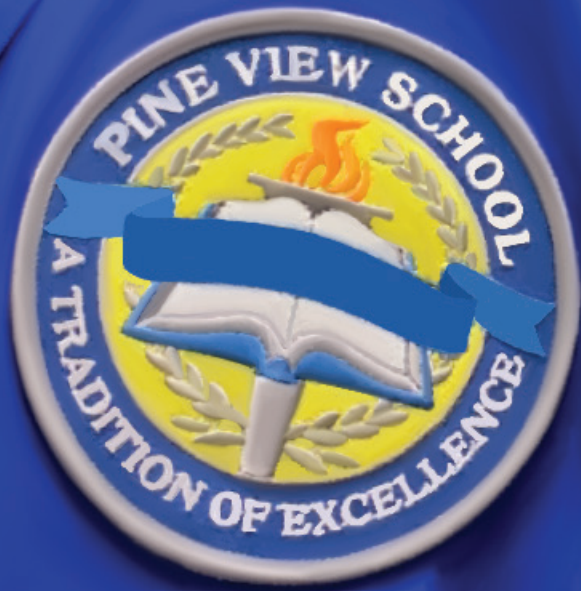


the Torch

Senior Issue



- 3 News
- 4-5 Entertainment
- 6-9 Sports
- 10 Senior Spread
- 11-13 College Maps
- 14-15 College Lists
- 16-21 Senior Predictions
- 22 Book Memories
- 23 Veteran Pythons



Dear Class of 2021,

On behalf of the Pine View Torch seniors, thank you so much for reading our publication this year. The Torch has left a lasting impact on us as students, friends, and members of the Pine View community, and we look forward to seeing you all continue to shine. We wish you the best of luck in your future endeavours.

Thank you,

Leo Gordon, Anna Labiner, Naina Chauhan, Ben Gordon, Kasumi Wade, Odelia Tiutyama, Madi Holmes, Olivia Hansen, Brianna Nelson

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Wes Baca

by Sebastian Genelhu-Bazan

Unlike most Pine View seniors, twelfth-grader Wesley Baca plans to extend his college education outside the academic realm. This fall, after graduation, Baca will attend the United States Military Academy where he will study electrical engineering.

Baca's decision to attend the military academy, known as West Point, came in response to a long-term desire to serve in the U.S. Army. He comes from a family with military history and hopes to become a soldier both to continue the family tradition and to make himself proud.

"Lots of people in my family have been in the military, but none in the army," Baca said. "My top choice

was the Naval Academy, but West Point gave me an offer for early acceptance last August, so I went for that instead."

In order to attend a US Military Academy, students must be nominated by a lawmaker, like their United States Representative.

Another major factor in Baca's decision to commit to West Point is the value he places in receiving not only a high-quality, but a free high-quality education. "I'm interested in electrical engineering and physics because I've heard they are harder degrees, and I want to push myself," Baca said.

Before he profession-



PHOTO PROVIDED BY WES BACA

ally pursues engineering or physics, Baca has another goal in mind.

"My ultimate goal in life is to join some part of the U.S. military special opera-

tions forces, like the 75th Rangers, the SEALs, or Delta Force," Baca said. "After I'm done serving in the military, I plan to go back to college on a GI Bill or work in the CIA."

Outside of academics, Baca's favorite activities include working out, drawing, playing video games, and sports like water polo, running, and swimming.

Generally, Baca sees his decision to attend a military academy as an easy choice.

"I don't think it's important for all people to serve in the military. I'm just choosing to because it seems to be a good path for me," he said.

**Thank you, PVA, for
supporting this
issue of the Torch.**

<https://yourpva.membershiptoolkit.com/>

senior spotlights

Kenna Bartlett

by Mahitha Ramachandran

The curtains close as the audience erupts in applause. The writers, director, actors, choreographers, set and costume designers, and stagehands are being praised for their work by everyone who witnessed it. But there is one person who deserves a special round of applause — stage manager of the production Kenna Bartlett.

Throughout her high school career, Bartlett has been a part of several stage productions, working in roles like actor, director, and stage manager.

Now, as she gets ready to graduate from high school, Bartlett has plans to earn a BFA in Theater Management at DePaul University.

“For a while I wanted to do STEM, something like biology. But as I got older and became more involved in Drama Club, I was able to take on leadership roles in the club and in productions, and I fell in love with backstage theater, and eventually, I realized I could

make a career out of it,” Bartlett said.

With experience in both directing and stage management, Bartlett says theater management is its own distinct role.

“Theaters are a business. Directors and stage managers work show-to-show but a theater manager keeps the lights on at the theater. It’s a steady job and I liked that stability,” she said.

A relatively new degree in the theater world, studying Theater Management combines theater with business classes.

“I’ll take finance, I’ll take accounting, but I’ll also take acting and lighting design. I get to do all the artistic theatre stuff too,” Bartlett said.

She is also excited to be in Chicago, a city with a unique theater scene.

