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Winter 2020

# The Drumbeat

“What’s in it for you?”

Parsippany High School



Vol. 3

## President-elect: Joe Biden

By Katelin Chen

Just when we thought the day would never come, it has been announced that Joe Biden won the presidential election with 306 electoral votes. In order to better understand what



changes will be taking place this coming January, we’re going to take a closer look at where Biden stands on the pandemic, climate change, race issues, health, and immigration.

While we know that Biden has been endorsed by past candidates Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren, as well as past president Barack Obama, what will his presidency mean for the future of America? For

the past year, people across the country and all around the world have been affected by the coronavirus pandemic. Biden plans on providing nation-wide free testing, as well as hiring 100,000 people in hopes of setting up a national contact-tracing programme. He claims that there should not be any out-of-pocket cost for patients to receive an eventual vaccine, and also hopes to establish at least 10 testing centres in every state, and rely on federal resources and experts for guidance.

The pandemic has also taken a huge toll on the economy, specifically jobs across the country. Biden has expressed priority over making sure that small businesses are able to receive necessary aid. Among his plans for the future are proposals to increase payments towards individual families, revoke tax cuts from Trump’s presidency, and increase funds for student loan forgiveness for federal loans. He has mentioned ideas to further invest in green energy in the future, as well as supporting raising the federal minimum wage to \$15/hr.

When it comes to problems sur-



rounding race, especially police brutality, Joe Biden has responded negatively towards defunding the police. However, he does believe that some of the funding for police should be redirected to social services like mental health, and wants to invest in a community policing program. He also seeks to implement a “build back” program to economically and socially support minorities. Biden has also expressed support in fixing race, gender and income-based disparities in the justice system, rehabilitating released prisoners, elim-  
**SEE JOEY B PAGE 2**

## Joey B

inating mandatory minimum sentences, decriminalising marijuana and removing prior cannabis convictions, and ending the death penalty.

On the subject of climate change, Joe Biden has made it clear that the US will be rejoining the Paris Climate Accord, which committed the US to cutting greenhouse gases up to 28% by 2025, based on 2005 levels. He has proposed many investments in new green technologies, but does not support the Green New Deal.

Biden has said that he will be expanding Obamacare, and implementing a plan that will insure around 97% of Americans. Although he stops short of a universal health insurance proposal, he aims to give all Americans the option to enroll in a health insurance option similar to Medicare in providing medical benefits to the elderly, as well as lower the age of eligibility for Medicare itself from 65 to 60 years old.

He has also promised to reverse Trump's immigration policies within his first 100 days in office, cancel limits placed on the number of applications for asylum, and end travel bans from several majority-Muslim countries.

### EndNotes:

1. "Joe Biden: Where does he stand on key ..." 7 Nov. 2020, <https://www.bbc.com/news/election-us-2020-53575474>. Accessed 6 Dec. 2020.
2. "The Presidential Campaign Year of Joe Biden - The New York ..." <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/elections/joe-biden.html>. Accessed 6 Dec. 2020.

# COVID's BACK?

By Sumaiya Rehman

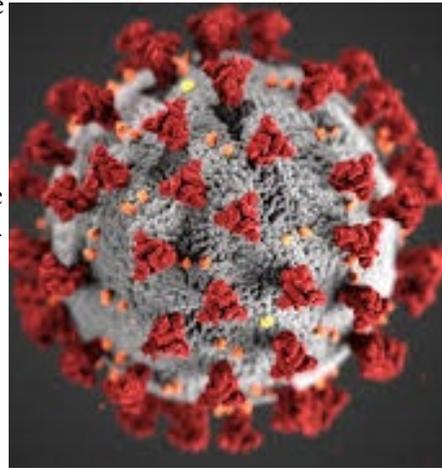
COVID is back? No, it's always been here. Beginning in mid-July, we saw COVID cases beginning to fall. Restrictions were mostly lifted and we probably thought okay, now it's a good time to visit my relatives and friends! Though rules may have been more flexible, this should not have sparked a negative change of us leaving behind our masks when we visited someone or stepped out of the house, even if it was to make a quick trip to somewhere like the Starbucks drive-thru. I'm sure we have all done this at one point in the last ten months.

The only thing we can do now is to learn from our mistakes. NJ is beginning to see 3,000 to 4,000 new positive cases a day. As of December 2, 2020, there were 4,303 new positive cases on that day. Ever since Thanksgiving, we have mistaken our selves to believe that if we visit our family while COVID cases are dying down, we will be safe. You won't be safe, and neither will the people who walk by you at the grocery store, talk to you at the drive-thru, or shake your hand be safe, because you mistaked the severity of a global pandemic.

Recent New Jersey statistics show that COVID is on the rise once

again. If we are seeing 4,000 new cases a day, clearly we are doing something wrong, right?

This is your friendly reminder that going to parties in a pandemic isn't worth it. Visiting family without masks on is not worth it. Meeting with your friends every day isn't worth it. It's not even worth it to go for a two-minute drive without your mask on to get coffee! This



is your reminder that the coronavirus is still here. It's always been here, hasn't it? It's never disappeared, and the longer we don't follow the precautions and keep ourselves safe, the longer your life won't be back to normal and you won't

experience some of the best things your life could bring. I know I miss normal life, the pre-pandemic life. And I'm sure you do too.

