

WHAT'S INSIDE



Junglelife:  
Teachers reach  
students virtually in  
interesting ways  
Pg. 3



Hotspot:  
The new shopping  
center brings new  
amenities  
Pg. 10



Gameday:  
Mike Williams  
joins as new  
football coach  
Pg. 15

News:	1-3
Feature:	4-5
Health:	6
Education:	7
Centerspread:	8-9
Entertainment:	10-12
Editorial:	13-14
Sports:	15-16

# COVID-19 causes schools to go online

vladapitner  
news editor

The new school year has been very different for each student due to COVID-19. This year there are three different options of schooling students could choose: brick and mortar, e-learning or Florida Virtual School.

“My experience with e-learning is relatively positive,” Connor Kelly, a senior, said. “I have been able to have a lot more freedom to pursue work in my own style.”

E-learning requires students to use the video call program Zoom to attend class that is happening in real time alongside students who are in school physically.

“I feel like some teachers are expecting equal instruction ideals, which I disagree with,” Kelly said. “I get where it’s coming from, but it seems impractical. Certain teachers are expecting us to work in groups through zoom at the same pace as those in class which just isn’t fair.”

Most classes are hybrid classes, meaning teachers are teaching to both e-learners and brick and mortar students at the same time.

“I feel like every day is different,” Kristen Titus, a science teacher, said. “There’s been a lot to process and be focused on at one time. I’m concerned about all of my students getting the best educational experience that they can get. It’s hard to find a balance. I would like for you guys as a physical class to be able to interact with the kids online, but they can’t see you, and it’s a whole set of challenges I don’t think anyone anticipated.”

On the other hand, brick and mortar students are back in phys-



PHOTO BY • OLIVIA LEDUC

**BEST OF BOTH WORLDS-** Eva Chen teaches students who are in person and students who are e-learning via zoom. Teachers were not used to this type of fused learning at first.

ical school, with precautions put in place such as wearing masks in class and around campus, and following social distancing measures.

“Personally, I would much rather be at home,” Brooke Dekle, a senior, said. “But I know I wouldn’t be able to learn anything. Wearing masks all day is a little difficult but it’s there to protect all of us. The social interaction is nice, but it’s just sad that it’s very restricted.”

The two methods of schooling being combined has been said to be challenging for both students and teachers.

*“The philosophy is that if you guys (students) were to become ill, you would not have to change your teacher.”*

KRISTEN TITUS  
SCIENCE TEACHER

“The philosophy is that if you guys (students) were to become ill, you would not have to change your teacher,” Titus said. “They would put you as an e-learning student in that same class with the same teacher. Otherwise, if there were strictly e-learning teachers and brick and mortar teachers, you guys would potentially be switching back and forth.”

Due to this being a new style of teaching, it’s a learning process for everyone giving opportunities for adjustments to be made along the way.

“Teachers should more or less provide lectures, guided notes and only require live classes when it’s needed,” Kelly said.

With the virus changing the way school is for the time being, sanitization has been said to be a common concern among brick and mortar students.

“I obviously don’t want to get

myself or others sick, but I chose to come to school in person because I simply can’t learn online,” Dekle said.


Some sanitary measures include wearing masks, not sharing any supplies and wiping down desks.

“We were told to use one wipe per 10 desks every day in between classes, but those wipes are never going to last that long,” Titus said. “They dry out too fast.”

Handling a pandemic has been said to be very demanding especially for students and teachers who are not online. No prior knowledge or preparation for this event requires patience for all involved.


“I just want everything to go back to normal,” Dekle said. “This definitely isn’t how I pictured my senior year to be, and I really don’t want school to get fully shut down again because of an outbreak at our school.”

3 Options for schooling during COVID-19 pandemic



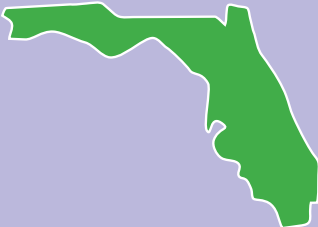
Brick and Mortar

Students go back to school full time with masks



E-learning

Students attend class at their zoned school virtually



FLVS

Students enroll in Florida Virtual School and attend school online

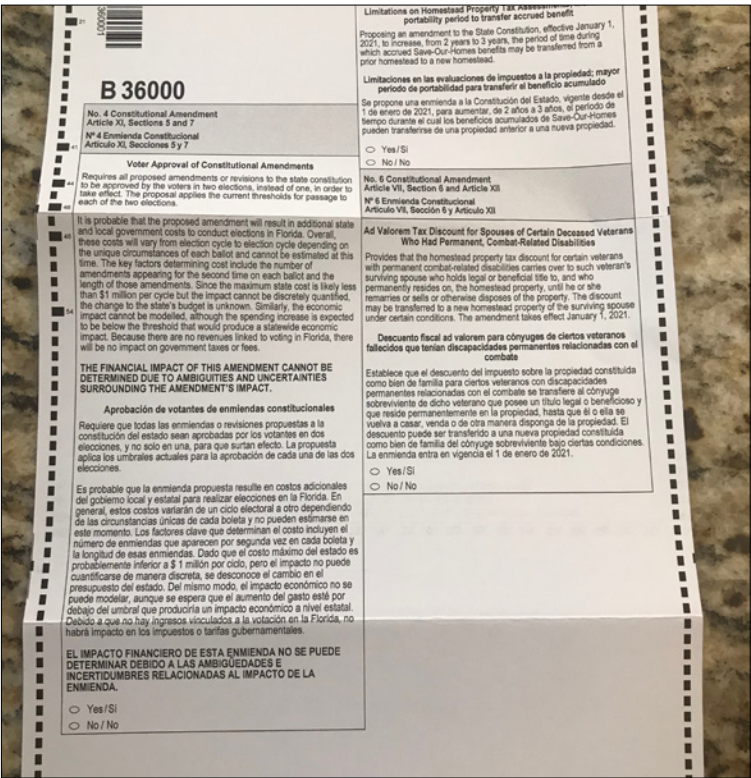


# Controversy arises over mail-in voting

**dana robinson**  
staff writer

Voting by mail has been made a complicated and controversial subject due to COVID-19. According to usa.gov, “States are making it easier for citizens to vote absentee by mail this year due to the coronavirus. Every state’s election rules are different. Each state has its own rules for mail-in absentee voting. Many are still in the process of deciding how they will handle voting during the pandemic.” Voters have been expressing their worries regarding fraud risk with mail in voting and coronavirus safety with in person voting. “I do have concerns with voting by mail,” Jackson Warren, a senior, said. “I’m not too informed with the news as of now, but I know it can definitely be corrupted to favor one side over the other. I am also worried about in person voting because COVID-19 is still a big issue, there is still the possibility with cases spiking.”

Michael Rivera, a senior, calls attention to the President’s recent comments suggesting voters to vote twice. “I feel like it’s going to be more complicated to send ballots in the mail because a lot of things can get lost,” Rivera said. “I do have concerns with voting this year especially what’s going on with Donald Trump asking us to vote twice in person and in mail. I



PHOTOS BY • DANA ROBINSON

**MAIL TIME-** This year, due to the coronavirus, mail-in ballots are a popular choice for voters. They have been used in the past for those who couldn’t make it to the polls on election day.

don’t believe that’s going to work out.” There is talk about 2020 Presidential Election results being swayed in favor of one candidate over another due to several complications in the voting process. “I think the election will be swayed because of how it can easily be corrupted,” Warren said. “We may get a false representa-

tion of what the people actually voted for.” Pew Research Center held a survey July 27 to Aug. 2 that revealed how supporters of Trump or Joe Biden prefer to cast their vote. “Trump and Biden backers have nearly inverse preferences for voting in the fall,” a study from Pew Research Center found. “Six-in-ten Trump supporters prefer to

vote in person on Election Day, while 17 percent prefer to vote by mail. Biden supporters are far more likely to prefer to vote by mail than in person, 58 percent v.s. 23 percent.” The push for more mail-in voting by the Biden campaign and Biden supporters is seen as using a seemingly fraudulent system to gain an advantage, meanwhile

Trump has made it clear he does not approve of mail-in voting, going as far to decrease funding for postal services. “You have the right to vote. If anyone tries to stop you, call the Election Protection Hotline at (866)687-8683,” a banner on vote.org read. “We also have a handy guide that outlines your voting rights.”

# COVID-19 pandemic sparks unprecedented changes for students, school staff in 2020-21 academic year

**vladapitner**  
news editor

Another academic year brings along new changes to the school. Most changes have been made as safety precautions regarding COVID-19. Some changes include the temporary suspension of lockers, an additional lunch for freshman and lunch classes. Lockers have been removed for this current school year due to sanitary concerns. “All my teachers require binders and other heavy school supplies that can’t all fit in my bag,” Bella Avila, a senior, said. “Carrying all of it is going to cause a lot of back problems for me and many others.” Though many students address the negatives to having no lockers, other have mentioned some of the benefits. “Walking around campus seems more smoother,” Jenna Coble, a senior, said. “There’s less people just crowding around their lockers. I get to class quicker, and no longer have that anxiety of wondering if I left something in my locker. Some teachers have also addressed that the removal of lockers have helped prevent students skipping class. “The excuse is they can’t run to their lockers,” Mary Johnson, a science teacher, said. “They can’t use the excuse that they left something in their locker, and from



PHOTO BY • CALLIE ZACK

**LOCKED OUT-** This school year, lockers were not given out to the students in hopes of reducing the risk of spreading the coronavirus. Students have had to carry all their school supplies for the entire day.

that standpoint I actually kind of like it.” This school year, there are four lunches. An additional lunch has been added for third period; a freshman only lunch. “I think it’s nice that the freshman have their own lunch,” Avila said. “It’s a lot less intimidating and it’s nice for the upperclassmen to have more chances to have lunch with kids in their grade.” Along with an additional lunch, a major change includes a lunch

class that every brick and mortar student has to attend for the first 15 minutes of their lunch period. “It’s so inconvenient,” Avila said. “It takes too much time away from actual eating time. I feel like I’ll be eating and then I look up and it’s time to go. I think it’s good they have time to sanitize everything but I feel like it should take less time.” Before going to the cafeteria to have lunch for 30 minutes, students now first go to their as-

signed lunch class where they watch announcements over zoom. “I think it should only be shown for the freshman,” Coble said. “Especially since they have their own lunch period. The announcements are all things we are extremely familiar with. It feels like a waste of time, that I could be using to eat.” Though many students and faculty have said negative comments regarding this change, some take note of the positives brought by it.

“The thing that may benefit is that kids can’t sit in two lunch periods,” Johnson said. “For skipping, it helps us that way.” Other students have stated the importance of the lunch class regarding COVID-19. “I think it’s good for our safety,” Matthew Keegan, a senior, said. “The custodians need to sanitize the lunchroom. It makes me feel a lot safer knowing they have 15 minutes to wipe down every table. It’s important.”



# JUNGLE LIFE

Providing the most engaging story of the edition

## Teachers take on innovative e-learning strategies

**hannahcraig**  
staff writer

The COVID-19 health crisis created more problems for the school year —how students would learn in a global pandemic. Teachers and administrators are working to make the spring-time e-Learning a thing in the past by incorporating new technology.

The Hillsborough County School Board voted to begin this school year with one week of online learning. After “Smart Start Week,” those who choose, may return to school, while others stay online.

“I actually liked the idea of getting used to e-Learning for one week,” Melissa Olsen, a senior, said. “I think it definitely helped teachers with preparing.”

Those who chose e-Learning, will have a completely different experience this semester, than how it was in the spring.

“E-Learning is much more dif-

ficult than it was last year,” Zihan Samara, a sophomore, said. “Now it’s all new subjects and much more difficult courses.”

Students online follow the normal bell schedule, and tune into Zoom for live instruction from their teachers.