“It’s more avant-garde, more experimental. It’s easier to get your start in Chicago than to go straight to Broadway. It’s a place for newcomers, for stuff that pushes the

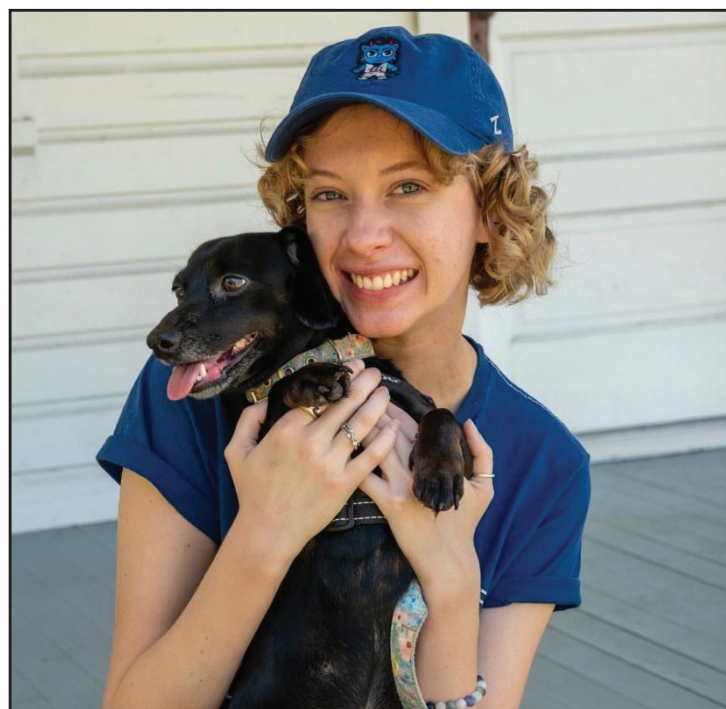


PHOTO PROVIDED BY KENNA BARTLETT

boundaries a little,” Bartlett said.

In the long-term, Bartlett says her dream is to own a theater company that prioritizes inclusivity and accessibility.

“There’s so much good that can be done through theater that can’t get done when you’re keeping people out. I’m

really interested in putting on new works and supporting new voices and their stories in the theater world and making experiencing art more financially accessible,” Bartlett said.

As the curtains close on Bartlett’s high school career, it is clear that the spotlight is shining bright on her future.

Keleigh Koeniger

by Lily Quartermaine

Twelfth-grader Keleigh Koeniger will attend Florida Southern College in Lakeland Florida this fall, studying music management and education.

“Ideally, this will bring me back to Pine View, to be the orchestra conductor when Mr. Mink retires,” Koeniger said, when asked where she hopes this education will take her.

Koeniger is excited to experience the familial atmosphere of Florida Southern, and hopes it has the same community atmosphere that Pine View provides, given it’s enrollment

of just over 2,000 students.

“I’m honestly very ex-



PHOTO PROVIDED BY KELEIGH KOENIGER

cited to meet new people,” Koeniger said. “I’m also the least excited about that too.

It will definitely be an experience, but I’m looking for-

do.”

Koeniger has made a lot of incredible memories on the Pine View campus aside from musical ones, but one stands out from the rest.

“The dodgeball game this year was honestly amazing. It was a great chance to have a bunch of fun with all of my friends past to present,” Koeniger said.

When asked if leaving Pine View was easy, Koeniger explained her plans to return to Pine View.

“It’s honestly kind of easy because I know I will be back here one day,” she said.

ward to being able to study music with people who feel as passionately about it as I

Caroline Creevy

by Leo Gordon

Since her first days at Pine View, twelfth-grader Caroline Creevy has been known for her connection to music. This fall, building on that musical history, Creevy will study music communications at Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts.

Throughout high school, Creevy has sported a wide range of academic interests. As a result, she was open to studying multiple academic fields in college.

Creevy’s plans narrowed, however, following a discussion with her cross-country coach, who studied music communications in college.

“I knew right away that it was what I wanted to do,” she said.

Though Creevy is known



PHOTO PROVIDED BY CAROLINE CREEVY

on campus for her role as the Pine View Jazz Band’s lead singer, her roots in music go

back over a decade.

“I’ve always loved to sing. When I was really young, I wanted to be a pop-

Creevy said.

Creevy credits much of her personal and musical growth to her 11 years at Pine View.

“Pine View has really guided me through every aspect and stage of my personality, and the people here have raised me to be the person I am and the person I will be in college,” Creevy said.

As part of her identity, Creevy believes that music will forever be a part of her life.

“I can always rely on singing or playing to cheer me up or inspire me. It’s always been the one thing that makes me feel like myself,” Creevy said.

star, and I’d perform for my parents and family with a kids’ karaoke machine,”

Max Milburn

by Felicity Chang

According to twelfth-grader Max Milburn, the swimming pool resembles both opportunity and pain. As Milburn believes, the pain he endured as a swimmer was well worth it, as he will be studying – and swimming – at Rhodes College in the fall.

This journey for Milburn had started 14 years ago when he started taking lessons and joined the Sarasota YMCA Sharks team.

“I just kept going. And there’s times when I just wasn’t that fast because I developed a lot later than everybody else. So, I was kind of slow compared to the rest of my teammates,” he said. “But it kind of helped me learn to love the sport, because it made my accomplishments

feel so much better.”

When he was 10 years old, Milburn made his first Florida Age Group Champi-



PHOTO PROVIDED BY MAX MILBURN

onships (FLAGS) cut — the first “big” meet he was able to attend.

“It just made me realize, maybe I can go somewhere in swimming,” he said.