The next time you are invited to or plan on hosting a party, the next time you are invited to a hangout, remember that COVID is still here. The holiday season is coming up, and if you want to spend time with your extended family, the least you could do is social distance and take the proper precautions in the meantime. COVID-19 has always been here, and it won't go away until you be the change that you want to see to get your life back to normal.

## Senioritis:

### The Quiet Epidemic

By Emily Adawi

Every kindergarten student, after the first day jitters, can't wait to come back to school. Then the years drag on and we can't wait until summer vacation. High school rolls around the corner and we are excited to think about becoming seniors and what it's like to be one. Well, when you become a senior the teachers say that you have something called senioritis. Senioritis is a term used to describe the decreased motivation toward studies displayed by students who are nearing the end of high school.

Seniors at Parsippany High School submitted statements on their experiences with senioritis, varying from not feeling it yet to having no motivation due to online schooling. "Senioritis has made me not care about applying to schools or even doing school." Applying to college is one of the most important things for a senior and for teenagers in general. The fact that there are students finding no purpose to take the initiative to apply to college is more than concerning. Not to mention the new found factor of virtual learning; an anonymous student stated, "If times were normal, it wouldn't kick in so soon because I'd be excited about prom and graduation, but at this point i'm just done." Usually seniors have many fun activities to look forward to, except now that Coronavirus has drastically changed the school year, there is not much left to use as motivation.

Finding motivation is hard enough as a teenager going through the changes of life; adding in having virtual learning and adapting to the new world, students everywhere have given up on their academics. Finding a new source of motivation is necessary to keep students on track to their academic achievements and graduation.

## Take Digital Photography!

Why is it important to take creative classes such as photography?

By Arezzo Ahmadi

Since the age of the cavemen, humans have been using art (in countless forms) to either tell a story, express themselves, communicate ideas, create a sense of beauty, or to evoke strong emotions. Art is not subjective. Nowadays, people have the advantage of technology. You can now digitally create an image online, or edit it with filters and stickers to make it how you want it to be. The possibilities are truly endless.

Digital photography is the process of using electronic and computing appliances to capture, create, edit and share digital images/photographs. Unlike traditional photography, it uses an electronic sensor rather than film to capture its images. From there the digital photographs are stored on a memory card and can be inserted into the computer for further processing and editing when needed. At Parsippany High School, digital photography is offered to the student body as an elective. In that class students are able to capture images using cameras provided by the school. Each assignment is usually a project which requires you to further edit the image online, using graphic design. You can see the beautiful images posted around the school halls. Some types of photography and designs that were done in that class include:



### *Grime Art*

### *Light Painting*

While an art education increases creativity and open-mindedness, it also



enhances fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, problem solving skills, lateral thinking, complex analysis and critical thinking skills. Art integration in schools also helps students with language skills, social skills, risk taking and inventiveness. Visual arts teaches people about color, layout, perspective, and balance, which are all techniques that are necessary in presentations of academic work. Creativity allows you to see a different perspective and better deal with uncertainty. So, make sure to sign up for your next digital photography class (or preferred art elective) and get your creative side flowing!



Photo: iStock (ElenaLux)

By Krishna Parikh

Saying that being in a global pandemic is overwhelming is truly an understatement, more so for some people than others. As we experience a major shift in how our society functions, our day to day lives are being affected. People are changing the way they commute, work, study, and interact with each other. The result includes serious social consequences when rules are being followed, and of course, when they are not.

It is shocking how America, a developed nation, still has people who think that the virus is false news. This likely stems from the circulation of misinformation, especially when the virus first surfaced. Misinformation at a time the virus had just surfaced had a lasting impact on people's mindsets. As myths continue to be debunked, and correct information becomes easier to differentiate from false information,

people still insist on not taking precautionary measures.

As cases seemed to decrease, many people saw a chance to drop precautionary measures. There was a rise in public gatherings, disregard for wearing masks, and meeting up outside of work and school. This reckless behavior has set us up for the second wave of the virus with rising cases, and another lockdown seems to be present in the near future.

Apart from the consequences on collective health of the public, there are clear psychological consequences of being in social isolation. Technology isn't the most effective at erasing loneliness. People have been spending a lot more time on social media. Not having enough face-to-face contact, along with extended time spent in a limited space has been affecting people's mental health.

Apart from this, people who are facing issues at home, or experiencing grief, have an extra layer of challenges. Currently, work is being done to develop a vaccine, and all the characteristics of the virus are being studied. While big-picture steps are being taken, being aware of psychological, social, and physical consequences and having a preparedness to take action to fight against them is something we can all do at an individual level to fight the virus. While we continue to push through this "new normal," it is important that we follow safety and health guidelines, and think twice before undermining the devastating effect COVID19 has had on people, and the effect it continues to have.

Being smart for the sake of others and ourselves is crucial, and so is reaching out for help and support. Stay safe!