“It’s more time consuming,” Jai Cyriac, a sophomore, said. “There are Zooms for every class.”

Many teachers got creative to make students who chose to learn from home, feel as if they are actually in the classroom.

“My main goal is to try to teach exactly like I would in class,” Alexander Berard, a math teacher, said. “... like using my elmo and broadcasting it through Zoom.”

Many teachers are making sure that all of their students, on Zoom, have equal opportunities to learn, by including them in their discussions.

“Some are making sure that their lessons are screen shared and directly accessible to e-learners,” Olsen said. “Ms. Reis even has wireless ear buds so we can hear

her no matter where she walks.”

Many teachers have made adjustments to how they teach e-Learners from the way they taught previously in the spring time.

“In the spring, I feel like we were all just trying to get through it,” Maria Arozamena, a junior, said. “... Where as now, we’re trying to prepare for AP tests in May.”

The district also made the decision to switch from Edsby to Canvas this year, to make things easier for teachers and e-Learning students.

“It’s a little tricky to figure out navigation,” Sammy DeRigo, a sophomore, said. “But it’s so much better for assignments and everyday use than Edsby.”

Many teachers are also using Canvas for work submission, because of COVID-19.

This is helpful for teachers because they don’t have to touch as many papers, limiting risk of infection.

“Canvas gives us so many more tools for teaching, especially for e-Learning,” Brian Wassmuth, a social studies teacher, said. “Almost all of my assignments are submitted through Canvas.”

In these uncertain times, students are relying on their teachers

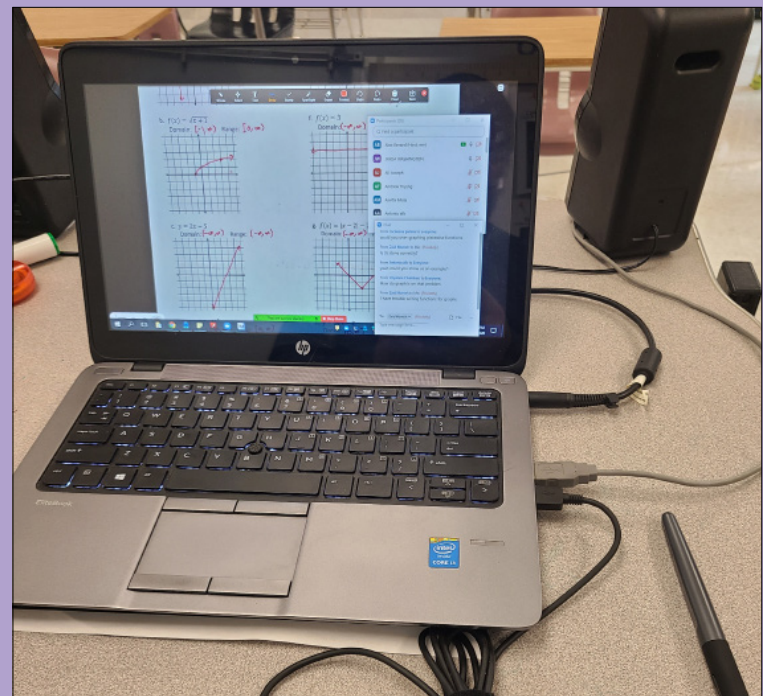


PHOTO BY • HANNAH CRAIG

**NEW METHODS-** Alex Berard teaches his students using screenshare and projections. Teachers experimented the first couple weeks with strategies.

to adjust to this situation.

“I’m pretty comfortable with this setup so far,” Kyle Kinch, a senior, said. “I have confidence that Mr. Wassmuth can adapt to the situation.”

As e-Learning is becoming more

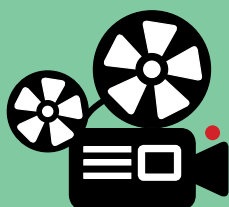
popular, teachers are becoming more accustomed to the new routine.

“I like that you can manage your time better,” Arozamena said. “Plus, you don’t have to risk getting the coronavirus.”

## E-Teaching: Methods and Tools



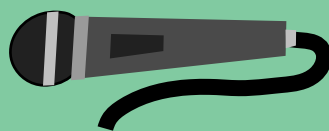
Simulations in science classes for labs



Pre-recorded lectures and YouTube channels



Screen-sharing ELMO projections



Using microphones to walk around class



Breakout groups on zoom



Editable documents like google docs

## Online v.s. Brick & Mortar

47% 53%

47%

53%

At Home

In person

\*Out of 2107 students\*



# Guidance counselors’ nightmare

**hannahcraig**  
staff writer

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused many problems for this school year, including scheduling issues. Guidance counselors felt the stress of having to adjust near 2,000 students’ schedules this year. Many student schedules found their way right back into the guidance counselor’s offices with needed changes to classes. In July, Hillsborough County Public Schools sent out the declaration of intent form for students and parents to fill out and decide if they were going to return to school or opt for e-Learning, for the first semester.

“The biggest challenge was the intent of instructional delivery,” Cindy Rogers, a guidance counselor, said. “Usually there are much less scheduling problems.” The survey has caused lots of problems because many people have been requesting to change their original decision and switch to Brick-and-Mortar or to e-Learning. “When students switch, they might lose some classes they really wanted,” Rogers said. “Some courses are only available in one option of the intent.” This has created lots more schedule changes for the guidance counselors to make. Many students faced problems with their schedules during the first few weeks of this school year, while many are still experiencing issues.

“I didn’t have a math class for about two weeks,” Ethan Stinnett, a sophomore, said. “Two weeks later, it was randomly switched.” While many students didn’t have core classes on their schedule, some were placed in past courses, causing more changes that needed to be made. “They put me into classes, at the beginning of the year, that I’ve already taken,” Emily Padgett, a senior, said. “They switched me to another elective that period.” Some students had problems with their elective choices as well. “I had speech, which was one of my last options.” Matthew Schwindler, a sophomore, said. Due to the large number of students who’ve requested a schedule change, a form was posted on the school’s website. Those who needed a schedule change could fill it out and hopefully receive their desired schedule.

“I was able to get a math class,” Schwindler said. “It was successful for me, but I know plenty of people who still have not gotten their schedule changed.” Not only did this form help most students adjust their schedule, it was also helpful and much more efficient for guidance counselors. “It was a really nice way to prioritize things,” Rogers said. “Overall, it was a good way.” This form was a great help for guidance counselors because many were feeling overwhelmed. “We knew that the start of the school year is always stressful,” Rogers said. “We weren’t expecting the numbers, and that it never ended.”



PHOTO BY • HANNAH CRAIG

**CHANGES-** Guidance counselor, Tommy Tonelli works on student schedules. Counselors has to individually edit each student’s schedule.



PHOTO BY • HANNAH CRAIG

**CLASSES?** Vijay Wadhani (left) and Ryan Fry (right) look at their schedule. Many students experienced changes in their classes.

## WHO’S YOUR COUNSELOR?

A-Corona	TBA
Cortez-Hile	Ms. Reed
Hill-Muniz	Mr. Tonelli
Munoz - Sh	Ms. Gordon
Si - Z	Ms. Rogers

# Deadly virus’ impact on school clubs

**saratalbot**  
staff writer

Many high school students choose to participate in school clubs every year. This popular activity is now being affected and modified due to unprecedented circumstances. The corona virus has affected many people’s lives. Students, especially those who are committed to them, are worried about how clubs will be carried out this year. “I feel it will be interesting to see,” Brett Brown, sophomore student said, “especially with COVID-19 because they’ll have to find a way to socially distance and I don’t know how they’ll do that.” Many people devote a lot of their time and money to clubs. The school even sets aside a day out of every month just for the clubs to have meetings and discuss what they need to accomplish for the rest of the year. However, this year that has not happened for the student body.

People re reminiscing about how clubs used to be: “It was pretty regular,” Brown said. “It did not matter how close you were to people and whether or not you were trading items, but this year it’ll be a lot more strict in that area.” Not only does COVID-19 affect the students that participate in clubs, but it also affects the club sponsors that put forth a lot of effort into running them.

## CLUB SCHEDULE

### FIRST PERIOD

- Anime
- Legacy
- Wharton Rocks
- Science NHS
- Mu Alpha Theta
- Engineering and Robotics
- French Club
- Spanish NHS
- Student Library Association
- Speech and Debate
- Junior Class Council
- Henna

### SECOND PERIOD

- Friends Inc.
- Book
- HOSA
- Key
- Spanish State Conf. Competition
- Wharton Hockey Club
- Sophomore Class Council
- Splash
- K-Pop
- FBLA

### THIRD PERIOD

- Blue Crew
- Inter-Club Council
- Environmental Ambassadors
- Yearbook
- French Honor Society
- Quantum Mechanics
- Retro Play
- Tri- M
- Wharton Beautification Project
- Young Republicans
- Beta

### FOURTH PERIOD

- FCCLA (in class)

### FIFTH PERIOD

- DECA (in class)

### SIXTH PERIOD

- AVID
- NJROTC
- Soccer
- National Honor Society
- Student Government
- Wharton Sports Medicine Club
- Chess
- Men of Vision
- GSA

### SEVENTH PERIOD

- Freshman Class Council
- Young Life
- Rho Kappa NSHS
- FCA
- Frisbee Club
- Newspaper (in class)

### EIGHTH PERIOD

- AVID
- NJROTC
- Soccer
- National Honor Society
- Student Government
- Wharton Sports Medicine Club
- Chess
- Men of Vision
- GSA

\*source: Elizabeth Glover

infographic designed by: Sara Talbot

“For us, were probably not going to have meetings before and after school so much because our whole thing is after school events,” Cindy Rodgers, Blue Crew club sponsor said. While there does seem to be several downsides to the absence of clubs this year, people are being creative in the different ways that they can continue to keep them alive and participate in their usual

activities. “...We’re trying it out even if we can’t be there (sports games) because the 25 percent is taken up by parents and things, maybe there’s a way to pump in sound or maybe there’s a way to do cardboard cut outs like the pros do,” Rodgers said. “We’re kind of thinking outside of the box.” The school is striving to find alternative ways to make the activi-

ties that occur regularly at school still happen. They are trying to find safer ways to continue on with clubs so that no one ends up getting sick and the kids can still enjoy the club atmosphere. By implementing the Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations along with the counties rules and regulations, they are finding multiple new ways to continue with clubs and their

events. According to the CDC, “Engage and encourage everyone in the school and the community to practice preventative behaviors. These are the most important actions that will support schools’ safe reopening and will help them stay open.” There is still not a set start date that the school has put out for the clubs to begin.



# Black Lives Matter movement spreads across U.S.

calliezack  
editor-in-chief

A disturbing video rapidly spread across the internet on May 25, shocking the world and igniting a flame inside people's hearts. Nationwide protests erupted as Americans watched a white police officer cruelly kneel on a black man's neck, cutting off his air supply. George Floyd, a 46-year-old black man, was killed by officer Derek Chauvin, a white male, in Minneapolis. Chauvin was later charged of second-degree murder.

The protests that came to fruition as a result of Floyd's death fall under the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement, which was initially started in 2012 to campaign against violence and systematic racism toward black people. According to the police report, Trayvon Martin, a 17-year-old black teenager, was "fatally shot by neighborhood watch volunteer George Zimmerman on a visit to the convenience store to buy a drink and sweets" on Feb. 26, 2012. This deadly event is what sparked the first utterance of the

*"You have to recognize injustice and use your privilege to stop it in action. It happens more than you realize, so you have to step in and prevent another headline of racial injustice."*

phrase "Black Lives Matter". The ongoing battle against the disproportionate police killings of black people and overall racism toward blacks isn't old news. However, Generation Z is determined to play their part in ending this cycle.

"I've signed a lot of petitions and reposted helpful information on

Instagram," Adriana Salazar, a junior, said. "If I have a non-black friend or a friend who isn't a

JULIA CHRISTIANSEN  
SENIOR

person of color make a casually racist statement, I call them out on it. If anyone in general can correct their friends on casually racist statements and their prejudices, it can go a long way."

As a result of the BLM movement, officials around the country have announced how they plan to enact changes. For example, according to a news conference on June 7, New York City mayor Bill de Blasio has pledged to move the city's police department funding toward youth and social services. In Washington

D.C., California and Texas, lawmakers have banned chokeholds and reviewed police reforms.

However, senior Julia Christiansen said that these small changes aren't enough. The U.S. will have to fight long lasting prejudices and an entire history of racism by continuing to enact more laws in favor of equality.

"We have a long way to go before we can even begin to make substantial changes, but it's better late than never," Christiansen said. "This has been going on for so long, and it's only now being brought to light. It's going to be a slow and painful process, but a necessary one."

In response to the BLM movement, a group of Americans have begun retorting the phrases "All Lives Matter" or "Blue Lives Matter". In front of the Tampa police department's headquarters, a mural reads "Back the Blue."

However, those who support the BLM movement have weighed in on how they feel about the phrase "All Lives Matter."

"Yes, all lives matter, but that is not the issue right now," Imani Hall, a senior, said. "It's like when people say that their problems are worse than yours."

At the end of the day, the BLM movement has taken a small step in the right direction, towards a future with less police brutality and further equality for all. It has

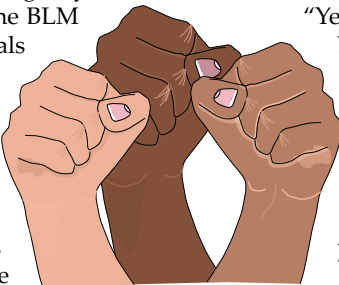


PHOTO BY • MCKENNA PADILLA

**NO JUSTICE, NO PEACE-** A teenager holds a sign that reads "Black women and LGBTQ+ matter" to protest the inequality these groups face in society today. They have protested diligently for years to try to make change.

inspired people of all ages to become actively anti-racist, instead of merely staying quiet.

"I think the most important thing you can do is stop the injustice you see daily," Christiansen

said. "You have to recognize injustice and use your privilege to stop it in action. It happens more than you realize, so you have to step in and prevent another headline of racial injustice."

## 'All Lives Matter' diminishes importance of Black Lives Matter movement, no matter good intention

alliemassey  
associate editor-in-chief

A group of peaceful protesters march down the street, masks on, signs in hand. Hundreds of voices meld into one as the crowd chants "Black Lives Matter!" As they move forward, something can be spotted in the distance. Just ahead of them lies a blockade of signs with the phrase "All Lives Matter" plastered upon them.

These words have become an all too familiar rebuttal to the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement.

A rebirth of the movement has been sparked after the recent unjust murders of Breonna Taylor, George Floyd and others at the hands of law enforcement.

While many who use the phrase "All Lives Matter" (ALM) mean well and might even consider themselves to be allies to the BLM movement, the reality of it is that this phrase does much more harm than good.

When people use ALM, regardless of intentions, they downsize the struggle and magnitude of the problem at hand.

BLM is about recognizing and combating the systematic racism and discrimination in America

that comes in the form of violence and police brutality black people fall victim to everyday.

The movement was founded in 2013 in response to the acquittal of all charges in the Florida v. George Zimmerman case where Trayvon Martin, an unarmed black 17 year old boy, was shot and killed by civilian Zimmerman.

Year after year, we see the lives of black men, women and children taken unrightfully at the very hands of those who are sworn to protect us.

In 2020 alone, 781 people as of Sept. 6 have been killed by police officers according to mapping-policeviolence.org, an organization that dedicates itself to tracking and creating a database of police violence across the country.

Of that number, 28 percent of those killed were black, despite black people only making up 13 percent of the U.S. population.

This is why black lives matter. The statistics only reinforce what the black community has been fighting to change throughout history.

Racism manifested through violence has riddled black history, and for too long the community had to fight alone.



PHOTO BY • MCKENNA PADILLA

**PASSIONATE PROTESTS-** A couple holds signs in protest of the murder of George Floyd and injustice. Protestors have had to continuously come out and make their voices heard to spark change in local government.

Today we see countless numbers of people and companies standing in solidarity and protesting with the movement— a growth that makes reform seem like less of a dream and more of a reality.

To diminish the significance of this movement by simply saying "All Lives Matter" is to be complicit in ignorance.

This country has been built

upon a foundation that didn't value all lives, and we are seeing the effects of this discriminatory origin today.

The lasting impacts of racism in our society have infiltrated our law enforcement system and way of life, but with time and effort, this can be changed.

Using ALM in response to this movement, one puts off a lack of

empathy— one of the most inhumane qualities an individual can hold.

When we say, 'Black Lives Matter' we do not mean 'Only Black Lives Matter'.

All lives are supposed to matter, and they do, but all lives aren't being valued as they should.

All lives can't matter until black lives matter too.



# Far reaching impacts of coronavirus

**Paulina Giraldo**  
staff writer

COVID-19 — the virus that has been slowly consuming the world in a matter of months.

According to the center for disease control (CDC), COVID-19, also known as the coronavirus, is “spread mainly from person to person ... through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.”

Due to the virus being spread extremely easily, health experts advise to stay at least six feet away from one another and wear a mask.

“Wear a mask and isolate,” Brooke Bell, a sophomore, said.

Health experts also say that it’s very important to know when to stay at home. While symptoms of the corona virus such as coughing, having a fever or sore throat, are extremely similar to other illnesses such as a common cold or flu, it’s important to be cautious around everyone else.

COVID-19 has also caused dramatic changes to this new school year, causing students to have to take many precautions, including having to social distance and always wear a mask, when possible.

“Stay back and don’t touch your

face,” Earl Bell, a teacher, said. “I learned that a person touches their face 47 times a day.”

Following these rules isn’t always easy. That’s why the school has put arrows on the ground, reminding students what way to walk around the school, so there’s less people in the hallways.

“We’ve just been keeping our masks on all day except during lunch,” Presley King, freshman, said. “They’re annoying to keep on but I think it’s to keep us all safe.”

Even though these guidelines are in place, students are concerned about others not following these rules.

“I think that they’re not really worried about [the coronavirus],” King said.

Not only has COVID-19 affected everyone’s day to day school lives but, it has also affected students’ personal lives.

“I have an 82-year-old grandfather, so I have to think about things that I do since he could catch it,” Belicia Dykes, a senior, said.

The CDC says to put your masks “over your nose and mouth, and secure it under your chin”

They recommend to always have one on properly in a public setting.

“Wearing the mask improperly



PHOTO BY • PAULINA GIRALDO

**LUNCH TIME-** Jesus Arozamena and Adrian Decardenas are eating lunch while social distancing. They have followed these rules since the first day of school.

irks me,” Earl Bell, said.

Students have been also thinking of ways we could prevent this from happening again.

“Maybe if they budget money, they could prevent a different one [pandemic] with different testing and resources,” Brooke Bell said.


The corona virus originated in Wuhan, China and first got its name in early February. Cases started showing up in the U.S. in soon after.

According to the CDC, “In COVID-19, ‘CO’ stands for ‘corona,’ ‘VI for ‘virus,’ and ‘D’ for disease.” Also, the 19 in COVID-19 means that this virus was found in 2019.

For more information about COVID-19 and how to protect yourself best with different face coverings and health practices, visit the CDC’s website.


## What you need to know about COVID-19

### The Spread



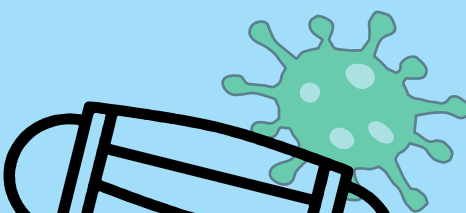
Easily spread from person to person

Masks covering your nose and mouth helps prevent the spread




Can come into contact and become infected within 6 ft

### v.s.

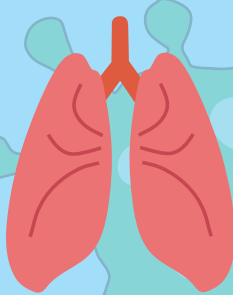


### The Virus



Currently no vaccine

Can have mild or severe symptoms



Is a respiratory virus

Severe cases can result in lung damage or death

\*source: Taryn Anello

infographic designed by: Payton Kenny



Payton's  
Powow



Edsby vs. Canvas

paytonkenny  
education editor

Many changes accompanied the 2020-21 school year. Along with deciding whether to send students back to school, Hillsborough County Public Schools enforced that all campuses switch from Edsby to Canvas.

The decision to switch platforms was passed by the Hillsborough County School Board before the coronavirus became a problem. Making this switch not only causes more stress with the chaos caused by the virus.

Canvas allows students, teachers and parents to use the same type of program as Edsby, while also offering a more convenient online platform for those choosing e-learning. Canvas is not an easy platform to learn how to use, especially before the first day of school.

Edsby is a learning management system that students, parents and teachers used on a daily basis to assign, submit and grade work. Edsby allowed students to view their assignments and grades, teachers to announce and grade assignments and parents to supervise their kids grades.

The first day of the school year included lots of unknowns, especially due to the coronavirus, and the stress of using an entirely new online system made it worse. Hillsborough County Public Schools saw many pros in Canvas, including having all textbooks and resources on an online platform, eliminating the need for physical books.

Canvas has also been updated to make it easier for all younger learners to use, especially those choosing e-learning. Canvas was also designed for a bigger platform of learning that will not crash, like how Edsby crashed when the school first started online learning last March. Canvas saves all files uploaded to it making organization easier for students.

Although some have said a new program adds more stress to this year, Canvas will only make students and teachers' lives easier. Those choosing a Zoom option have the link available for them right on their class Canvas page, preventing the need to have multiple apps open at once.

Canvas is an all inclusive learning program that will be more beneficial than Edsby as soon as everyone learns how to use it. Since Canvas was introduced at such a stressful time, anything to make this school year easier is strongly desired.

Coronavirus sparks changes  
for 2020-21 academic year

paytonkenny  
education editor

The 2020-21 school year looks very different from what was expected. Instead of going back to school like normal, families are now faced with sending their kids back into brick and mortar, switching to e-learning through an online portal or enrolling them in Hillsborough County Virtual School K-12.

Due to the outbreak of the coronavirus, schools statewide were tasked with making the impossible decision of how to proceed with the upcoming school year. Hillsborough voted and required all students to participate in smart start week, a full first week of e-learning from home and then continue with their preferred choice of schooling.

"Hillsborough County Schools have been working diligently to welcome students back to instruction, whether that is in-person or in a virtual capacity," Erin Maloney, a spokesperson for Hillsborough County, said. "Teachers returned back to school campuses July 31. Students returned for smart start week, where they were acquainted with our new learning management system, Canvas, and learned more about new safety protocols this year due to COVID-19."

Smart start week was a week where all students learned from home to accommodate to the new programs being used and to learn how to be safe when returning to



PHOTO BY • PAYTON KENNY

**MASK IT UP-** Students wear masks everyday to school to follow new requirements. New procedures were put into place in order to protect students from COVID-19.

brick and mortar.

"On Aug. 31, students who elected to return back to brick and mortar classrooms were welcomed back to campuses," Maloney said. "Those who elected to stay virtual continued online classes either through Hillsborough Virtual K-12 or e-Learning."

Those returning to schools are required to follow new procedures put in place to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. These procedures include wearing a mask at all times when on cam-

pus, going to a lunch classroom so the cafeteria can be cleaned in between lunches and following the stickers on the ground telling students and faculty what way foot-traffic is moving.

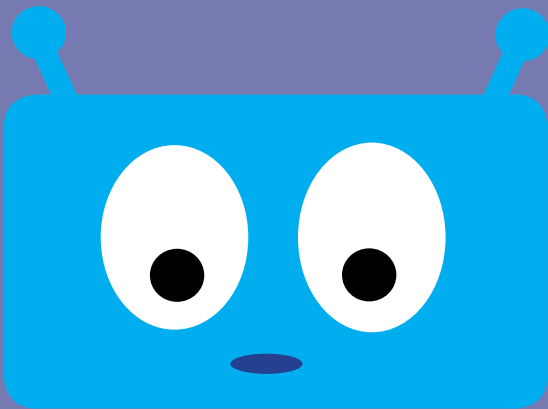
"To the best of our ability, the district and school has provided sanitizers, along with masks, socially distanced cafeteria seating and one way hallways," Michael Rowan, the principal, said. "We encourage people to wash their hands and put their masks on, which is a lot of the same stuff

that you hear everywhere else."

Most students have enjoyed having the option to come back to school, and lots of e-learners have made the switch to come back brick and mortar.

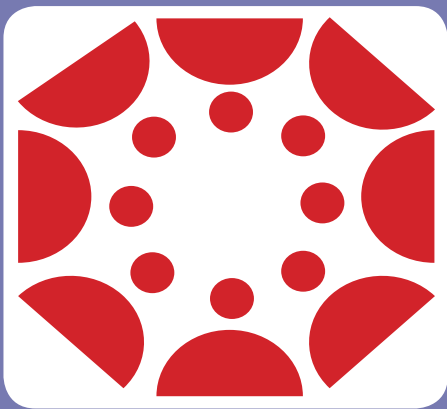
"Going back brick and mortar was always my desire,"Kelley said. "Since this will be my last year at Wharton, going back was very important to me to see all my friends and to play volleyball. I also felt like e-learning would be challenging and I wanted to choose the best option for me."

Edsby



- Does not have 24/7 support
- Report card link can be attached
- Ecommerce features available
- Has Microsoft excel programs available unlike Canvas

Canvas



- Can be used for labs
- Can view student monitors has individualized test
- Can be used for higher education
- Can be used for special education

\*source: sourceforge.net

infographic designed by: Payton Kenny



ADJUSTING TO
Picking best mask to stop COVID-19 spread

olivialeduc
staff writer

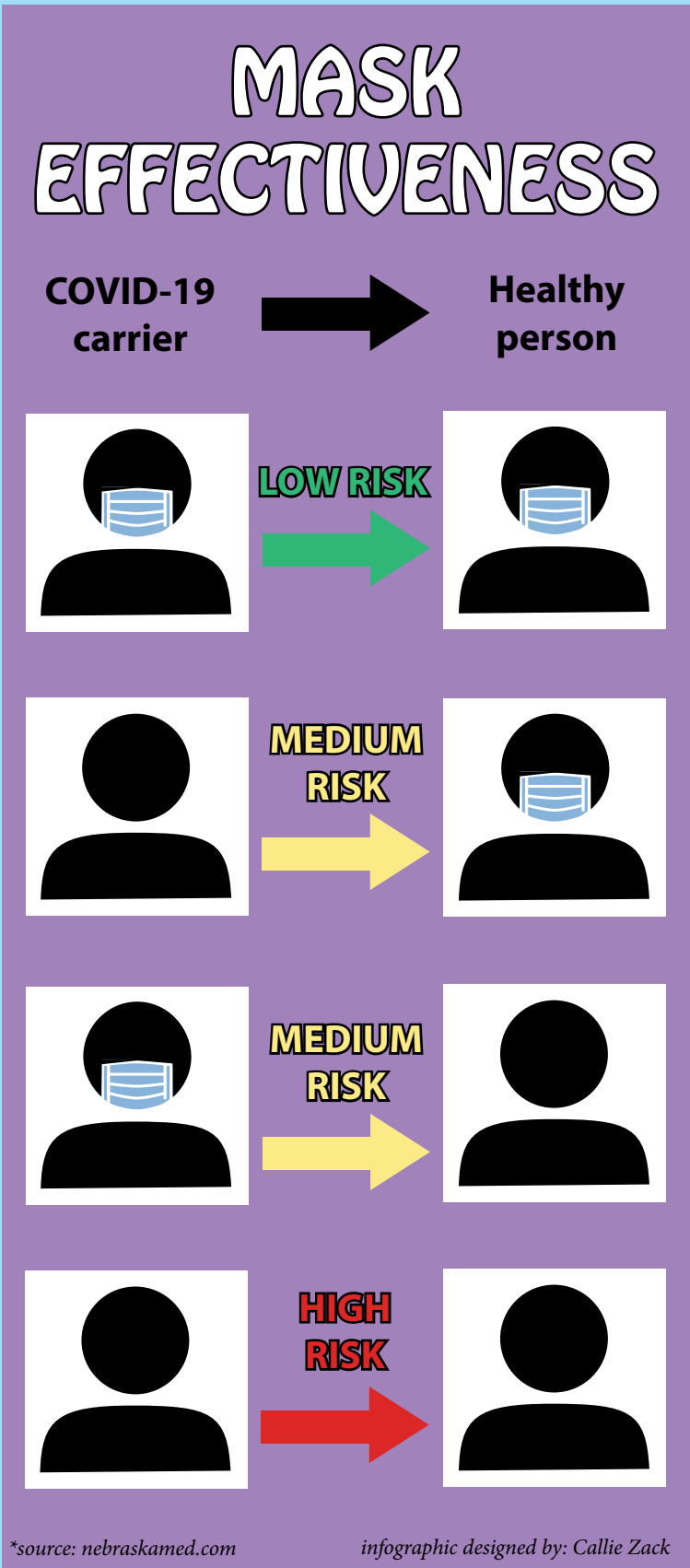
One of the biggest questions amid the COVID-19 pandemic is which masks are the most effective. There are so many different types of masks. For example, there are disposable masks, cloth masks and neck gaiters. With all these options, many people can become confused with which mask will protect them and others best. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has stated that wearing a mask that covers the nose and mouth, is secure around the chin and fits snugly against the sides of the face will best shield against the virus. Though these guidelines for wearing face masks lead people in a good direction, it can still cause some confusion on which masks offer the most protection. "I don't think my mask offers the most protection," Justin Larimore, a junior, said. "I know doctors wear N95 masks, and my mask isn't up to par." Although the N95 masks provide the most protection, the CDC suggests to not wear them as they need to be given to healthcare workers treating patients with coronavirus. Some people have said cloth and disposable masks provide



PHOTO BY • OLIVIA LEDUC

MASK MANIA- Samari Sampson, Cokeviya Gambrel and Keelia Sergeant are wearing their masks properly to stay safe during COVID-19. They have had to also social distance when possible.

the most protection. "I wear cloth masks to be safe and to block out the virus," Kateriah Tyson, a sophomore, said. Some people have found a way to make wearing masks more comfortable by inserting a silicone mask bracket into their masks. "I wear the disposable masks with the silicone face shields to better keep the masks off my face during the day," Kristen Titus, a science teacher, said. Other people who don't wear cloth or disposable masks can possibly find themselves wearing neck gaiters or bandannas as face coverings. These aren't as popular choices though as they are not the safest option. "The masks with two layers are probably the safest because droplets aren't able to get through," Titus said. "The bandannas and neck gaiters have to be the least effective since they're only one layer." For more information on which face coverings are the best option to wear, visit the CDC's website at www.cdc.gov.



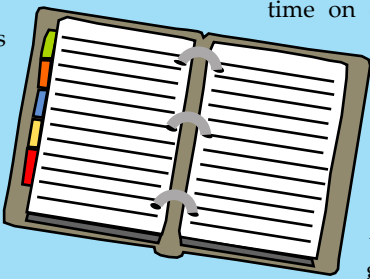
Colleges reopening during pandemic

luluarteaga
staff editor

COVID-19 has merged with the back-to-school season and has forced many schools to consider the possibility of re-opening. Colleges specifically have had a tough time making decisions. However, many have officially chosen that it's best to open their campuses. Along with re-opening, many requirements have been put into place to minimize the spread of the virus. Students have a lot to say about the decision and the conditions that come with it. "Colleges reopening was very much a mistake," Connor Kel-

ly, a senior, said. "The constant argument I hear is when will we go back to normal, but if we keep trying to emulate normal in a non-normal situation, we will have to keep taking these precautions." Other students have said it shouldn't be an all or nothing scenario. "Colleges should only re-open in specific cases," Hallie Hedriana, a senior, said. "Graduate students who have in-person requirements should be allowed on campus. All students who are able to fulfill their requirements online should remain online. Public health should come first." Although students share different opinions on campuses open-

ing back up, it's a given that due to major SAT and ACT nationwide cancellations, many colleges are no longer requiring SAT and ACT scores in the enrollment process. "I view it as beneficial," Leyan Albustami, a junior, said. "Especially to students who are already struggling with e-learning and adjusting to our new way of learning, and for students who are high risk and don't feel comfortable taking the SAT right now." Ever since mid March, masks



have become a part of everyone's day to day life. Now that campuses are opening, most colleges are strictly requiring masks. "Masks should be required full time on campus," Jayleen Irizarry, a junior, said. "If students can't commit to such a simple task that helps us but also others, then they shouldn't be going to school." Along with masks, parties are forbidden in many colleges, along with any sort of college organized trips that infringe with social distancing. "I think that is an excellent de-

cision," Kassidy Russel, a junior, said. "They are prioritizing the safety of their students and staff." Colleges as a whole are having a hard time adjusting to the world's new reality and, as an attempt to do so, have required some classes to be taken outdoors. "Outdoor classes should be an option for those who do not learn well on a virtual platform," Hedriana said. Other students have a different opinion regarding the ability to provide outdoor classes. "As much as I love the idea of outdoor classes in theory, in reality we live in Florida ... so we can't exactly have regularly scheduled outdoor classes as a solution," Kelly said.



# NEW NORMAL

## Minecraft YouTubers help cease boredom

calliezack  
editor-in-chief

As teenagers became more desperate for some entertainment during quarantine, they turned to a group of three Minecraft YouTubers, known as the Dream Team. This group of young adults helped cease some of the mind-numbing boredom many felt as movie theaters, restaurants and amusement parks shut down due to the coronavirus pandemic. The Dream team is made up of three friends: Dream, who's 21 years old, GeorgeNotFound, who's 23, and Sapnap, who's 19. They stream on an app called Twitch regularly, and play a plethora of games, such as Fall Guys, Among Us and Counter-Strike: Global Offensive. However, the game that they love to play most is Minecraft. The Dream Team is well known for their Minecraft Speedrunner v.s. Hunter videos, also known as Minecraft Manhunt, in which the speedrunner must try and beat the game by killing the drag-

on before the hunter kills them. If they are killed even once, they lose. Dream has racked up millions of views on these videos for his insane plays. Two notable plays would include the time he jumped off of a tower and hopped onto a horse to escape fall damage, or the time when he crossed the depths of the Nether, which is the underworld of Minecraft, by running across boats before they sunk into the lava. "Dream is definitely my favorite because he's the most skilled," Zack Chandler, a freshman, said. "I love the manhunt videos." In Dream's most recent manhunt, he went up against 4 hunters. Unfortunately, Dream just barely lost as he was killed before

he earned the achievement of slaying the dragon. Aside from the Speedrunner v.s. Hunter videos, the three young adults push out tons of videos where they code the game into crazy challenges. They have videos where they code the mobs to be controlled by the players, where three people control one player and where it rains lava sporadically. "I love all the games they play, but the manhunt and coding videos are probably my favorites," Jenna Coble, a senior, said. "I started watching them during quarantine because they were all over my For You Page on TikTok, and I haven't stopped." Due to their popularity, the three YouTubers are often invited to compete in the Minecraft

Championship. According to noxcrew.com, ten teams of four compete in a variety of mini-games consisting of either parkour, survival or combat. At the end of the event, the top two teams with the most coins battle one another in a final game to decide the ultimate winner. The event typically starts on Saturdays at 3 p.m., and occurs once or twice every month. Various minecrafters stream the event on either YouTube or Twitch as fans cheer them on. The Dream Team is close friends with lots of other Minecraft streamers, including TommyInnit, Tubbo and Wilbur Soot. They all play together on the Dream SMP, which is a multiplayer survival world created by Dream. Tons of videos have been made on this fun-filled server, most notably the ones in which they

filmed the war between Dream and L'Manberg, which is an independent area of the Dream team SMP that was formed after Tommy attempted to begin a drug empire in a hot dog van. L'Manberg formally declared independence on July 25 and won it on Aug. 2. "I don't know all of the politics of L'Manberg, but I love Tommy, so I have to support him," Coble said. For those wishing to watch the Dream Team and friends play Minecraft, they can log onto YouTube and type in their usernames or download Twitch to watch them stream. According to YouTube statistics, only a small percentage of those who watch their videos are actually subscribed, so if watchers end up liking their videos, they should consider subscribing. It's free, and they can always unsubscribe.

*"I started watching them during quarantine because they were all over my For You Page on TikTok, and I haven't stopped."*

JENNA COBLE  
SENIOR



## A percentage or a person

peterchandler  
staff editor

As the pandemic unfolds, it becomes easier to let the bigger numbers of those with the virus become meaningless. Every now and then, it's healthy to apply a name and face to those percentages to help understand the magnitude of the situation. Two such people with local connections are Elyza Decardenas, a junior, and Travis Raitt, father of sophomore Jackson Raitt. Decardenas was diagnosed July 8 and was quarantined in her house for 14 days. She had little interaction with her family and couldn't run cross country. "I was afraid it would affect how I perform in cross country," Decardenas said. "I mean, it's not like I could go out and practice." When a person is diagnosed with COVID-19, there are certain rules that must be followed to ensure the safety of family, friends and strangers. "I had to stay quarantined in my room for a very long time," Decardenas said. "I was isolated from even my family. My mom had to leave plates of food at my doorstep." Another example of how to protect the safety of others while diagnosed is seen with father Travis Raitt. Jackson is on the varsity football team. Unfortunately, Jackson's father contracted the virus during the same time that football prac-

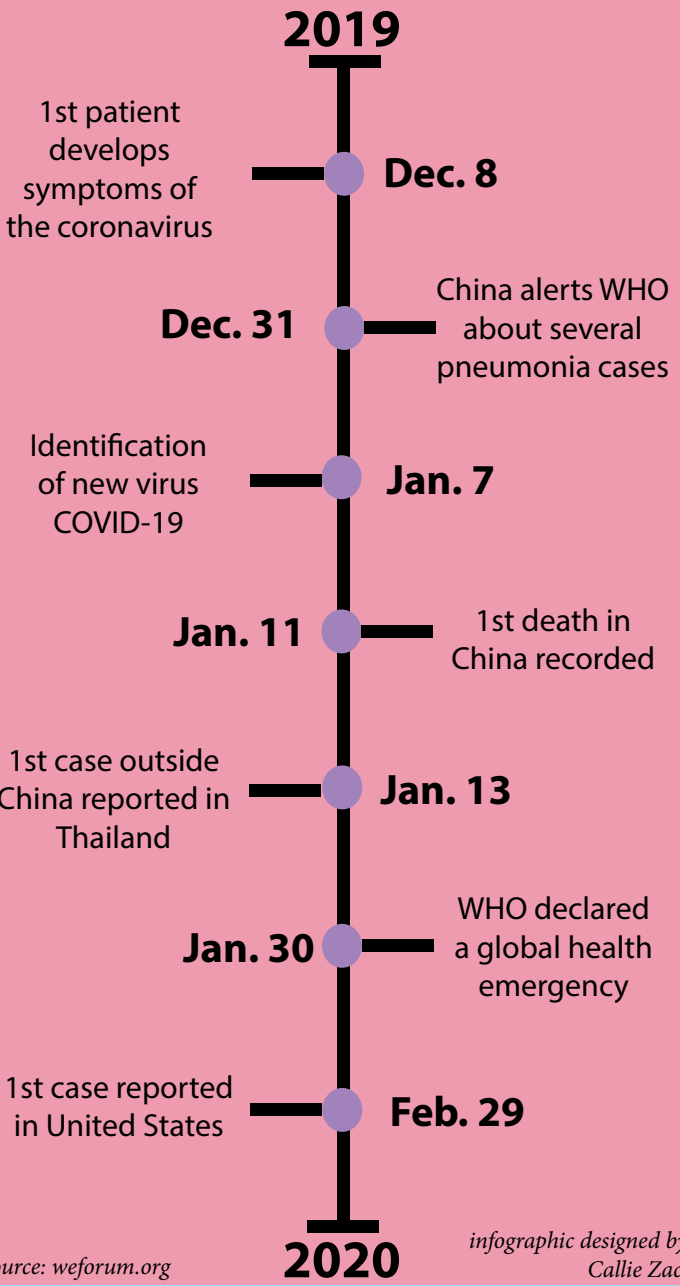


PHOTO BY • AUDREY BEST

**RETURN OF THE RUNNER-** Elyza Decardenas is training after her quarantine. She has already competed in three cross country meets. tices were being conducted. "My priority was the health and well-being of my family and those we come into contact with both at work, school and teams," Travis Raitt said. "We were not taking any chances because the virus can be pretty destructive, so sending Jackson to football practice was no longer a priority." The actions and precautions tak-

en from the Raitt and Decardenas families protected the health from many people around them. This included the lives of our football team, cross country team, and their families. Ultimately, quarantining yourself if you have the coronavirus, and socially distancing from others are now part of our duties as citizens of the world.

## COVID-19 TIMELINE





# HOTSPOT:

## New shopping plaza attracts Tampa residents

**fallonlavine**  
staff writer

The Village at Hunter's Lake is a brand-new plaza that has caught many people's attention to what they have to offer.

The importance behind this plaza is that it's main focus is to connect neighborhoods, communities, and customers.

The Hunter's Lake Project is the newer modern apartments that are being built right next to the plaza. Both the apartments and shopping center are connected to the Regency Centers and anchored by Sprouts, a grocery store.

"The Hunters Green plaza has a refreshing look and new stores such as Grain and Berry," Samuel DeRigo, a sophomore, said. "The coder school sounds exciting, as it can help inspire new people to learn to code and become part of the world of technology. I'm also excited to visit Sprouts, since it's a new farmers market that I've never been to, and it sounds exciting!"

There are stores now available which consist of healthier style restaurants, grocers and service providers.

Some of the healthier restaurants would include Grain and Berry,

Poke Island Plus Fresh Kitchen. A lot of these places have many people excited to visit, because now these businesses have set up more locations that are local.

"The overall vibe of the shopping center is healthy and trying to recreate Hyde Park and Downtown Tampa," Emily Padgett, a senior, said. "It's really nice working there, the stores near Grain and Berry are really nice and everybody knows each other."

The Sprouts Farmers Market is a healthy green grocery store that opened on Aug 12, in the Village at Hunter's Lake plaza. This is a new type of grocery store that offers fresh and healthier alternatives to the community to shop at.

This plaza will encourage many to enjoy new trendy spots, which offers a lot of businesses that usually aren't in close range to the community, making it more convenient for people to visit and take out more often.

"The business has been relatively steady; it was pretty empty in the beginning," Grant Shurley, a worker at Fit Niche, said. "The vibe of the plaza is modern and new. We partnered with Yoga Six, and we have deals with Sprouts as well."

According to the Regency Centers website, vehicles per day is 58,193. This shows how popular this plaza



PHOTO BY • FALLON LAVINE

**SHOPPING FRENZY-** Over the past few months, The Village at Hunter's Lake has become everyone's new favorite spot to go visit. Sprouts opened on Aug. 12, 2020.

is, which will also grow even more once the new businesses are built.

Not only is this shopping center filled with restaurants and grocery stores, but there are also businesses such as the UPS Store, Starbucks, Touch Nails and more. This plaza offers a wide range of businesses to

our community.

This shopping center has been the new hang out spot, especially with the types of trendy foods they have like acai bowls, coffee and pizza. The plaza offers a variety of modern stores as well.

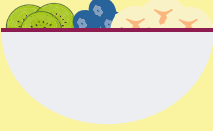
According to a recent Regency

Centers news release, "Our portfolio includes thriving properties merchandised with highly productive grocers, restaurants, service providers and best-in-class retailers that connect to our neighborhoods, our communities and our customers."


## The Village at Hunter's Lake



via italia pizza



grain & berry



ups store



fit niche



starbucks



touch nails

Address:  
8624 Hunters Village Rd  
Tampa, FL 33647



\*source: regencycenters.com

infographic designed by: Fallon Lavine



# Local coffee shop hosts monthly drive-in jazz nights in response to coronavirus pandemic

**alliemassey**  
associate editor-in-chief

While businesses across the country have taken a hit from the pandemic; one local coffee shop has found a creative way to keep the community and businesses thriving. Coffee Speaks N Tea Talks is a small black-owned coffee shop located on Bruce B Downs Boulevard that throws live jazz nights, entitled: 'Jazz Under the Stars in your Cars', twice a month. As the name implies, patrons can enjoy drinks, snacks and live jazz performances from the comfort of their own cars. Arlene Brooks, the owner of Coffee Speaks N Tea Talks, strives to create a welcoming atmosphere within her shop and curbside events. "We want to make you feel like you're at home," Brooks said. "We try to create a nice vibe and

*"I'm glad I went, it was a lot of fun. I would definitely recommend the event to a friend; I think everybody could enjoy themselves there."*

**GRACE GRIFFIN**  
PATRON

soft mood where you can feel great about being here, forget about all your woes and cares of the world, and just enjoy something." With many of the previously popular entertainment venues and activities closing due to COVID-19, this curbside jazz experience offers an opportunity for the community to come together while maintaining social distancing. "I heard about the jazz nights through a really good friend of mine," Ed Hall, a patron, said. "She knew I have a love for music and told me to check it out. I was pleasantly surprised with the layout and quality and skill level of the music performances. You're able to park your cars, take out lawn chairs or open up the tailgate of your truck and listen to the music. It was a great listening and dining experience." The shop offers a variety of pastries, small dishes and drinks one can customize to their liking. Patrons can place their orders online prior to the events or in-person at



PHOTO COURTESY OF • ARLENE BROOKS

**JAZZ UNDER THE STARS-** A musician performs on stage at the Jazz Under The Stars in your Cars event. Coffee Speaks N Tea Talks started this curbside event as a creative way to bring the community together safely.

the shop. "It was the perfect way to end the weekend," Grace Griffin, a patron, said. "The music was great, and we got to meet one of the musicians afterwards. I'm glad I went, it was a lot of fun. I would definitely recommend the event to a friend; I think everybody could enjoy themselves there." This bi-monthly event costs \$10 per vehicle to attend (the ticket includes a parking spot and free drink). From 7 to 9 p.m. On des-

ignated Sunday nights, live jazz music will be performed in the parking lot, shop doors opening at 5 p.m. "Music just brings people together and makes everyone happy," Brooks said.

# Movie, television streaming services thrive during quarantine due to COVID-19 pandemic

**lorenafilguiera**  
entertainment editor

Those who have been isolated in their homes have utilized streaming services to the fullest extent since the beginning of quarantine. This has caused services such as Netflix, Disney+ and Hulu to offer movies and shows from both the present and the past on their platforms. "Some older films I've been watching recently are 'Dirty Dancing' as well as 'Remember the Titans'." Devin Preto, a junior, said. "These are two of my favorite movies because both themes revolve around standing up for what you believe in to achieve your goals." These movies and shows create a sense of nostalgia for those watching. "My dad was the one to introduce me to 'Dirty Dancing'," Preto said. "When I was younger, I loved watching the love story, but as I got older, I realized the plot was so much more than that. Even though the movie is fictional it is still relatable and thought provoking, at least for myself." Bringing back TV shows and movies from the audiences' past has allowed them to revisit different

*"I find that network shows typically run longer so the plot develops better..."*

**DEVIN PREITO**  
JUNIOR

themes and other hidden messages in the motion pictures that they may have missed growing up. "I first watched 'Remember the Titans' with my mom," Preto said. "We were bored one night and turned it on, by the end we both

noticed that the lessons in the movie were very moving." Although streaming services have added older shows and movies in their watch suggestions, they aren't only limiting themselves to those options. Netflix, Hulu and others have been working on and continuing with their original programs and films. "Streaming services should continue creating their own productions, so there is a steady stream of new content being provided on

the apps," Preto said. "Typically it takes the network services 6 months to a year to create a movie or an up to date season of a show, they need to be providing new productions for their customers constantly even while the network services are working on their own productions." These providers work their hardest to offer the best products, especially when they are an original to their brand. "I enjoy some of the Netflix originals but overall, the net-

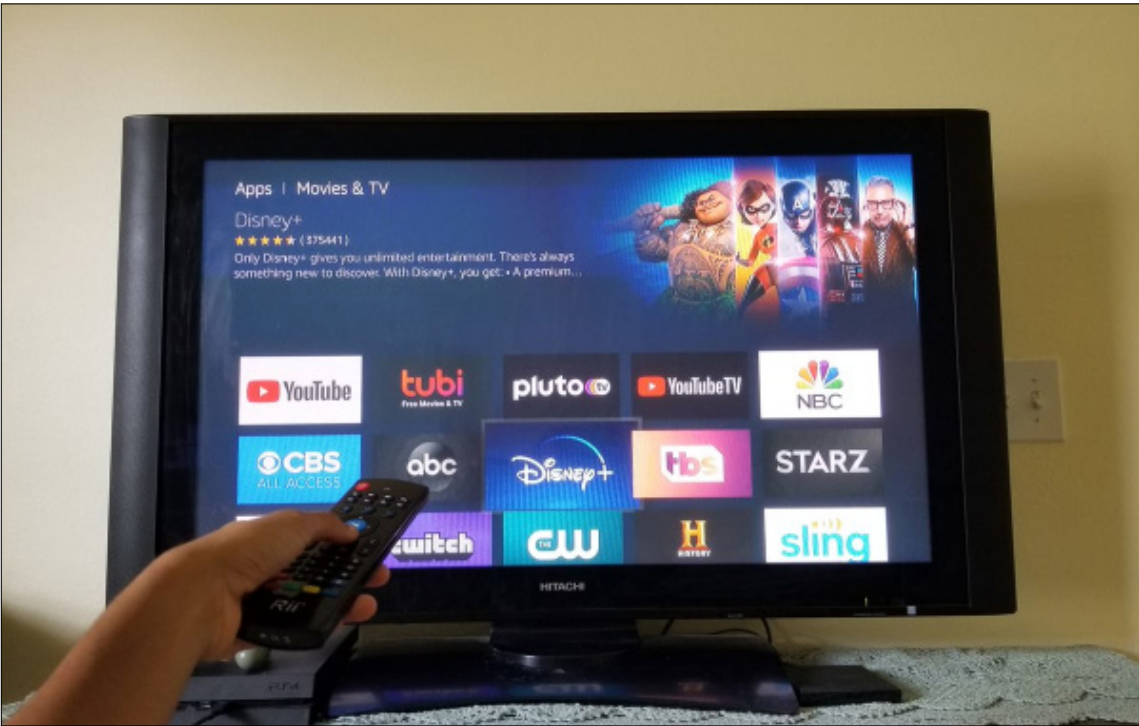


PHOTO TAKEN BY • ALLIE MASSEY

**MOVIE NIGHT-** A variety of streaming services decorate a viewer's television screen. Streaming apps had risen in popularity during heavy COVID-19 restrictions.

work shows are the ones that have me binge watching seasons and re-watching the whole thing three times over," Preto said. "I find that network shows typically run longer so the plot develops better and we get a lot deeper of an experience while watching the show." Like many films or spin off shows, the sequel may not be quite as remarkable as the original. However, this does not mean that the Netflix or Hulu original TV shows and movies should stop being produced. Fans still love seeing their favorite characters back on the screen, even if it's not as great as the first showing they saw. "Netflix shows are either better or worse, but not always better," Landen Summers, a freshman, said. "Although, I do prefer a larger percentage of Netflix originals compared to other TV shows and movies."

Costs of streaming services:

NETFLIX

\$8.99-\$15.99/mo

Disney+

\$8.99-\$15.99/mo

hulu

\$5.99-\$11.99/mo

\*source: businessinsider.com



# Theme parks make changes due to pandemic

**lorenafilgueria**  
entertainment editor

There have been major economic setbacks over the course of 2020. Greatly impacted were theme parks, an industry built on large numbers of people gathering in one place and one the state thrives on.

During the pandemic, amusement parks have been forced to adapt to a series of safety precautions to ensure park users remain healthy.

"I visited Busch Gardens in Tampa, they have made a lot of changes," Lauren McCain, a junior, said. "As soon as you get there, the trams taking you to the park seat less guests per ride. Parks have included a temperature check for all guests upon arrival to the actual park, and guests are required to wear a mask at all times."

Many have argued the new precautions are bothersome to follow, while others say they are the necessary steps to keep people as safe and healthy as possible.

"I do feel more safe with these changes," Daniela Álvarez, a freshman, said. "I am pretty sure there is a much higher chance of catching COVID-19 at a Publix than at Disney. The reason being is that they have people well distributed amongst the park. There are also markings on the ground to direct people and keep you safe."

The precautions taken to protect people at the park are done in efforts to lower their chances of contracting the virus.

"In my opinion, theme parks have tons of germs," Reagan Schroeder, a junior, said. "Now that they are actively cleaning, your chances of getting sick from those germs are much lower."

Despite the steps taken to shield those at the amusement park, some feel this may not be enough to keep everyone protected.

"Operating the rides without cleaning them is not a good idea," Ryan Vaughn, a junior, said. "I think theme parks should close rides after each hour and sanitize because the handles and seats could be a hotspot for a lot of germs."

With all the rules set in place for the park attendees, not only are visitors at risk of getting sick, but the park staff too.

Amusement park employees have been given guidelines to ensure their safety to a degree, however it does not fully protect them.

"I think the precautions that they are taking are really good, park workers are keeping their distance with one another and with the park users or patrons, along with wearing their masks and sanitizing every chance they get," Vaughn said. "When you are at the parks you can tell they are taking things very seriously because no one wants to get sick."



PHOTO BY • ELLA MOLINARI

**MASKING THE FUN-** A group of friends attend Disney Springs but are also staying safe by wearing face coverings and masks. They followed safety protocols and still managed to have a good time.

# Trump's TikTok ban sparks major controversy

**reeseavery**  
staff writer

Find a sound, learn the dance, and put the most popular hashtags in the caption and BOOM you have the perfect TikTok.

However this may all be a thing of the past, president Donald Trump stated on Aug 6 that if TikTok was "not sold by their by their respective Chinese parent companies by Sep. 15." It would be banned.

Senior Jenna Managuan has 127.9k followers on TikTok. As a creator Managuan says "It's sad because many people used the app as a creative outlet and users won't have that anymore."

More with that "If I were Trump I would make a new TikTok owned by America," said senior Haley Chambers. Which is exactly what he is trying to do.

Mostly, teenagers like freshmen Presley King say TikTok shouldn't be banned "It is fun to be on when I'm bored," said King.

President Trump wants to ban TikTok for reasons such as personal security. The concern is primarily around data security and data privacy, not classified information like weapons or intelligence systems which is what most people think.

There has been several speculations that Trump only wants

to ban TikTok due to a strike planned to attack his rally through the app. However Trump has not admitted to this accusation.

The ban of TikTok would be disappointing to many. As of April 29 the app has 315 million downloads.

TikTok has also become a job to creators Charli D'Amelio and Addison Rae. Charlie has 85.5 million followers and Addison has 59.7 million. The banning of TikTok to them would be like losing a job.

**HALEY CHAMBERS**  
**SENIOR** TikTok which was once named Musical.ly, was founded in August 2014 by Alex Zhu and Luya Yang.

In November 2017, the logo and name had changed and was bought by ByteDance, which is another Chinese company. So although the app has always been Chinese owned, this issue is very recent.

In the end, the app may disappear forever, though there are apps like it. For example Instagram's new add on called "Reels." Many Will never get to experience or see all the videos that were created. When it comes down to it, many question why an app has brought so much concern.

"If I were Trump, I'd worry about the other existing problems the world is facing right. There are bigger issues than an app," Managuan said.



PHOTO BY • REESE AVERY

**TIKTOK WITH THE WILDCAT-** Hayley Greeson (left) and the wildcat (right) are making a TikTok for the SGA page. They have racked up a lot of likes on previous videos.

## How to make the perfect TikTok

step one - Find a sound

step two - Learn the dance words

step three- Practice it over and over until perfect

step four - Write a caption and find the most popular hashtags

step five - Post it

infographic designed by: Reese Avery



# BLUE & WHITE

STAFF MEMBERS & EDITORIAL/ADVERTISING POLICY

**CALLIEZACK**  
Editor-in-Chief

**TARYNBARTLEY**  
**ALLIEMASSEY**  
Associate Editors-in-Chief

**FALLONLAVINE**  
Design Specialist

**VLADAPITNER**  
News editor

**PAYTONKENNY**  
Feature editor

**LORENAFILGUEIRA**  
Entertainment editor

**AUDREYBEST**  
Sports editor

**WILLHINELINE**  
**OLIVIALEDUC**  
**BELLARITTLE**  
**DANAROBINSON**  
**LULUARTEAGA**  
**REESEAVERY**  
**PETERCHANDLER**  
**HANNAHCRAIG**  
**PAULINAGIRALDO**  
**IZZYSPEER**  
**SARATALBOT**  
Staff writers

**TAYLORKALISZEWSKI**  
Illustrator

**KYLELOJACONO**  
Advisor

The newspaper informs students about events, influences its readers through responsible editorials and entertains through features.

As an established open forum for the student body, truth is the staff's major goal. These goals are achieved through responsible reporting.

Editorials reflect the views of the staff and do not represent views of the school board, administrators, faculty or the student body of Wharton High School. All by-lined articles and artwork reflect the opinions of the writers and artists.

To **CONTACT** the newspaper for any questions or concerns, email [kyle.lojacono@sdhc.k12.fl.us](mailto:kyle.lojacono@sdhc.k12.fl.us). Our website and Twitter handle are [whs-blueandwhite.com](http://whs-blueandwhite.com) and [@NewspaperWHS](https://twitter.com/NewspaperWHS).

The Blue&White encourages **LETTERS** which constitute a constructive avenue for all opinions. These letters must be signed. The staff reserves the right to edit letters for poor taste, space, libel and grammar. These changes will not affect the content or meaning behind the story.

Ad rates are available by emailing [kylelojacono@gmail.com](mailto:kylelojacono@gmail.com)

**ADVERTISING** which promotes illegal products labeled by Florida law, opposes any religion, is written in bad taste, includes racial comments or which includes false statements will not be accepted. The Editorial Board has the right to refuse any such ad.

# One class' senior year missed, fears grow another will follow

**tarynbartley**

associate editor-in-chief

If the past seven months have taught us anything, it is that nothing is certain. What schools across the country thought would be an extended spring break has now spiraled with no end in sight.

The class of 2020 lost so much — their prom, grad bash and even a normal graduation. Although it is understandable why, it is clear that this was the hardest social loss anyone has faced from this pandemic.

As the class of 2021 watched on, feeling bad for and apologizing to the seniors last year, we never thought it would happen to us. Now, at least the first semester will be lost in a traditional sense.

Staples of the last year of high school are gone. Homecoming has already been canceled and football games won't be the same. Even if fans are allowed, distancing and masks will take away the atmosphere we've all come to love.

The "last first day" was another tradition that was stripped away, spent behind a computer screen rather than in a classroom with friends and teachers we've come to know over our years here.

Our first day in school was equally unceremonious. Those who drive came to school and just picked a spot, most of which were still painted from last year.



ILLUSTRATION BY • TAYLOR KALISZEWSKI

Parking passes were not initially sold as they were not a concern of the administration. Something as small as having and painting our own parking spaces is an experience most students look forward to throughout high school. Where there could have been an opportunity to increase morale, it was instead squashed.

Although it is easy to understand the severity of the pandemic, there is still a sense of hopelessness many seniors are facing. It may seem silly to some now, but

memories like prom and graduation are ones that people hold onto for the rest of their lives. We may have no memory of the faces of our friends and family in these moments, because they will be hidden by masks.

Despite this, we are all trying to hold our heads high and make the most of it, no matter how hard it may seem.

While other countries are on a heavy decline, it feels like the situation in the U.S. is barely improving. This is leading to the fear

of a never ending pandemic. Not only are many worried about the first part of the year being wiped away, but even more. Winterfest is already canceled, another "last" most Wharton seniors were looking forward to.

Senior spring break, grad bash, prom and graduation itself are all on a tightrope even now.

All we can hope for as a senior class is that things get better. But for now, we just have to do our best, wear our masks and hold our heads high.

# Fears concerning physical health lead to rising mental health issue

**izzyspeer**

staff writer

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, mental illness was something many average Americans dealt with.

After people were forced to hide away in their homes, the lack of face-to-face interactions have caused these issues to rise, and isolation has caused instability in the population.

With physical health being the main priority, the thought of mental health has completely gone over officials' heads.

According to a study from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as of July, the percentage of anxiety or depression in the U.S. was 40.9 percent, whereas in April it was 35.9 percent.

Did anyone ever consider that the lockdown would cause such psychological disasters?

People are scared for their lives. Once outside of the confines of their home, they are susceptible to catching the coronavirus. The constant worry they carry when they go to places such as the grocery store is not healthy.

Social distancing has caused many people to feel lonely and isolated.

Socializing at school or going out is a break from life problems. During the lockdown, it was hard

to find emotional outlets, and people were left to cope with their problems on their own. Bottling up these feelings became overwhelming.

Amid the pandemic, the news and social media platforms only focused on informing people about COVID-19. Only the negative aspects were talked about and they gave no reassurance.

Officials provided no mental support during the pandemic. They were too fixed on stopping the virus that the even bigger problem was overlooked.

However, some may say that the lockdown had positive effects on people's emotional health.

People had time to self-reflect, read the books they never got to read and finish the shows they did not have time to watch.

But those were only brief distractions from reality.

When they could not distract themselves, they would cry. They would overthink every moment, and the tiny string their relationships were holding onto broke. After months of this, they were convinced that there was no way

to get past this.

They felt that there were bigger problems in the world, and that worrying about their emotional state seemed selfish.

Everyone has been so worried about physical health at the expense of mental health. When the topic comes up many people push it away as if it is less important.

Overcoming mental illnesses is not easy situation. Mental health is important regardless of what ever is going on and should not be overlooked.

Always put your mind first.

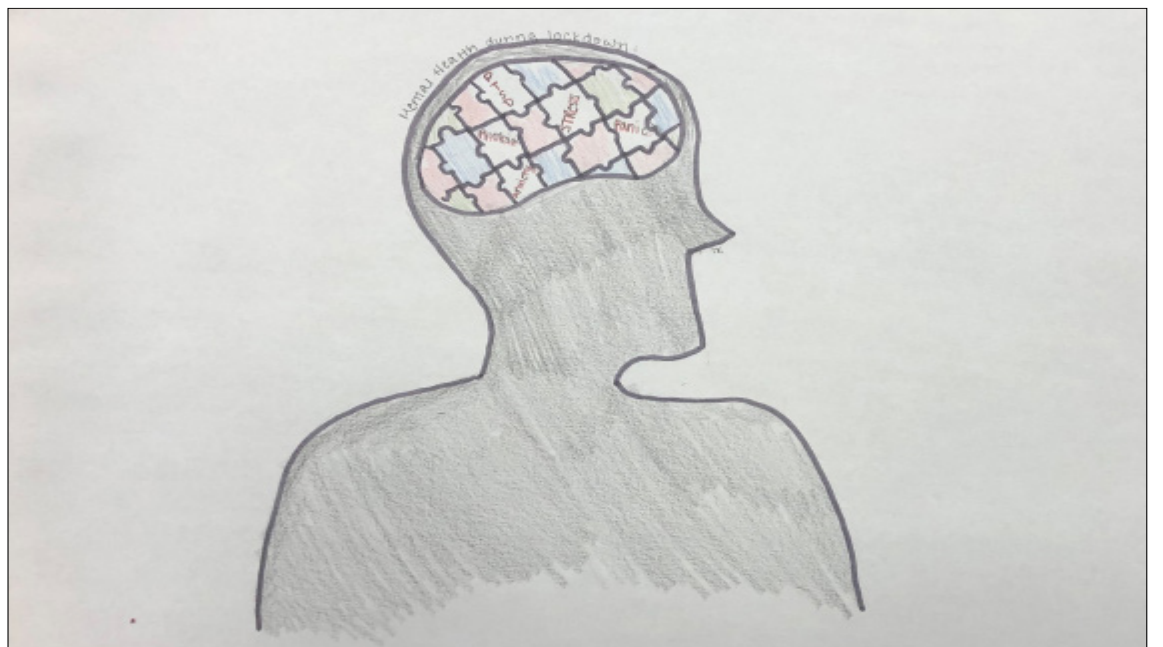


ILLUSTRATION BY • TAYLOR KALISZEWSKI



Schools reopen during COVID-19 pandemic

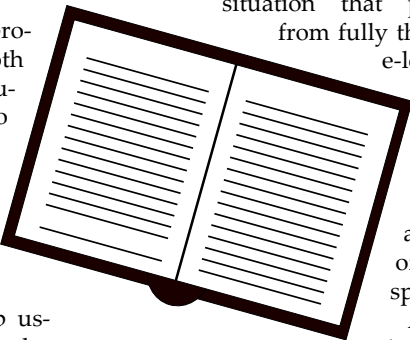
**luluarteaga**  
staff writer

Back-to-school season has led many schools to once again transfer to a brick-and-mortar platform while in the midst of COVID-19's uprising.

As schools proceed via both platforms, students are able to experience the many pros and cons of both the brick-and-mortar and e-learning. Don't keep using the same word

Many students significantly struggled with e-learning back in mid-March when COVID-19 had its first outbreak. Students were having a hard time comprehending material through Zoom, receiving proper online feedback from teachers, and most importantly, many students severely lacked self-motivation and time management skills.

Now that brick-and-mortar has been established, students have once again regained the ability to receive material in person and therefore comprehend it better, not only improving grades



but also self-motivation and time management skills.

Many students have also benefited from the brick-and-mortar platform in regards to the fact that not everyone, unfortunately, lives within a stable home. Some students may live in a stressful home situation that prevents them from fully thriving while in e-learning. Being able to attend school in person allows these students to once again be a part of a safe learning space.

Although many view the brick-and-mortar platform as having many benefits, a handful of others are focused on the negative impacts of physically going back to school.

With COVID-19 cases surging and the fact that many students are either high-risk or have high-risk family members, the brick-and-mortar platform is not ideal, hence many students transferring to the e-learning platform.

Academically, many students within e-learning have the ability to focus and perform better due to less distractions that would defi-

*"Now that brick-and-mortar has been established, students have once again regained the ability to receive material in person and therefore comprehend it better, not only improving grades but also self motivation..."*

**LULU ARTEAGA**  
STAFF WRITER



PHOTO BY • LULU ARTEAGA

**ALL ALONE-** Clara Riusech eats lunch away from her friends because of the social-distancing precautions. This has been a big struggle for students because they don't get to socialize.

nately be encountered at a school setting. This has led to students' grades increasing, but most importantly, students are understanding lessons much better.

Many students have also stated that switching to the e-learning platform has profoundly improved their overall mood. Being

able to wake up at a reasonable time, work at one's own pace, and have more free time, creates a calm and healthy learning environment that in many cases is not achieved at school, hence improving students' mood.

Healthwise, e-learning students are able to safely learn from home

without having to consistently expose themselves throughout the day.

Students for the first time since schools shut down last year have the opportunity to experience being able to learn in person and from an online platform, in comparison to last year.



**FREE DOLE WHIP  
WITH PURCHASE OF A BOWL\***

6417 E. County Line Rd., #101  
Tampa, FL 33647 | 813.575.8002  
Located between LA Fitness and Winn Dixie

[ISLANDFINPOKE.COM](http://ISLANDFINPOKE.COM)

*\*Limit one per coupon. Dine in or take out only. May not be combined with any other offer. Exp. 12/31/20.*





# GAME DAY:



## Football team kicks off season with new coach

**tarynbartley**  
associate editor-in-chief

With a new school year and many new changes, there's one that's been made to the athletic sidelines—head football coach. Mike Williams, hired as the new football coach, has started strong with his hopes for the team with a new perspective, winning their first two games. "Improving the team starts with raising the standards of the program," Williams said. "Accountability and responsibility are the foundation of our team. If we can improve them as people, they will naturally improve as players." The theory that character builds skill is one that many football coaches lead by. It also keeps the students on track academically by encouraging them to always put their best forward, on and off the field. As the former head coach

at Middleton, Williams helped build the school's program and transform their team. Students here anticipate similar results. "Because we will hopefully be improving, the student section will be larger and more excited," Emily Padgett, a senior, said. "Even if we can't be there this season, there's going to be a lot more school support."