Two years after that

meet, however, Milburn felt the urge to quit swimming altogether. From when he was around 12 to 14 years old, he

barely dropped time at events and felt like he perhaps needed to find another extracurricular. His coach at the time, Sherwood Watts, helped him persevere. Recently, Milburn competed with Sarasota High

to win states this year – the school’s first state championship in 15 to 20 years.

“It was one of the times where I felt most like we were a team. That was one of the best team camaraderies I’ve ever felt. Everyone was there for the same purpose to win. We knew we could win, and we did,” he said. “It was a great experience, and it kind of got me excited for college.”

During junior year, Milburn talked to college coaches, including Rhodes College head coach, Steve Webbs, who he describes as supportive and communicative.

Upon visiting Rhodes College’s campus, Milburn said, “Everyone just kind of felt like friends already, even though we’d only been together for a few minutes.”

Sage Yenari

by Sarah Catalano

With 12 years of swimming, four years of state championships, and two relay team school records broken, twelfth-grader Sage Yenari is headed to Middlebury, Vermont, where she will be attending Middlebury College and majoring in Chemistry on a pre-med track — all the while training and competing for the Middlebury swim team.

Yenari, after working closely with a vascular surgeon during her internship at Sarasota Vascular Surgery, plans on becoming a doctor.

Having practice up to nine times each week,



PHOTO PROVIDED BY SAGE YENARI

and meeting the additional challenges of a Pine View

workload, Yenari hopes the organization and time-man-

agement skills she gained in high school through Pine

View and her time swimming, will help her succeed in the future.

“The long hours, the long days that I’ve already experienced—that’s what I’m going to be dealing with when I go to med school,” Yenari said.

While she anticipates missing her friends and teammates from high school, Yenari looks forward to the team mentality of college swimming and starting fresh with a new team.

“Swimming is an individual sport, but when you’re in college, everyone cheers for everyone,” Yenari said.

Troy Riesenberger

by Kai Sprunger

From regatta days that began at 3 a.m., to late nights at Spanish Point, twelfth-grader Troy Riesenberger showcased his dedication to his team and community as the Mens Varsity Crew Captain. After spending five years, six days a week at Sarasota Crew, Riesenberger will continue his crew journey, rowing for the University of Pennsylvania's lightweight team this fall.

A memory Riesenberger still shares laughs over today was when, as a freshman, he was preparing to launch his single boat off the dock near a group of seniors.

"I shove off and I instantly flip into the water and basically go for a swim and [the

seniors] all laughed at me. I was super embarrassed, but it was funny; I look back at it and chuckle," Riesenberger said.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY TROY RIESENBERGER

One accomplishment that Riesenberger shares with fellow rower Dylan Fagiani was their second-place win in the lightweight category at nationals in 2019.

"We started the race in 5th place and in the last 500-750 meters, we started to push and we ended up having

a really good sprint and managed to get second place," Fagiani said, describing the race.

Riesenberger especially enjoys rowing because of the fact that a person can watch

themselves grow after every year and after every practice. Watching people's improvements and growth has helped motivate him improve his technique.

"The fun in the sport comes from being victorious and watching yourself and your hard work pay off," Riesenberger said.

At UPenn, alongside rowing, Riesenberger plans to study Philosophy, Politics, and Economics.

"It's going to be good to meet the new team. It'll be a nice change of pace," he said, "definitely excited to live in Philadelphia, definitely excited to root for a team that I know is going to be very competitive."

Liam O'Malley

by Alyson Mizanin

Twelfth-grader Liam O'Malley spent half of his life playing baseball before starting his football career as a freshman for Booker High. Four years and seven positions—long snap, free safety, strong safety, wide receiver, quarterback, nickelback, and corner—later, O'Malley's experience has culminated in him committing to Saint John's University for football. He will be majoring in Environmental Studies.

From starting baseball at seven years old to meeting Tampa Bay Buccaneers wide receiver Mike Evans in middle school, sports have always had a role in O'Malley's life.

O'Malley's brother encouraged him to playing both

baseball and football throughout high school. With football in the fall, baseball in the spring, and training in the



PHOTO PROVIDED BY LIAM O'MALLEY

summer, O'Malley's off-season typically lasted only a few weeks in December; according to O'Malley, "there wasn't real-

ly much of a stop to it."

O'Malley says that though he may not have been "the biggest, the strongest, or the fast-

est one on the football field," carrying the advice and perseverance of his older brother taught him how to succeed

physically and mentally.

When it came to college commitments, O'Malley decided that officially pursuing football suited him best because of the sport's relative novelty and the more widespread access to scholarships. In doing so, O'Malley said he "put baseball on the back burner." The coaches at Saint John's, however, are open to him trying out for their baseball team.

"Football has changed me in every way, shape, and form. It taught me discipline. It taught me selflessness. It taught me to take a hit in the back and give up the spotlight if it meant my teammate gets to score. I'm excited to get up to Saint John's and play," he said.

Brooke Picazio

by Isabella Kulawik

On the cool water of Sarasota Bay, crew shells glaze across the water in a combination of coordination and technique. The coxswain is shouting orders at the top of their lungs hyping up rowers and driving them to go faster than they have ever gone before. One of these rowers is Brooke Picazio, who will continue her rowing journey at Boston College.

Starting in seventh grade, Picazio is now a member of the varsity girls program at Sarasota Crew. After five years of rowing, she has a 2k time of seven minutes and 24 seconds, which is measured by a rigorous workout on an erg, or rowing, machine.

One of the aspects Picazio enjoys about rowing is

the togetherness and team spirit it involves.

“It’s definitely a team sport which is something I really liked when I was joining crew because I wasn’t super interested in something

yourself, but you still get to train with a team and also compete with a team if you want,” Picazio said.

Picazio has also learned how to balance her time with school work and athletics.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY BROOKE PICAZIO

totally by myself, but Crew gives you the best of both worlds. You can compete by

“There’s a ton of stuff I’ve learned from crew, the most relevant for Pine View

is probably time management because going to Pine View is a lot of work and then picking up three to four hours of practice plus a morning workout every day, your time gets limited really quickly,” Picazio said.

Over the past year, Picazio’s friends have grown to be proud of her achievements.

“She’s worked so hard in the past year. She came from being in the three B last year and now she’s in the top eight going to nationals, So she’s come extremely far... She really wanted it,” tenth-grader Lauren Brotherton, Picazio’s teammate and friend, said.

“There’s no chance that I would just go to college and not row, so I might as well get the benefits of going through a recruiting program,” Picazio said.

Cece Plass

by Gabriele Naveckis

Seeking to continue her rowing and academic career outside of Florida, twelfth-grader Cecelia Plass will attend Dartmouth College this fall, studying Human Biology.

Plass describes rowing for Sarasota Crew as one of the best aspects of her high school experience.

“I kind of just fell in love with rowing because of the team aspect, and I liked how it was multi-faceted and it had a lot of different components,” Plass said.

Plass is looking forward to the welcoming environment that Dartmouth has to offer, from the beau-

tifully secluded Hanover,

New Hampshire area, to

the people on campus. “It just had such a welcoming environment when I visited, and every-

one there that I’ve talked to is just so grounded and

nice,” she said. “When I first researched Dartmouth, I just loved that it was such a community.”

Plass has been rowing for Sarasota Crew for six years, starting halfway through seventh grade.

Since then, in high school, she medaled all three years at nationals.

Plass believes that Pine View has played a major role in her development as both a student and a rower.

“It really has served as a stepping stone for my next four years at Dartmouth,” Plass said.



Ethan Halbreich

by Courtney Nelson

Sunset rows and cherished teammates have defined twelfth-grader Ethan Halbreich's experience at Sarasota Crew since his first time on a boat in eighth-grade.

After five years of rowing and studying in Florida, Halbreich sets his eyes on Hamilton, New York where he will be attending Colgate college.

Halbreich's plans to major in History and Political Studies, coupled with college rowing, do not worry him.

His strong work ethic, paired with plenty of experience in the field of frequent rowing practice, have prepared him well.

"For years now, I've

been rowing three hours a day, six days a week. It's hard but I can manage it. So long as I don't procrastinate,



PHOTO PROVIDED BY ETHAN HALBREICH

I can do crew, do my work, and maintain a good social life," Halbreich said.

Halbreich was emailed around December 2019 by Colgate recruiters.

His college list eventually narrowed to Georgetown and Colgate, with Halbreich choosing Colgate for

its unique environment and small community.

Halbreich feels nervous about entering a new environment after 11 years at Pine View, but is excited

to experiencing something new.

He said his biggest change will be the move away from his friends and family, who have been his biggest supporters throughout his rowing career. Halbreich cares about his teammates like family, and expects to find some difficulty in leaving them for a new team.

"I have met my closest friends through rowing. It is a painful experience, but you grow a brotherhood type of bond through pain. We were all there pushing for each other, and it brings us together. We really exert ourselves, physically and mentally, to win. We don't want to let each other down," Halbreich said.

MORE PINE VIEW ATHLETIC RECRUITS:

KARINA BODOR: SMITH COLLEGE ROWING

RYAN RAJAKAR: FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE TENNIS

SOFIYA GOBORA: STONEHILL COLLEGE SWIMMING

CAMILLE EDWARDS: UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA ROWING

IAN BACA: PENN STATE WATER POLO

ORLANDO CICILIONI: UNIV. OF FLORIDA RUNNING

JORDAN KEENE: GEORGETOWN ROWING

10 The Class of 2021 Presents: The Very Hungry Caterpillar



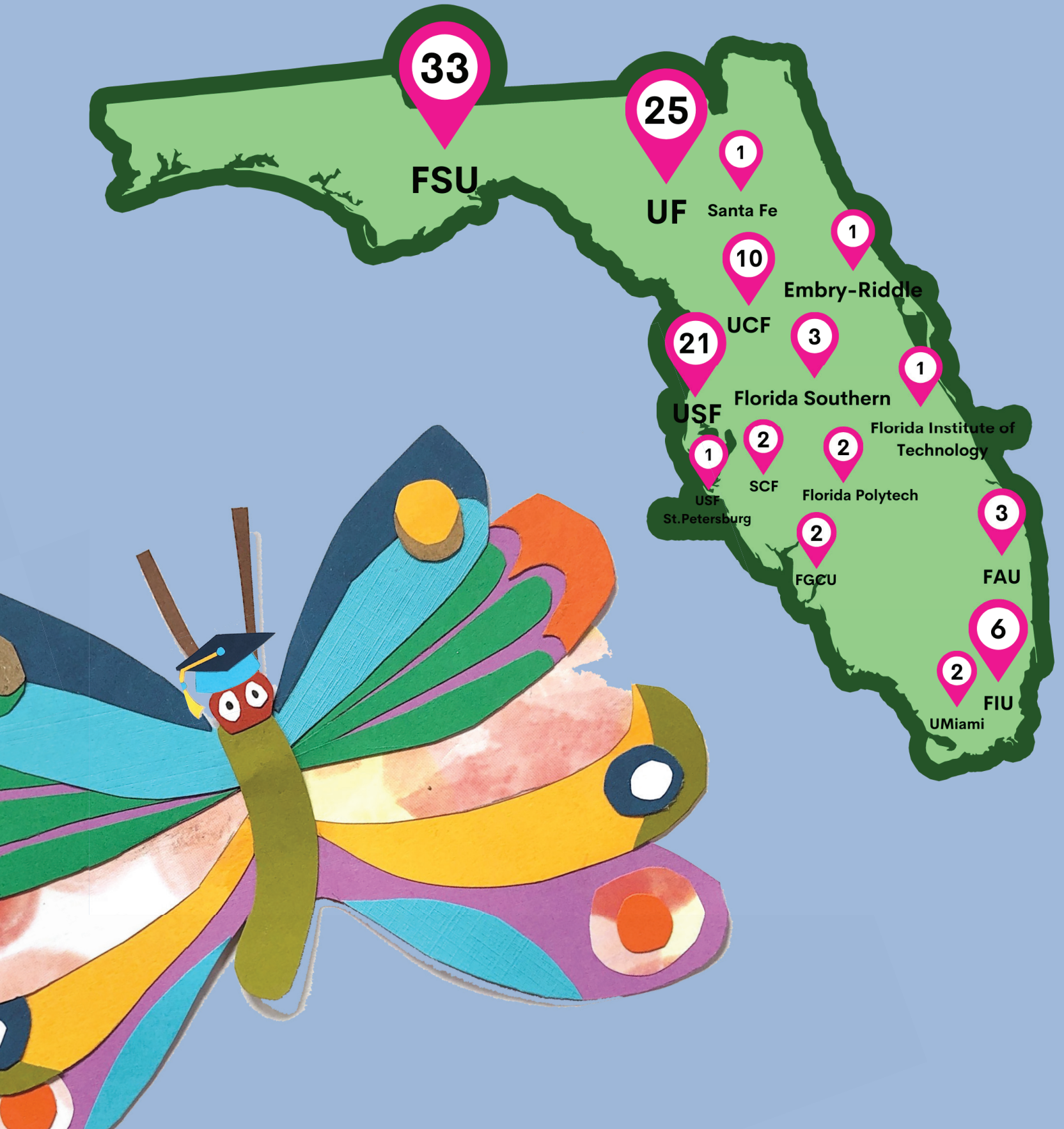
Whether we started in second grade or joined more recently, we all began our journeys at Pine View as caterpillars — hungry for growth and knowledge. But amidst the forest of poles, garden of students, and blue awning skies, we have gained so much more. Together, we have become full with friendship and experiences, emerging as butterflies.

Over the last several years, we have watched the Class of 2021 make this complex and beautiful transformation. We know this may seem like the metaphorical stretch of the century, but we hope this spread based on Eric Carle’s “The Very Hungry Caterpillar” leaves you excited for the future — and reminds you of our metamorphosis on campus.

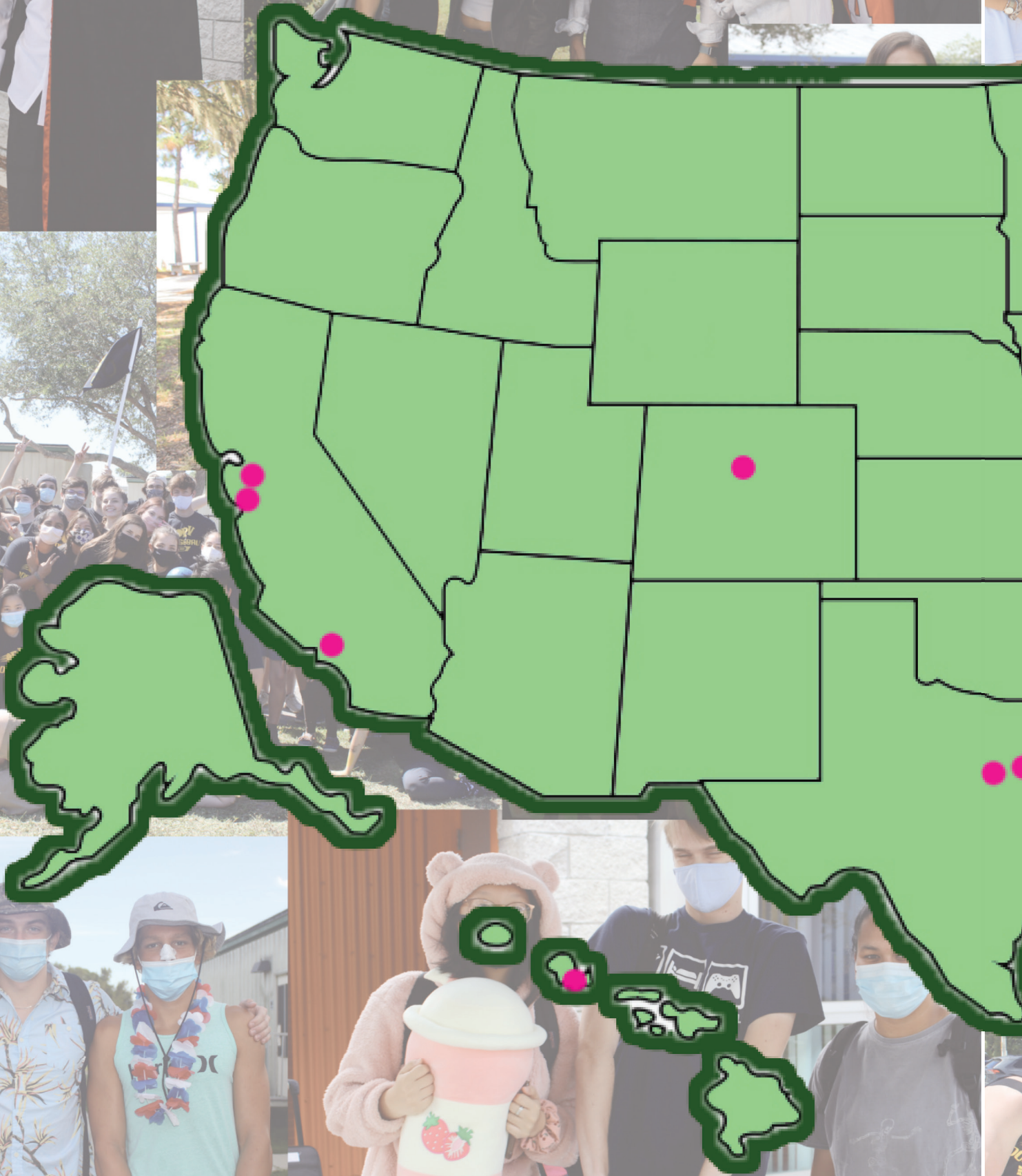


Class of 2021 College Maps

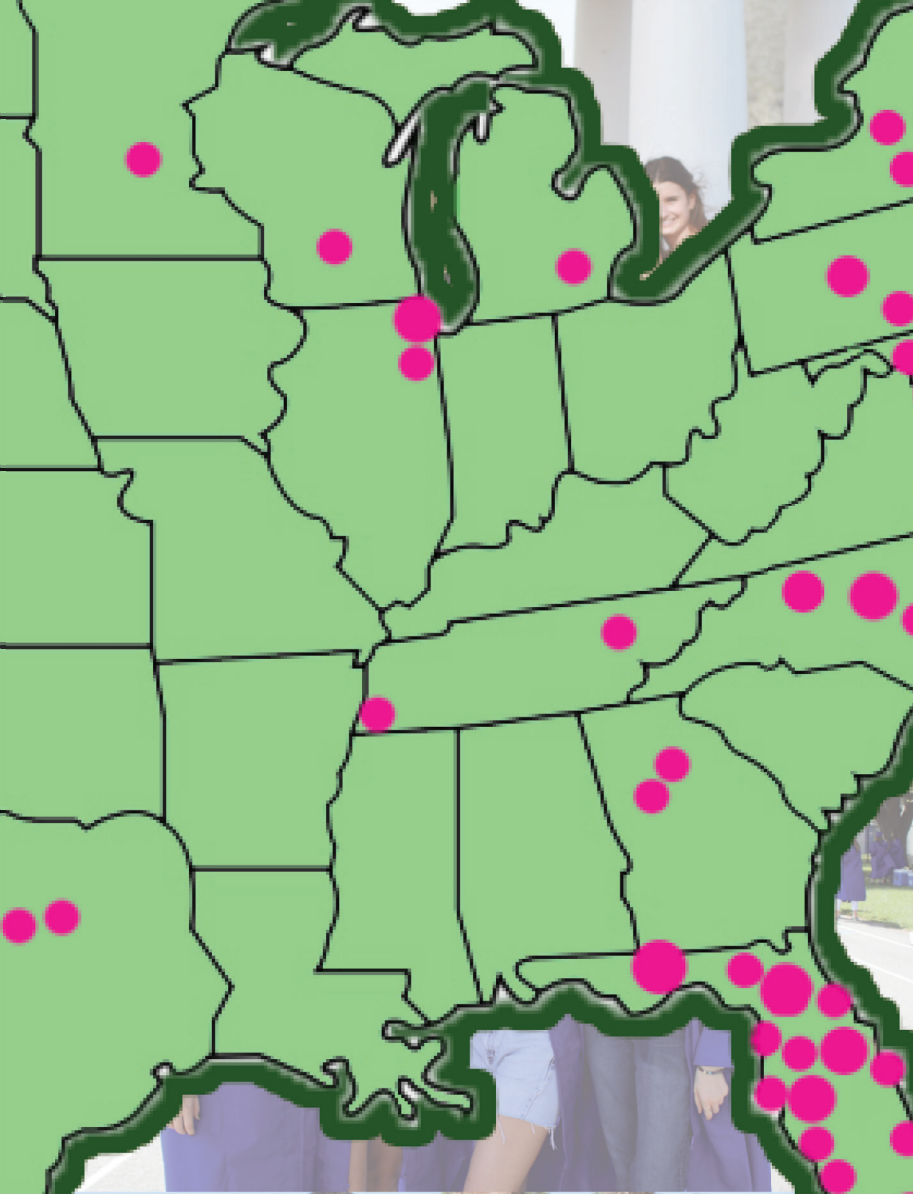
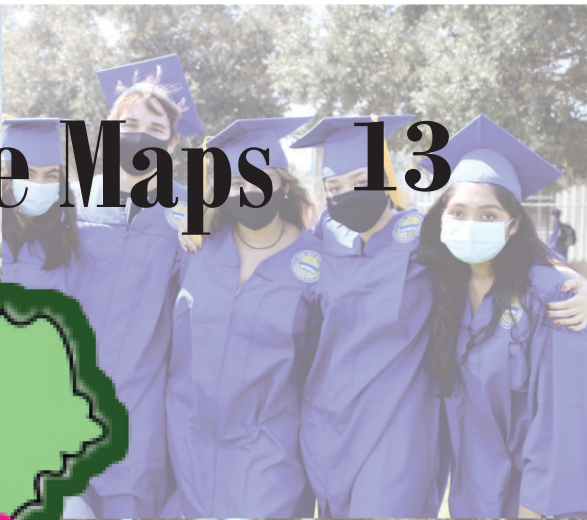
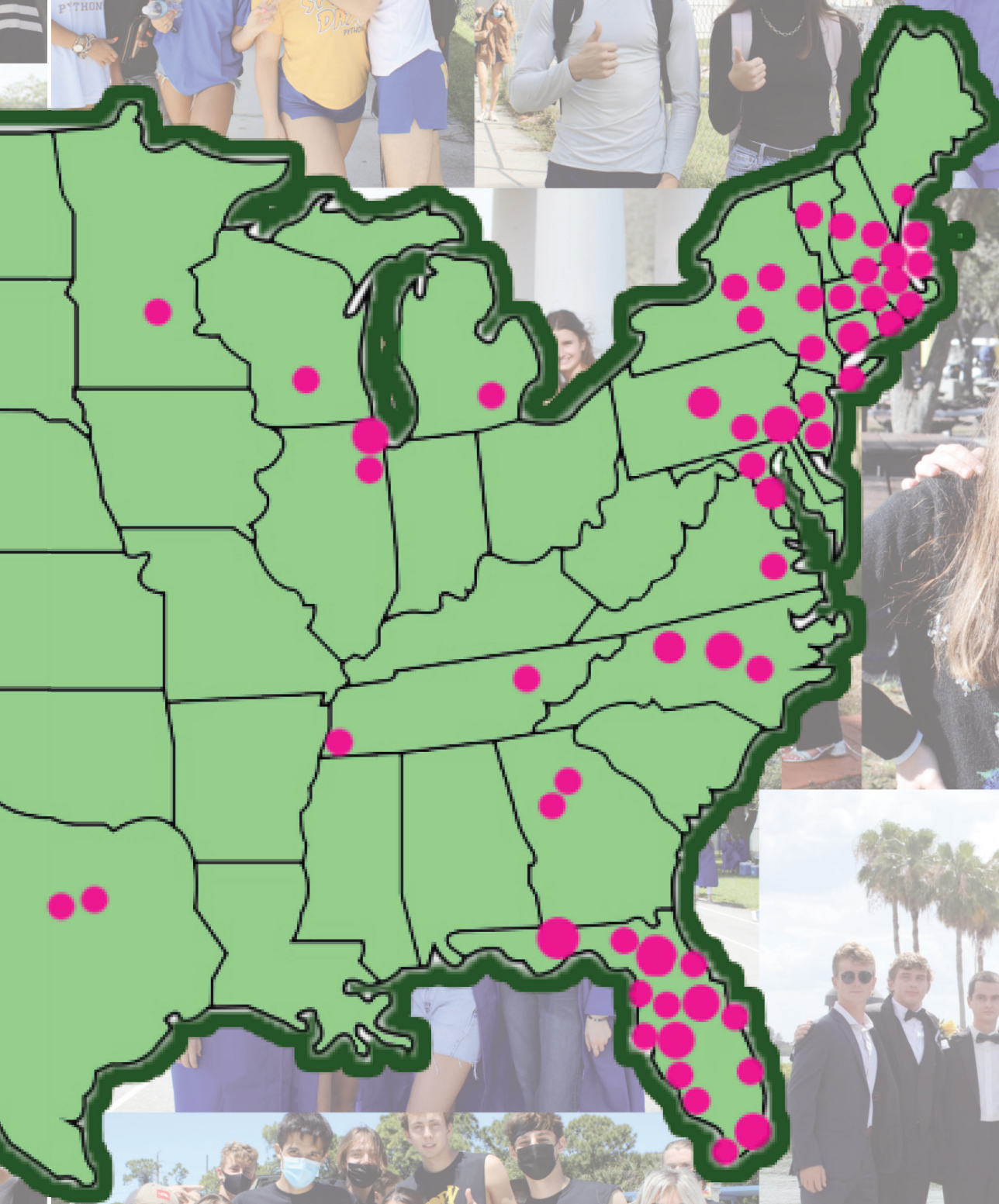
Where are Pine View students headed? Each dot represents a PV student's soon-to-be new home.



