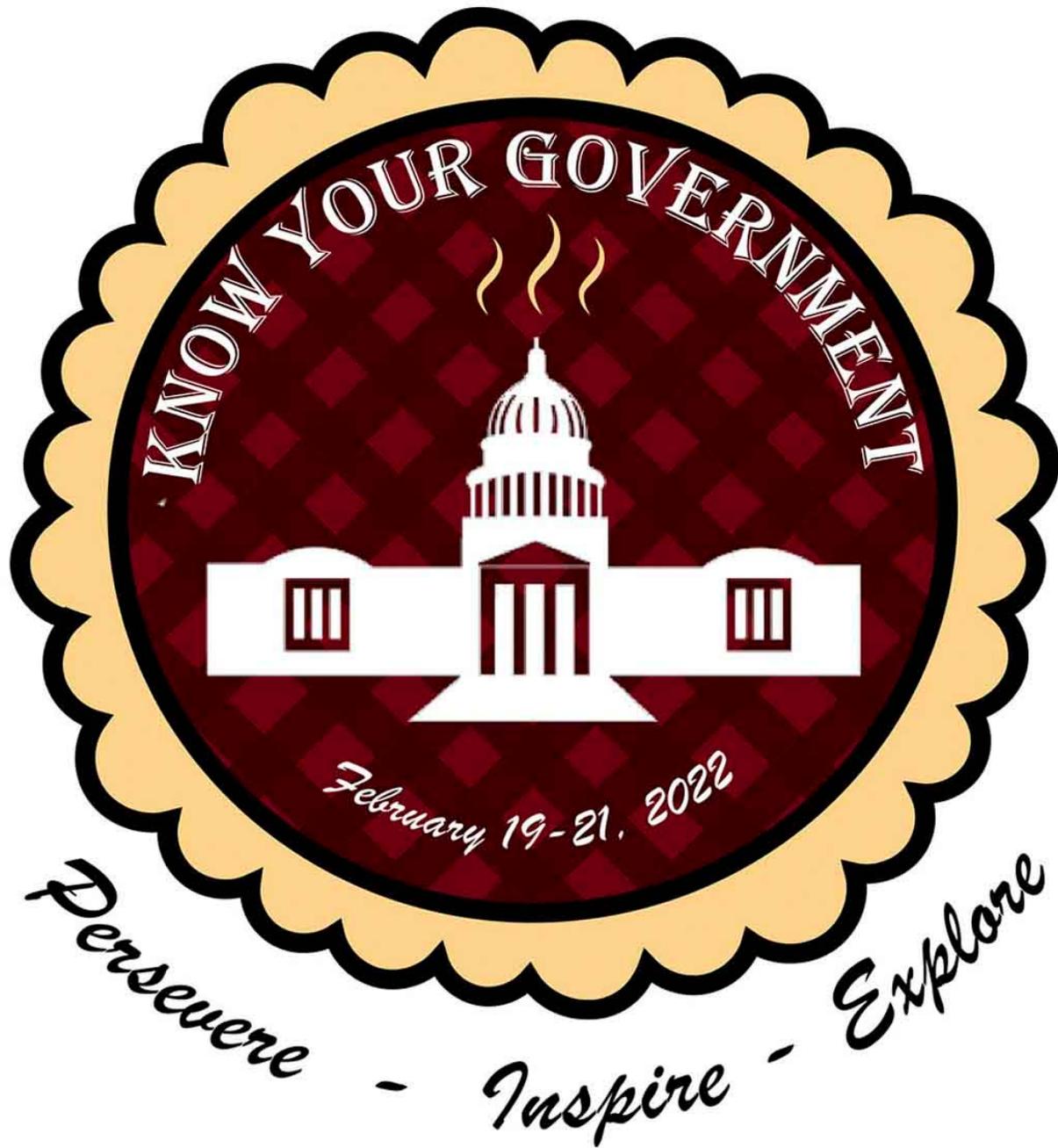


# KYG 2022

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# Newsletter



# Editor's Note

By  
Josiah Knapp, Central District



Know Your Government is a wonderfully unique Conference that is effective in teaching the the youth of Idaho how to be better Citizens. Learning about our government is one of the main goals of this conference, but what goes on behind the scenes of KYG? If you were to peel back the curtain you would find a quirky group of teens and adults working together to achieve greatness. The steering committee is divided into three main sub-categories: legislative, judicial, and the reporter team.

Within each subcategory are three levels of membership. These include 3rd years, a 4th year, and an adult chair. These Adults push us teens to complete our work and have the most impact on those that attend the Conference. We would not be able to do our work without the help and support of these wonderful volunteers, University of Idaho employees, and our sponsors. Thank you for your support!

## Thank You Adults on the Committee!

Mike Knutz  
SheilAnne Smith  
Allen Taggart  
Chandra Vaughan  
David Callister  
Nicholas Wittman  
Teresa Balderrama  
Kristina M. Schindele  
Jamie Hill  
Crystal Callahan  
Jeremy Hampton

## Thank You Sponsors!



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Karen and Eugene Wisniewski  
Cynthia and Willis Kinder  
Vicki Garret  
Earl and Debra Hargrave

# 2021-2022 Steering Committee



Addy Webster:  
Reporter



Ayana Turner:  
Legislator



Aurla Palmer:  
Legislator



Avalon Theil:  
Reporter



Bronwen Baker:  
Video Producer



Brooke Romney:  
Judge



Brooklyn Greenwalt:  
Legislator



Edie Peyton:  
Legislator



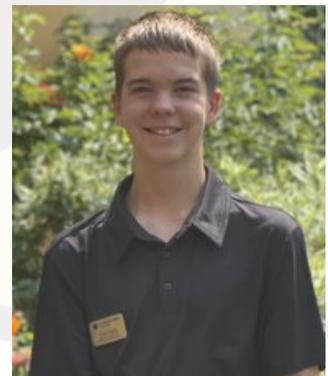
Brenn Koch:  
Judge



Clayton Moore:  
Speaker of the House



Danielle Vassar:  
Reporter



Cole Davis:  
Reporter

# 2021-2022 Steering Committee



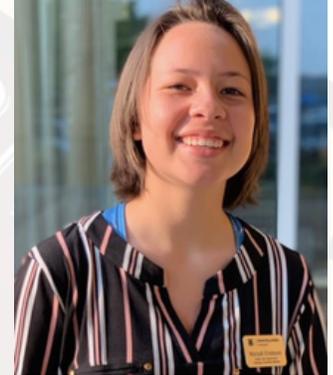
Jaelyn Gates:  
Judge



Elizabeth Wisniewski:  
Reporter



McKenna Knott:  
Legislator



Mariah Erikson:  
Reporter



Kamille Mirkin:  
Justice



Krystal Lee:  
Reporter



Kacie Clyde:  
Judge



Josiah Knapp:  
News Editor



Owen Allenger:  
Reporter



Sarah Jensen:  
Judge



Shawnee Ortega:  
Judge



Turstin Reid:  
Reporter

# Tribal Government

By  
Mariah Erikson, Northern District



What is tribal government? Tribal governments operate apart from the federal government because The U.S. Government has deemed them as sovereign. The federal government decided to recognize Native Americans as citizens that could govern themselves as a separate entity.



There are five federally recognized tribes in Idaho. Each tribe is different in its own way. Some tribes are put together, such as the confederated tribes of Warm Springs, where more than one tribe lives on one reservation. Even though some tribal governments may be small, the state it is in has no power over tribal affairs. Each tribe also has its tribal court and tribal police. Some tribes might have a chief to represent them, while others have a tribal council and chairman, elected by people in the tribe.

What did the pie  
say  
to his valentine?  
I have a crust on you!



An essential part of Native American culture includes their land. One thing that policymakers had issues with was that Native Americans did not “use their land.” Due to this belief, Congress passed the Dawes Act in 1887. The Dawes Act gave out allotments of land to individuals or a family of Native Americans and sold the rest of the land to settlers, and opened it to the Homestead. After some time passed, the government decided to give Native Americans more land. Tribal government first started to appear in 1934 when Congress passed the IRA (Indian Reorganization Act). This act offered government money to tribes that developed constitutions based on the United States government. Original Tribal governments were replaced with council governments with a chairman at the top or chief representing the tribe, and more allotments were given to the Native Americans.

# Tribal Government Cont.

By  
Mariah Erikson, Northern District

What are the main differences between Tribal Governments and Federal Governments? First of all, the federal government protects the tribes and the tribal properties on the reservation. Some examples of tribal properties are casinos (in some cases, like in Idaho), Tribal Markets, and Tribal Facilities (like a wellness center).



You might be wondering how to participate in tribal government? For the Coeur d'Alene tribe Adults who are enrolled in the tribe and live on the reservation can vote for their tribal council and city council. Anybody can write their opinion and concerns to the chief of the tribe or the chairman of the tribal council. Everyone can watch the scheduled tribal council meetings in the city hall. Overall, tribal government is something anyone can participate in, even if you aren't Native American yourself!



# Limiting Homework Act

By

Elizabeth Wisniewski, Central District



Homework has been a controversial debate between students, teachers, and parents throughout the years. Most students wonder how homework can be beneficial; homework can help enforce what the students are learning in class. It also teaches responsibility, stress management, time management, and discipline. However, if too much is assigned, it can cause detrimental stress and a lack of time with family and friends. It takes time away from hobbies and extracurricular activities while harming students' mental and physical health. A study conducted by Stanford University found that too much homework can be counterproductive and consequently lead to more significant stress, reduction in health, and less quality time spent with family, friends, and pursuing other interests. The researchers also found that 1.5-2.5 hours is optimal for high school students and that the teachers should focus on assigning homework that is beneficial and encourages learning and development.

The need for Bill 111 indicates students have stress and anxiety. Students often associate these thoughts with completing their homework assignments while balancing the rest of their time for extracurricular activities, hobbies, friends, and family. This concern inspired the creation of House Bill 111.

House Bill 111 is intended to limit homework time for all classes to only one hour per night. This legislation aims to assist students by decreasing stress and anxiety and improving mental health. The sponsor of HB 111, Representative McKenna Knott of Latah County, stated, "What inspired me is the mental health of not only myself but of my fellow peers. Too much homework is taking up their time for family and extracurricular activities; homework is unnecessary if you are actually teaching in class." In a previous interview Rep. Knott also stated, "School is stressful for students and adding extra work to get done at home when they are already working in class only adds more anxiety and stress to students because they have to filter in sports and activities that they already have with family time." Rep. Knott hopes that limiting homework to one hour per night will aid stability to students' mental health.

As stated in section 2 of the bill, the homework time will be recorded with a chart that the parents/guardians must sign nightly. Charts will be made by the teachers who require homework. The students will fill out the charts with the assignments they must complete. Authority will supervise to make sure that students complete all homework assignments then their parents or guardians will sign the chart once completed.

# Limiting Homework Act

By

Elizabeth Wisniewski, Central District

Rep. Knott stated, "I feel like that is plenty of time because I find it unacceptable that people have to do 4-H, sports, FFA, family, eat, sleep and still have homework on top of that. It really takes time out of your night to do more than one hour of homework." Rep. Knott also stated, "Those are more acceptable for students taking dual credit classes to have more than one hour of homework and the bill can be amended in committee as needed."

Rep. Knott feels her bill will pass as the committee members are in 8th and 9th grade and know the experiences of stress caused by homework. Lobbyist in favor of HB 111, Marlee Cottle, Bear Lake, stated, "Kids won't have stress and anxiety, they could have more time if it weren't for homework to spend time with family and friends."

Lobbyist Chase Petrella, Kootenai, spoke against HB 111 stated, "It would be hard on the teachers for coordinating with each other to limit the homework whether they have one hour of homework or if they still have to study for tests."

House bill 111 flew through the education committee, passing 6 to 2 with no amendments. Arguments in favor of HB 111 included reducing stress and anxiety, allowing more free time to enjoy, and lowering suicide rates. Students can focus on assignments, help around the house, and watch younger siblings. Negative reasons for HB 111 included the reduction of students' grades and the inability to keep with their teachers' pace in class. Having several teachers make homework charts would be complicated.



# Assisted Suicide Act

By  
Turstin Reid, Northern District

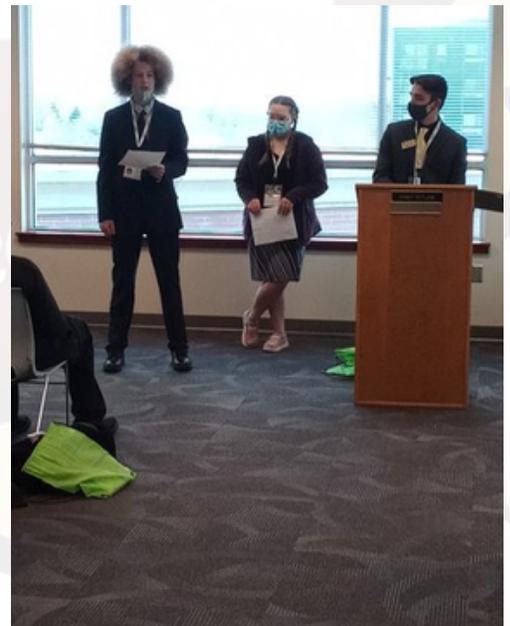


Physician Assisted Suicide is an emotionally charged subject that has caused many heated debates about the topic. The people who are for it think that they have the choice to end their own life and to prevent more suffering. People who are against it think that is suicide and more religions are against the suicide.

February 20, 2022 Representative Payton introduced House Bill 222 to address Physician Assisted Suicide debate. Payton has a great interest in the medical field and is looking to make an impact.

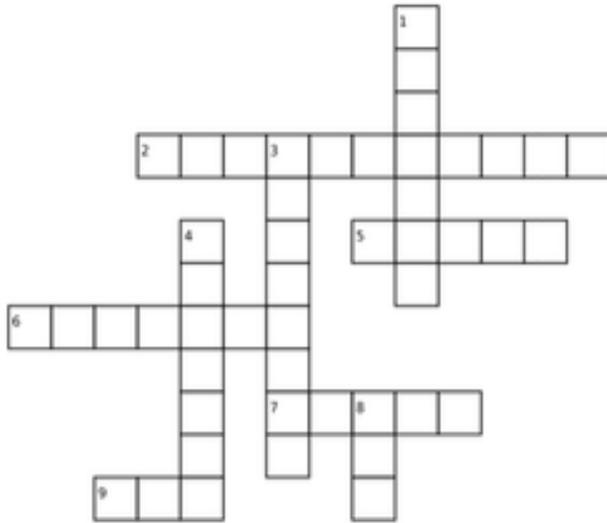
According to her she felt called to address this topic. If passed, Bill 222 will allow a licensed physician to perform assisted suicide, parts of the bill require the patient to be coherent and aware of their decision two months prior to their assisted suicide.

In committee three amendments were made to require extra monitoring of the assisted suicide; however, changes were made to allow the suicidee to conduct their own suicide. There were also limitations set on the medications needed for the procedure requiring them to only dispense the medications at the hospital. Additionally rules were set for record keeping and procedures for changing doctors. These changes passed committee by a unanimous vote.



# Just For Fun!

## KYG Pie



### Down:

1. pie vegetable
3. cold frozen treat
4. cavity remedy
8. 3.14

### Across:

2. a berry only grown in Oregon
5. fences around 4d
6. a shoe maker
7. keeps the doctor away
9. you were there



# Death Row Act

By  
Addy Webster, Eastern District



The author of this bill, Ayana, stated "she grew up with a family talking about how public hangings would be a good thing. Her town's jail is free to the prisoners; she doesn't think it is fair to have to use our tax money on prisoners." The last public execution in the United States occurred in 1936. It became illegal because people agreed it was against the 8th Amendment. It is also believed public hangings became illegal because in 1936 after Rainey Bethea was hung when he was convicted of rape; over 20,000 people came to Owensboro, Kentucky, to witness Bethea's execution. Many scholars maintain that the unprecedented nationwide attention and coverage the execution received caused the United States to outlaw public executions.

The 8th Amendment of the United States Constitution states that "Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted." According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, information proving this bill should pass shows that the U.S. spends \$81 billion a year on mass incarceration, and that figure might be an underestimate. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, the cost per capital case is \$262,900. The average price per day to house an inmate in Idaho is \$74.34; this means the cost of the capital case would be equal to 9.7 years of housing costs. In 2017 the prison policy initiative estimated the actual cost on state and federal governments and impacted families is roughly \$182 billion. Those dollars go to staffing the criminal justice system and meeting the basic needs of the more than 2 million Americans who are incarcerated. That is a lot of our tax dollars spent on criminals each year! If this bill passed, it could help lower that number! People think that public hanging would help reduce crime. Ayana stated personally, "she thinks this bill should pass because it would help save our tax money and reduce crime."

Ayana stated "she doesn't know if this bill will pass, as it can be considered cruel." A court may provide five types of punishments to a person convicted of a crime. These are death, imprisonment for life, simple and rigorous imprisonment, forfeiture of property, and fine. Ayana explained, "she believes there are lots of points to be made, and it should be a county decision rather than state. Although she is strong in her beliefs and thinks this bill should pass, she is excited to hear the opinion of the legislators.

# KYG Judicial Workshop

By  
Owen Allenger, Northern District



Imagine finding yourself in a court case for committing a crime, but what happens? Court Cases are a significant part of the judicial branch, and no matter what, everyone is involved in it. Wills, birth certificates, jury members, witnesses, and sometimes even criminal activity are part of everyone's life, and understanding the process can make a big difference. At the Know Your Government Conference, delegates may choose the Judicial Track and learn about what it has to offer. The Know, Your Government Project, informs youth about the importance of people in the Judicial branch, its structure, and teaches about their significance.

For a KYG court case, several delegates play the role of witnesses to show every perspective, which helps the delegate attorneys make their case. The witnesses' stories have their own bias, limited view, and potential connections to other witnesses or the victim and defendant. This is influential because how the witnesses tell their story allows the attorneys to direct questions or leading questions. Leading questions are used in the cross-examination phase of the trial, only allowing the witnesses to agree or disagree with a statement. This is how attorneys can corner witnesses to either introduce an inaccuracy with their story or why their account has a powerful bias. Direct questions allow the witnesses to tell their stories, directing how it supports their case. This allows the attorneys to refine what the witnesses say to support their claim or avoid potential story holes.



# KYG Judicial Workshop

By  
Owen Allenger, Northern District

The judge, a steering committee member, determines the trial result. A trait of excellent judges is their ability to take out their personal biases and not be influenced by matters outside of the court case. This is important for judges who are affected in unlawful ways to be fired for unjustly convicting people. KYG Delegates and steering committee members also meet the judges and justices to learn about the courtroom in Boise.

In the county courthouse, the delegates learned more about the judges' daily lives and their law school.

Like the judge in certain cases, such as a criminal trial or civil trial, the jury takes part and helps by being made up of many people with different perspectives. The essential factor is that they all have to agree for a case to be closed, or else it is delayed until it can be resolved or taken up to the next level of government.

The KYG Judicial Track comprises many different people, with many other rules. Still, the experiences and knowledge gained from it are significant due to its importance in society. Delegates coming out of KYG will have experience pursuing law as a future career and better understand the world around them.



A Pie walks into a bar.

The bartender says  
"sorry we don't serve  
food here."



# Resident Hunting Act

By  
Cole Davis, Central District



To hunt in Idaho requires a hunting license. If you are a resident, or an out of state hunter, and you're 10 years (and older) you are able to receive a hunting license. More and more out of state hunters are buying Idaho tags. Idaho may limit tags simply because of issues such as over hunting the population of deer, disease, and crowding, but it is unusual to take tags from out of state hunters and give them to residents. This new approach is receiving growing support from both residents and policy makers. According to a similar bill, Rep. Clark Kauffman states that, "the bill is aimed at reducing 'the overcrowding from out-of-state

hunters' and 'This is one of the highest priorities requested by the hunters of Idaho.'" However, because nonresident hunters make up "about 50% of the budget" for Idaho Fish and Game, Kauffman says that "the department is proposing to raise out-of-state fees by about 10%, varying by type of fee, 'just to stay even.'"

During an interview with the creator of the bill, Krystal Lee, she stated "I haven't received a tag since I was nine because of out-of-state hunters." She believes "that the point of out-of-state hunters buying tags is a huge profit for the state; however, it is taking away Idaho residents' chances to receive tags." Both of these points are likely to show up during the debate.



# Mask Freedom Act

By  
Avalon Theil, Northern District



This bill poses the controversial question: Should we still wear masks because of the prolonged COVID-19 pandemic? Bill 777: will make legislators grapple with the issue of mandates versus recommendations. Brooklyn agreed it would "stir up debate between representatives and delegates." She's interested in the bill because it's a current conflict in the world, and as youth, we need to be aware of what is going on in our state and our country. In addition, legislators must weigh this issue and subsequent policies, deciding which should fall on local or state policymakers' shoulders.



The difference between a mandate and a recommendation is that a mandate comes with enforcement and punishments. A mandate is used to ensure the public's safety. The government only mandates something if the people cannot follow guidelines in a satisfactory manner. It blurs the line between legal responsibility and business freedom. It is not the job of a business to enforce a legal practice; it is the government's job to enforce government regulations within the state of Idaho.



On November 19, 2020, 5 counties in Northern Idaho established a mask mandate, requiring masks when social distancing was impossible. Idaho, as a state, was one of the few states to think differently. According to Fowler, "Idaho is one of the few states to resist a statewide mask mandate, although it was a central debate during November and December 2020 when COVID-19 cases were rapidly rising. Since local governments and regional health districts in Idaho have broad authority to adopt public health ordinances, more than a dozen implemented mask mandates."

# Mask Freedom Act

By  
Avalon Theil, Northern District

According to Governor Brad Little: "A statewide mask mandate is problematic if the community doesn't believe in it and we are a local control state." Several groups opposed to masking mandates held protests and demonstrations, including a mask burning event in front of the state Capitol." Subsequently, the statehouse passed legislation banning local mask mandates. Brooklyn stated, "something difficult about researching this bill was that we are a conservative state, so it was hard finding information from our state that supports keeping the mandate."

However, when communities adhere to state or local mandates, businesses do not necessarily choose whether they require masks; instead, public health ordinances dictate this. To enforce these rules, the state government must have clear, finite, measurable evidence and reasoning as to why all citizens should sacrifice certain freedoms. Fowler continues, "However, there is also the issue of control aversion, where less individuals are less likely to comply with mandated behaviors because freedom of choice has been removed and a lack of trust with the government is formed."<sup>1</sup> People who are not in favor of mask mandates or refuse to wear a mask may stop going to these stores, which may cause severe losses or cause stores to go out of business.

In Idaho, we have the guidelines of:

- Social distancing (6 feet)
- Recommended testing if you are sick and to stay home,
- Vaccinations available

These guidelines are precautions to prevent COVID-19. However, with mask-wearing being optional, people still risk getting COVID-19.



# Mask Freedom Act

By  
Avalon Theil, Northern District



Another major issue Idaho has faced during COVID-19 is the closure of schools. Idaho's students have lost a significant amount of learning time. The mask mandate enforced in schools was only effective for a certain amount of time. Students often refuse to wear masks as it causes a distraction for students to learn and becomes a problem. Idaho schools still had experienced outbreaks with COVID while there was a mask mandate. This also caused massive outrage among parents, as they felt that they should have a say in the health protocols their children follow. If it is noted that if your child is sick or a family member is sick, the student stays home.

What happens when  
You eat 3.14 pies?

Fat, You get Fat



Brooklyn quoted, "I am in favor of this bill, we've tried the mask mandate as a state before, and it hasn't helped us; COVID is still present, so there should be a different way we go about it. I believe it's our personal choice on whether we want to wear a mask or not." She also reported that "she is interested in this bill because this is such a large topic of our state, and our world today. We are young right now, and we do not want to be wearing a mask for the rest of our lives." When I asked Brooklyn whether she thinks masks will persist forever, she replied, "I think masks will always be around." Her hope is that masks won't be such a huge part of the debate in the future.



All in all, Idaho residents have the choice of freedom and can decide whether they feel the need to wear a mask in public. People who are ill and or immunocompromised may choose whether their service providers and visitors wear a mask when coming into personal contact with them.

# Clint Pulver: Keynote Speaker

By

Danielle Vassar, Northern District



Coming to KYG could change your view on your future and the world in general. My experience was quite fun, and I enjoyed my first year. My second year was a bit complicated, but we managed to push through and have fun during our limited resources. My second year was Virtual, and there were a few issues, but I still enjoyed it. This year is my third year, and I'm a reporter. I'm glad I got to do this because I learned a few new things, and I got to practice writing articles by making this one you're reading right now!



The KYG Steering Committee invited Clint Pulver to inspire and energize the youth of KYG. Clint connected quickly with delegates and eased the anxious feelings on the first day. He shared a vulnerable experience, being bullied and teased for being different as a child. Clint would go on to thrive because he had a mentor, "Mr. Jenson," that saw possibilities and not problems.



Clint Pulver is an original and inspiring speaker that has a passion for the drums. He is a motivational keystone speaker, author, musician, and workforce expert. He loves helping others and wants the best for the world. Clint says everyone needs a "Mr. Jenson," and I feel the same because I believe everyone needs a mentor in their life. When Clint does speeches, he often delivers a powerful message that gives the audience energy and excitement.



# Clint Pulver: Keynote Speaker

By  
Danielle Vassar, Northern District

Small choices make essential differences. In one of Clint's speeches, he said that you never know when it may be your last day, so live one day at a time being loving and kind to those around you. He also said you NEVER need permission to help someone; it is okay to ask for help and choose wisely who you listen to. He talked about how you must do small things consistently over a long period of time to achieve a goal. The goal you make starts with the smallest decision.

One thing Clint Pulver said in his speech was that to be a good mentor you need to have the "Five C's of Mentorship:" confidence, credibility, competence, candor, and care. Clint says this because people can rely on you and have self-assurance if you have faith. People will most likely believe you and feel confident that you are a good source if you have credibility. Having competence will allow people to be more at ease and less stressed. Having candor and care also matters because you're not perceived as bossy or ordering people around if you show that you care. Having these qualities shows that you're honest and care for the people more than the job itself!