# Coronavirus and the holidays

By Arezzo Ahmadi

The CDC is urging people to stay home and celebrate the holidays with the members of their household. This includes family members, roommates or those unrelated to you living in the same housing unit. Those who are just returning home from college, out of state travel, etc., should be considered part of different households. “Organizers and attendees of larger events should consider the risk of virus spread based on event size (number of attendees and other factors) and take

## Some ways to safely celebrate:

- \*Limiting your guest list
- \*Skipping hugs, kisses and handshakes
- \*Wearing a mask when not eating or drinking
- \*Washing your hands
- \*Remaining six feet apart
- \*Keeping the windows open

Worldwide there are totals of 63,072,457 cases, 1,465,181 deaths, and 43,545,808 recovered as reported



steps to reduce the possibility of infection, as outlined in the Considerations for Events and Gatherings,” writes the CDC. People with or exposed to the virus should neither host or attend in-person gatherings.

During Easter, citizens were able to celebrate the holiday while maintaining social distancing. Some of these social distancing efforts included, churches setting up streaming services online and holding worship at drive in theaters.

While the holidays are not “cancelled”, it is important to continue social distancing, and following the basic CDC guidelines. Wishing everyone a happy and safe holiday season.

by worldometer. There are 18,061,468 currently infected patients, 99.4% are in mild condition, while 0.6% are said to be in critical condition. The United States has had a total of 13,750,404 cases, 273,072 deaths, and 8,107,203 recovered. There are 5,370,129 active cases in the U.S. A report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, on November 27, 2020, stated that there have been more than one million COVID-19 cases in the United States in the last week.

For more information on COVID-19 visit [cdc.gov/covid-19](https://www.cdc.gov/covid-19).

Sources: [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov), [who.int](https://www.who.int), [worldometer.info](https://www.worldometer.info)

# “AN ATTEMPT TO PLAY POLITICS WITH WOMEN’S LIVES”

## HOW THE ABORTION BAN IN POLAND IS CAUSING THOUSANDS TO PROTEST

By Jui Amin

On October 22, 2020, Poland’s top court announced that they have been deciding to pass a law that says it will be illegal to abort a fetus despite it having birth-defects. President Andrej Duda was also in support of the idea since he is a pro-life conservative. As abortion rights are getting taken away, many women have started to protest against this ruling. Thousands of women have been gathering in the streets as well as outside of churches and carrying pro-choice banners. The large-scale protests have caused a big commotion in the country. The current pandemic, the coronavirus, also changes the circumstances this year.

The organization of the protesters’ increases as many men and other groups that disagree with the Law and Justice Party join. Even Catholics like Zuza Rawa disagree with the new law, saying that she feels a “lot of hatred towards the church.” Leah Hocter, who is the director at the Centre of Reproductive Rights NGO, also expresses her thoughts on the situation. She believes that this was wrong of the government to do, as it was an attempt to involve “politics with women’s lives.” The main symbol that represents this movement is a red lightning bolt, which is shown on banners and clothing apparel. While the protests have been noted as peaceful, some men have been causing fights. Women have talked about how they were attacked with pepper spray while protesting. However, police have been present for more massive rallies so they could keep things in control.

While Poland’s new decision may be a shock, Poland has always had tight regulations when it comes to abortions. In the year 1932, the Criminal Code of Poland made it, so abortion was only legal if the pregnancy had resulted from a crime or if giving birth would put the woman’s life at risk. In 1956, Poland attempted to ease the restrictions on abortion and made it more



legal. However, this was only to decrease the number of unsafe abortions that were occurring. Poland inherently being against abortions also has to do with it being a generally conservative country. Poland’s government is led by Law and Justice, which is a conservative or right-wing populist political party. Because of this, their views are pro-life, making them against abortions.

The prime minister, Mateusz Morawieki, is worried, as the thousands of people at the protest could be spreading coronavirus. He speaks to the public, saying, “Protesting ladies and gentlemen, you will get in touch with elderly people...this may result in dramatic consequences.” He also gives his opinion on the movement, saying that they are destroying Poland. President Duda is now willing to come to some sort of compromise to deter the protests. As the protests continue, the abortion ban has been delayed.

\*\*\*Since the writing of this article, Poland has chosen to delay the vote to ban abortions.\*\*

## The New NEWSPEAK

By Ritika Patel

How many of you text your friends LOL or BTW? Not many people realize that these words are affecting your grammar and writing skills. A study done by S. Shyam Sundar, a professor at Penn State's Media Effects Research Laboratory, surveyed 542 students asking to detail their texting habits: how many texts they send and receive, their opinion on the importance of texting and the

number of adaptations in their last three sent and received text messages.

According to Sundar, "Not only did frequent texting negatively predict the test results, but both sending and receiving text adaptations were associated with how poorly they performed in school."

By sending text adaptations to other individuals, people will begin to imitate those word choices, affecting offline- language skills, an important factor to language development and grammar skills.

The question is not technology's problem because technology is

allowing more self expression and different forms of expression. Technology will lead to cultures having compromises of expression and these restrictions can become the norm.

So what do you think? Is it time to change this problem? