

ISSUES a movement FOR CHANGE

Story by Spiros Hallax
Design by Luke Martin and Camden Reeves

Protests over racial injustice in June 2020 prompted more than a mandatory curfew and a partial city shutdown. They sparked a flame within a new generation's heart.

From Klyde Warren Park near Woodall Rodgers Freeway all the way to Akard Street, raised fists could be seen by many, and the booming chants for justice were heard by all. Hundreds of people, spanning from every age and ethnicity, marched through downtown Dallas in June to make a statement — to make a difference: that Black lives matter. Charging into the unforeseen atmosphere sparked by the deaths of Ahmaud Arbery and George Floyd, numerous Marksmen migrated to the scene to interview, photograph and protest.

"I think that the protests have shown not only our nation but also the world that there needs to be change," senior **Daniel Sanchez** said. "I know it inspired me to get out and speak up for what I believe in, and I hope it did the same for others."

Community members engaged in numerous forms of activism, many taking to social media to post and participate in movements such as #BlackoutTuesday on Instagram. Students at school and across the country demonstrated their willingness to stand up for their beliefs.

"Student activism is powerful and important," Upper School Head **Colin Igoe** said. "I think there's a healthy idealism to adolescence, to energy, to passions, to the beliefs and developing senses of self and morality that seem to create fertile conditions for activism and for progress."

Students are not only preparing themselves for the future through academics, but they are also becoming active citizens through their engagement with their surrounding communities. An increasing number of students have been voicing their beliefs and opinions revolving around social injustice and political movements.

"It's kind of corny to say sometimes, but we are the future of the United States, and St. Mark's is a place that teaches us to have compassion for other people in this world and to be leaders," senior **Luis Garcia** said. "I think being educated about events and protests such as these is a really important step in the process of becoming a true Marksmen who exhibits courage and honor."

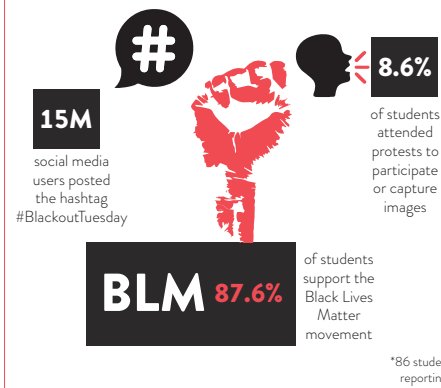
The protests in the city greatly affected the people of Dallas — some of the attendees were students who went to take photos, support their friend who had been mistreated or champion the movement itself. With protests being so close to home, the school has certainly felt the ripples of the roaring coalition.

"Most of the activism happened throughout the summer when we were apart," Igoe said. "But what it has inspired, I think in really positive ways, is for St Mark's, and really all institutions, to look in the mirror and see how we are being equitable in what we're doing well and what we need to improve. I think we've embraced that, which is a good thing."

Capturing history During the protests, senior **Daniel Sanchez** shoots a photo illustrating the energy of the event. "I'd never really been to a protest of that stature and importance," Sanchez said. "When I was going there, I didn't really know what to expect."



By the numbers



What is Black Lives Matter?

Black Lives Matter is an expansive collection of groups and people that presents itself as a social movement seeking to promote non-violent protests against police brutality and prejudice against Black Americans.

8:46

Eight minutes, 46 seconds: the amount of time that former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin knelt on George Floyd's neck.

What was Blackout Tuesday?

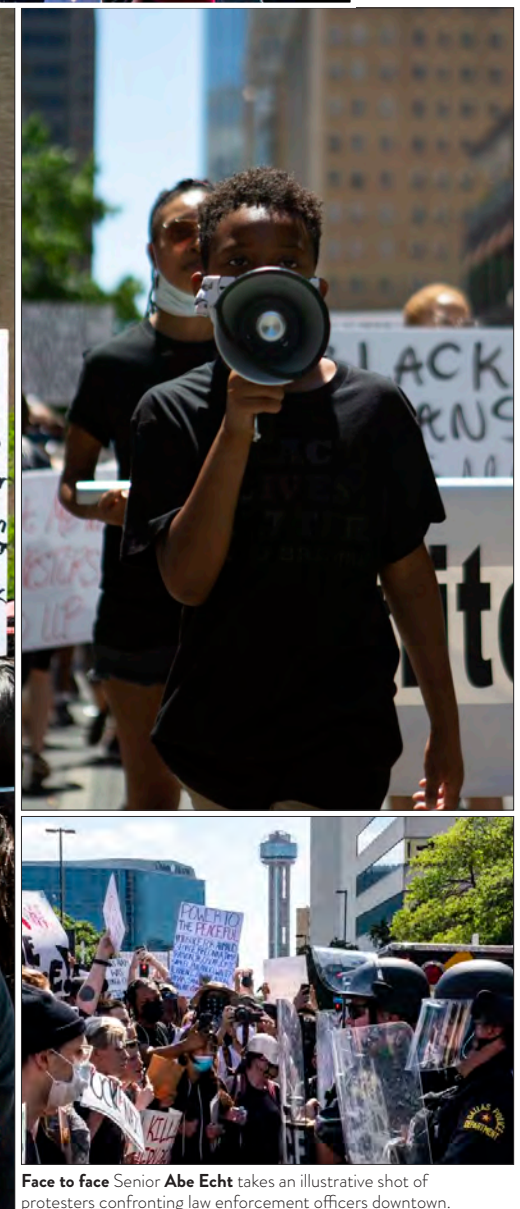
Blackout Tuesday was a reaction to the deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor in summer 2020. Members of the music industry refrained from publishing. Some released silent tracks of 8:46 in duration. Others took to social media to upload black images with the caption #BlackoutTuesday in hopes of promoting awareness.

Full force

As countless protesters gather, seniors **Daniel Sanchez**, **Luis Garcia** and **Abe Echt** capture photos (right) while immersed in the midst of the action. Senior **Luke Voorheis** shoots a picture of a young protester (below) among other teenagers at the rally.



Speaking Out Surrounded by protesters, senior **Jerry Zhao** snaps a shot (below) of a young man yelling through a megaphone while engulfed in a sea of marchers making their way toward Akard street.



Face to face Senior **Abe Echt** takes an illustrative shot of protesters confronting law enforcement officers downtown.