallways were extremely crowded, and the school was just overpopulated in general. It was becoming a rare occurrence that I would attend. Since there's so many students already, my teachers didn't seem to mind that I had been absent and didn't really care to see me catch up. My counselor referred me to CEC and I couldn't be happier about it. Being at school and doing the work always made me feel like I was doing a chore and I really didn't like that. At CEC, I feel much better coming to school and the work still gives me a challenge, which I'm thankful for. The classes are much smaller, and the teachers are patient and can focus on each of their students individually. It's also an accelerated school, which gives all of the students cool opportunities like dual enrollment in a college course, as well as being able to graduate early. The teachers and administration try their best to make sure everyone takes and finishes all the classes they need and graduates."

Emily Myers (Grade 11): "Before I found out about CEC, I was attending Hamilton High School. Hamilton's environment was not ideal for the way that I learn. Teachers have too many students, and not enough time to help if you end up falling behind. At CEC, I can easily contact and communicate with my teachers, and they are willing to help me catch up. I found out about CEC through my counselor, and I'm glad I did!"

In general, how do you think smaller and larger schools compare and affect their students?

Ashley Hayes (Grade 11): "In my perspective, smaller schools have always seemed very tight-knit and students feel more engaged, and possibly safer. Larger schools come across as chaotic.. and students tend to be more withdrawn during lessons. I really feel like bigger schools are great for students who are very extroverted, charismatic even, or just noticeably involved. Obviously, you can have that kind of personality and thrive at a smaller school, it's always just going to depend on who you are and what you are comfortable with. Smaller schools definitely give introverted, or "shy" students a chance to breathe and not feel as suffocated, as larger schools can cause them to feel that way."

Emily Myers (Grade 11): "Smaller schools are much better than larger schools, in my opinion. In smaller schools, you get a more "personal experience", and it's easier to get to know people. In larger schools, you're just a number in the system. This can affect students because everyone learns differently, and some students that may attend a larger school might really need a smaller school's environment to make it possible for them to enjoy being there everyday."

Johana Pena (Grade 12): " In my point of view, smaller schools tend to really focus on every student, and make sure they are on track. They also build stronger communication skills. A lot more opportunities, it's easier to develop more meaningful connections among both the staff, and students. Schools with bigger environments have more difficulty in receiving individual attention in classes. For those students that are extroverts, they usually attend larger schools. There's students like that in smaller schools and they bring out the funny, loud sides of those who are shy in smaller schools. All students that go through having social anxiety in a bigger environment tend to be shy and can often deal with feeling suffocated. Coming into those smaller schools helps to bring them out for who they are and feel relief and less stress in small environments.

Overall, how important is the size of our schools?

According to GreatSchools.org, "When it comes to school size, there is no right size that works for every student. Some students thrive in a smaller environment where they get lots of attention, while others prefer the variety of activities and peer groups available in a larger school. Certainly, small and large schools each have their pros and cons."

As claimed by ncte.org, "Academic performance is important, but it is not the only measure of student success. In the area of student engagement, findings consistently show the value of small classes. Students talk and participate more in smaller classes. They are much more likely to interact with the teacher rather than listen passively during class. Not surprisingly, students describe themselves as having better relationships with their teachers in smaller classes and evaluate both these classes and their teachers more positively than do their peers in larger classes. Students display less disruptive behavior in small classes, and teachers spend less time on discipline, leaving more time for instruction. Specifically, teachers in smaller classes can diagnose and track student learning and differentiate instruction in response to student needs. In smaller classes students spend less time off-task or disengaged from the work of the class, and they have greater access to technology. Research also suggests that smaller class sizes can help students develop greater ability to adapt to intellectual and educational challenges."

Life Outside of CEC

Written by Joe Jackman

CEC students are more than how they appear in the classroom. Some play sports like hockey, some go home and play video games. People also do a variety of volunteer work like at daycare or with special needs and senior citizens. Some students have also gotten jobs. Here is where people work outside of CEC: Jazmin Mendivil (11) works at Peter Piper Pizza. Justin Harper (11) works at Starbucks. Chase Hendrickson (12) works at Papa Murphy's. These people work for money or to be able to sustain themselves outside of the house.

Here are a few people's hobbies: Evan Ashby (12) plays video games like GTA 5, Battlefield, and Split Gate with his friends. Some other common hobbies among people are: painting and drawing, watching TV, working out, sleeping and working on trucks As well as listening to music and playing sports.

Now, you may be asking yourself, "What do people do for extracurricular activities outside of CEC?" Bryce Gray (10) does boxing at the Rock Foundation because he wanted to step out of his comfort zone and also wanted to show that he could do anything if he puts in time and effort. Carrying on the family tradition, Brinya Seaman (10) helps out at the Alone No More Rescue in Heide's Village animal shelter. Tarah Tisdale (11) helps special needs children because she wanted to get out of band and find an alternative activity outside of school.

There's plenty of outside activities CEC students are involved with that are creative and active and inspire people to get out of the house to go outside and help the community. We are almost at the end of the tunnel so keep up the good work at CEC and lets make this one of the best years we have ever had.



Upcoming Video Game Releases

Written by Aaron Haralson

Since its debut in 1995, every major company in the video game industry has flocked to the titanic exhibition that is E3 to showcase what they have in store for the next year. Every year since, the conference has garnered online viewers by the million. The most anticipated releases of all time often find their first light at E3, so if you're into video games, it's a good place to start looking.

With that said, there are other video game conferences out there, usually held by private companies for their own releases. These combined with E3 give a pretty accurate idea of everything that's coming out. In terms of such, there is a moderate amount of game content to look forward to in the next year. There's a fair bit of genre diversity in the selection. Those with an interest in first-person-shooter, action-adventure, survival, and platforming games are bound to find something they like in the coming year. Some games that have been long-anticipated have finally been given some light, and there were also a few new pleasant surprises.

Here are some of the more notable coming releases:

Game	Estimated Release Date
Battlefield 2042	October 22, 2021
Call of Duty: Vanguard	November 5, 2021
Dying Light 2	December 7, 2021
Elden Ring	January 21, 2022
Elder Scrolls 6	November 11, 2022
Halo Infinite	Holiday 2021
Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild 2	2022
Metroid Dread	October 8, 2021

While there is quite a repertoire of games-to-be, this year's video game conferences (and to an extent, their games) have had extremely mixed responses from the community, failing to capture the interest of many. CEC junior Jack Norton laments, "Games for the last several years now have been quite sad. Either repetitive, no story, poor optimization or terrible community."

On the other side of the coin, there are some with a more optimistic approach. "I'm looking forward to Battlefield 2045 and Halo Infinite," CEC junior Justin Harper states. At this year's E3, they were the main things that caught his eye. "[they] looked great," he adds.

Whatever the case, one can certainly not deny that there are games coming out in the next year. Whether one may be personally satisfied with said games or not, the selection is undoubtedly promising. There is always next year's E3 too, and the industry shows no signs of slowing down.