*"We all have to be thankful just to have this opportunity because we don't know how long it could last. Things can change at any time so put your best into everyday"*

**MIKE WILLIAMS**  
FOOTBALL COACH

When news of a new coach came out, players simply worried if he would be personable. Although friendship is not everything, having a coach who players can get along with helps boost team morale. Turns out, there was no need to worry. "We just like him honestly," Henry Griffith, a junior, said. "I feel like he actually cares about us, the whole team. He's been doing a lot of drills with us to help build technique." Of course, along with this season comes the unavoidable topic of COVID-19. Along with the changes non-

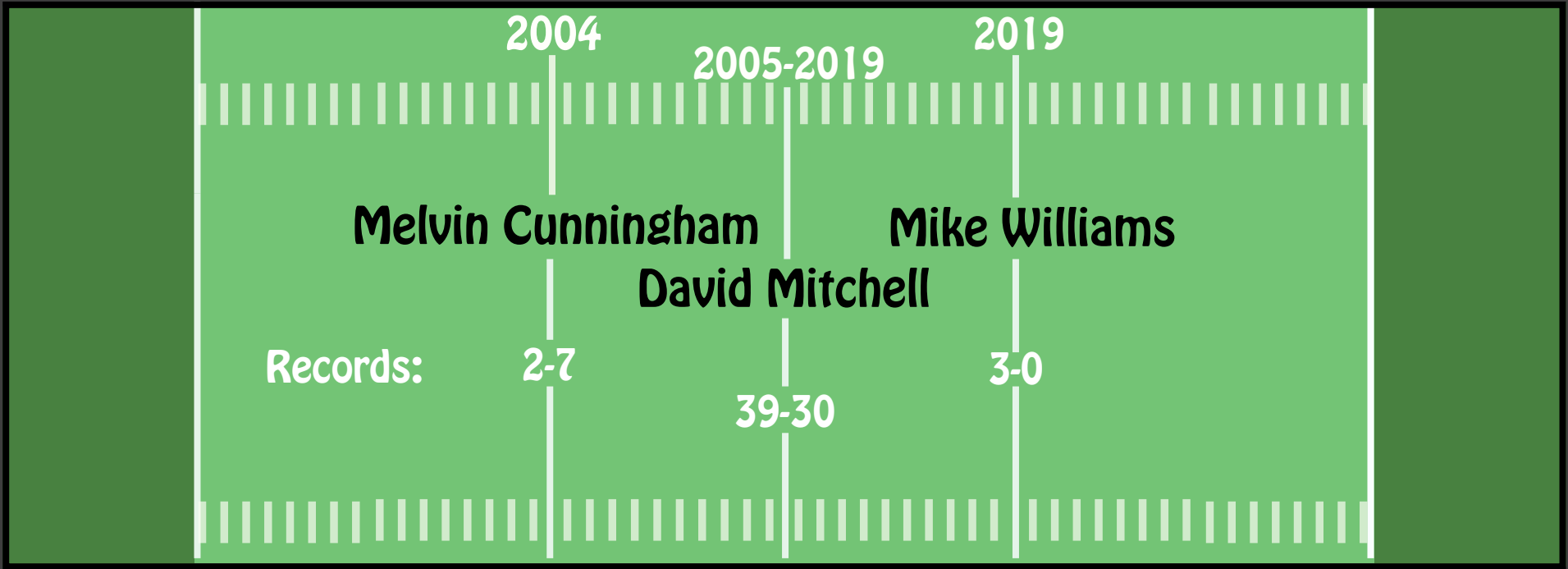


PHOTO BY • AUDREY BEST

**NEW BLOOD-** School football coach Mike Williams poses for a photo after an afternoon practice. Williams joined the coaching staff as head football coach at the end of the 2019-2020 school year.

athletes are aware of, such as needing to be on the players list to attend, there are some challenges on the field too. "There will be challenges keeping kids separated on the sidelines and keeping their masks on," Williams said. "Coaches have to work to make sure everyone is following protocols." Coaches are another point of change in this season. Multiple parts of the coaching machine have been changed, meaning that Williams is not the only new coach for the 2020-21 season. "Williams also brought in one of our old defensive coordinators, coach Martin, who coached back when we used to be really good," Griffith said. "I feel like all those pieces are going to fit perfectly together to improve our team performance" Now that the football season has officially kicked off, all players hope for is the ability to continue to play. So far, so good but Williams has made his personal goals for the season clear. "My hopes for the season are just to have one," Williams said. "We all have to be thankful just to have this opportunity because we don't know how long it could last. Things can change at any time so put your best into every day."

## COACHING STAFF THROUGH THE YEARS



Upcoming games: Friday, 10/30 at Steinbrenner @ 7:30 p.m.



Friday, 11/06 at Home (v. Durant) @ 7:30 p.m.

Friday, 11/13 at TBA (v. Riverview) @ 7:30 p.m.

\*source: maxpreps.com

infographic designed by: Allie Massey



## Audrey's Answers



### We need sports

**audreybest**  
sports editor

Though high school athletics may seem like just another extracurricular activity that students participate in, there are many benefits these sports give athletes. The loss of these pros was highlighted these past months when sports were paused due to COVID-19.

High school sports act as a stress reliever for students through these hard times. Many rely on these extracurricular activities as time for themselves or a safe space.

Students who participate in sports often forge close friendships with others on the team. These relationships are essential for physical, emotional and mental health throughout the high school years.

According to a report from the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), a 2006 study on athletes found that when female students are given more opportunity to participate in athletics in high school their weight and body mass improve. A 2001 survey found students would not spend as much time doing inactive activities like watching TV and playing video games if they had other options.

Studies also suggest that student-athletes are less likely to participate in unhealthy or risky behavior when participating in high school sports.

The same report by the NFHS cited a study by the Department of Education saying that students who weren't involved in extracurricular activities in high school were 49 percent more likely to use drugs and 37 percent more likely to become teen parents. Just four hours in an extracurricular activity, like sports, each week could dramatically improve those numbers.

Not only do athletics keep students out of trouble and away from harm, but they open many future opportunities. Student-athletes who wouldn't have the opportunity of going to college because of educational or financial reasons are given the ability to do so through athletic scholarships.

If there was a cancellation of sports, many student-athletes wouldn't have the opportunity of college.

Students should be given the option of playing sports but with the protocols necessary to stay healthy, safe and minimize the spread of COVID-19.

# Zachary Martin Act increases heat safety

**audreybest**  
sports editor

The Florida Senate unanimously passed the Zachary Martin Act earlier this year, requiring heat illness training and life-saving equipment for all Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) member schools.

The bill, named after Riverview High football player Zachary Martin, who died a few days after collapsing during summer football conditioning due to heat-related illness, requires FHSAA schools to have cold immersion tubs with ice and water present at all outdoor athletic practices and events.

Here at school, all student-athletes had to participate in an informational session presented by the school's certified athletic trainer Brittany Miller.

"Before each school practice, I check the wet bulb globe temperature outside of the school's weight room in order to allow for practices to happen," Miller said. "There are five different levels on the heat index, green being the lowest and black being the highest. Students-athletes are not prohibited to practice when index is in the black zone."

The wet bulb globe temperature is a measure of the heat stress in direct sunlight, which considers elements such as temperature, humidity, wind speed, sun angle and cloud cover. This is different from the heat index, which takes into consideration temperature and humidity and is calculated

for shady areas.

"The heat zones determine how much time they practice, the ratio of water breaks to actual practice time with the level of work (easy, moderate or hard)," Eddie Henderson, the school's athletic director, said.

Schools will be required to train personnel and students-athletes alike on heat-related illness symptoms and take actions to immediately treat athletes showing symptoms.

According to the Florida Senate website, "the bill specifies that each athletic coach and sponsor of extracurricular activities involving outdoor practices or events must annually complete training in exertion heat illness identification, prevention, and response, including effective administration of cooling zones."

For off campus practices, they must take other precautions to keep with the new regulations. One such method is the use of a tarp, ice and a nearby source of water (such as a hose).

The FHSAA has already previously had a mandatory heat illness prevention course video, covered by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS).

"This course video provides the fundamentals of a strong heat acclimatization plan and guidelines for limiting activities to account for changing environmental conditions and other contributing risk factors," according to the FHSAA's website.

This hit close to home as another student-athlete, from Middleton

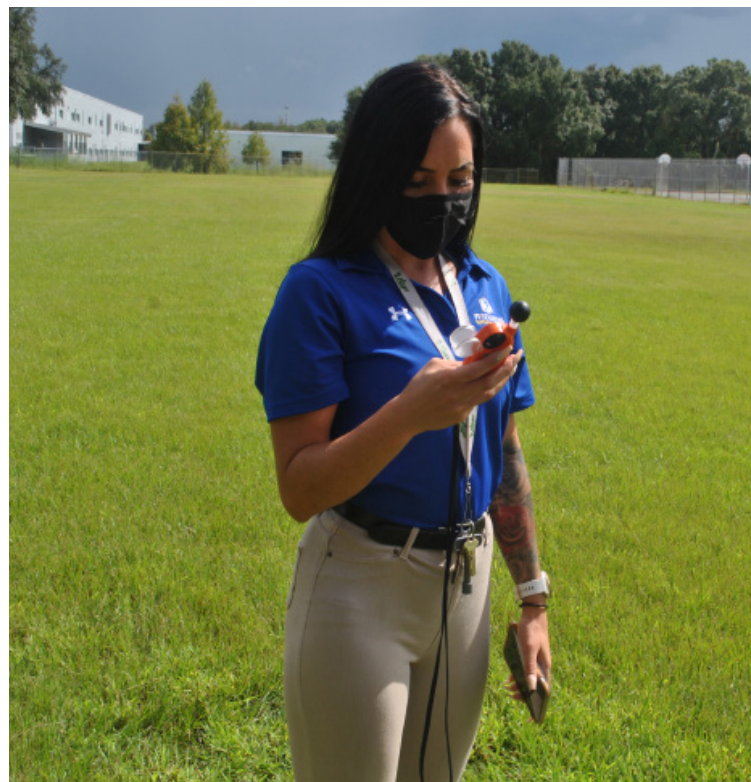


PHOTO BY • AUDREY BEST

**TEMPERATURE CHECK-** Athletic trainer, Miller, checks the Wet Bulb temperature. Coaches and athletes have had to adjust to these new guidelines..

High, just recently passed away because of a heat related illness as well.

In addition to the new heat illness mandate, Hillsborough County Schools are to also follow a new lightning policy.

This was put into place to provide quality guidelines for the safety of student athletes while participating in athletic and extracurricular activities.

One of Miller's responsibilities as athletic trainer is to alert those

participating in after school activities whenever lightning is 15 miles out. Once 10 miles out, the athletes are to go inside.

"After the last lightning strike, within the 10 miles, athletes have to wait 30 minutes until they can return to practice," Miller said.

The athletic activities may be resumed once it has been 30 minutes since a strike.

Both of these new protocols will help minimize injuries of student-athletes.

# Sports begin to accommodate to COVID-19

**williamhinline**  
staff writer

As school starts up again, High School sports in Hillsborough county are required to practice social distancing to help stop the spread of Covid-19.

Cross country practices social distancing every practice. They came up with different techniques to help space out.

"We run in separate intervals and we never run at the same time," Dane Deevers, a junior cross-country runner and swimmer, said.

Since cross country is outside, they have more room for social distancing. This is an advantage that other sports don't have like cheerleading and volleyball.

Cheerleading has changed the way they practice to help social distance and limit the spread of Covid-19. Such things include sanitizing before practice and staying six feet apart.

"We stay six feet apart during cheers and dances," Jade Profita, a sophomore cheerleader, said,

Although cheer involves a lot of contact between athletes, they still social distance as much as possible. They make sure to sanitize their shoes and mats at least once

a day.

When social distancing is not available, teams use an alternative. All participants wear a mask when they cannot be spaced out.

"We keep masks on when we set up and do our circle meetings," Eric Barber, the Wharton volleyball coach, said.

Wearing a mask can be more difficult than spreading out, especially during physical activities. This causes coaches to change practices sometimes.

When the air conditioning broke in the gym, volleyball had to do less strenuous drills in order to wear masks.

Various sports have very similar rules, however they need to do some different things to best fit their sport.

"In swim we each go to our lanes and stay there until it is our turn," Deevers said.

They are required to stand six feet apart when they are not in the pool or where a mask when they are close together.

Deevers said social distancing makes it harder to keep a smooth flow in practice.

"You can't run with a mask on," Deevers said, "but it's also hard to social distance while running or swimming next to someone."

"Every 15 minutes we have to spread out for two minutes," Bar-



PHOTO BY • WILLIAM HINELINE

**SOCIAL BUT SEPARATE-** Tannah Meyer and Mackeznie Hoffman wear masks while they set up for volleyball practice. To help stop the spread of COVID-19, players have had to wear masks while playing sports.

ber said, "we use this to get additional conditioning."

Volleyball has taken these setbacks and turned them into positives. They try not to let these new rules stop them from getting in a good practice.

"This definitely makes it more difficult," Profita said, "having to stay apart and wear a mask can be

challenging."

Profita explained that they still get good practice despite the lack of contact.

As for fans, Hillsborough county schools relaxed on some of the protocols put in place earlier.

As of Oct. 6, 400 people are allowed in the gym and 1,500 are allowed in the football stadium.