12 Class of 2021 College Maps



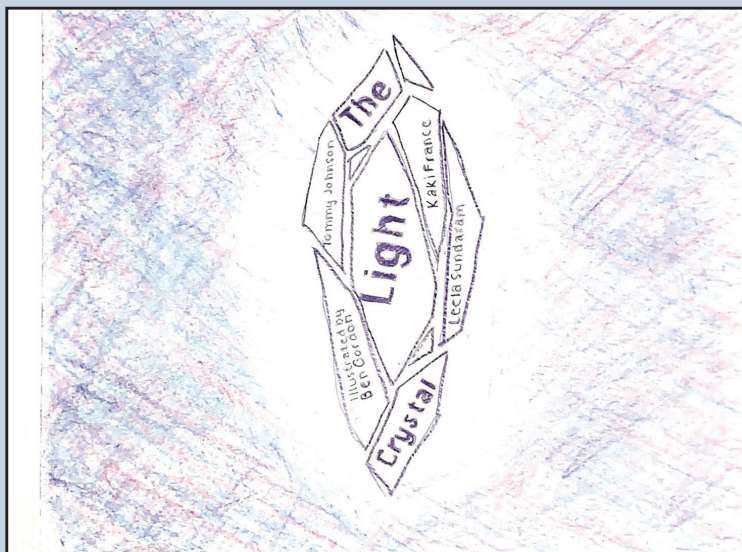
Class of 2021 College Maps 13



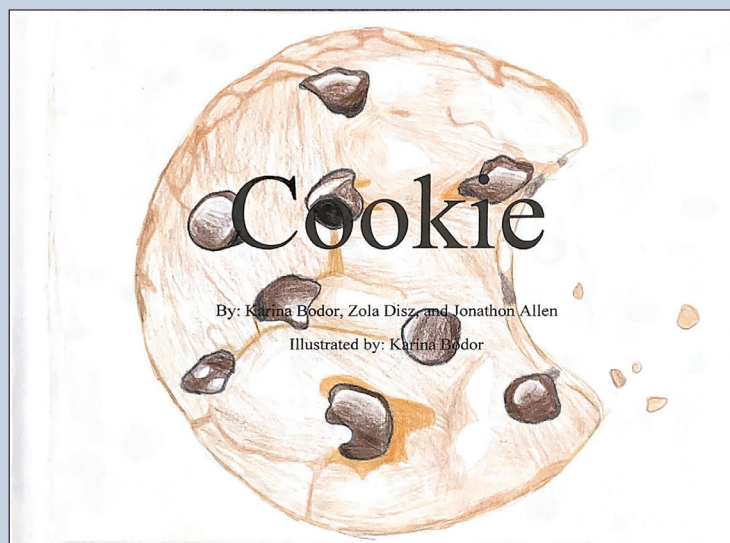
BOOK MEMORIES

A look back at books created by seniors in Mrs. Hentges' seventh-grade classes.

"Light" by Ben Gordon, Tommy Johnson, Kaki France, and Leela Sundaram.



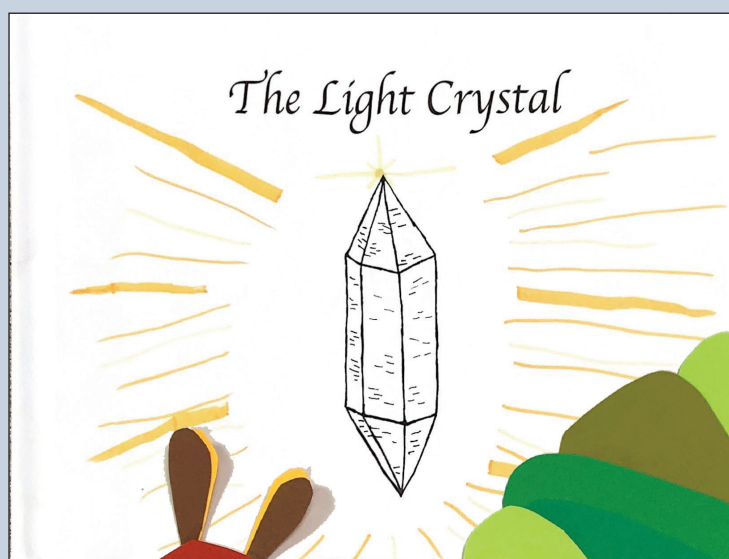
"Cookie" by Karina Bodor, Zola Disz, and Jonathon Allen.



"Hearts of Fire" by Kassie Cross, Samantha Sineath, Krisha Dhimar, and Devu Rajeev



"The Light Crystal" by Tommy Johnson



VETERAN PYTHONS

The Torch celebrates the students who have remained at Pine View from grades 2 through 12.

Mrs. Robbins



Ms. Cookerly



Ms. Magenheim



Mrs. Hershberger



Mrs. Jankovsky



Mrs. White



Ms. Crowley



Not Pictured:

Robbins: Alexiya Mikerina, Spencer Opal-Levine, Tomas Travnicek

Magenheim: Calvin Sweiderk

Jankovsky: Grace Hu, Garrett Parisi, Riley Peterson, Jeffrey Rosenthal

Crowley: Sophie Winer, Cade Cordes, Ty McCoy

Cookerly: Kate Haggarty, Leo Hellawell

White: Jonothan Smith, Abigail Dale

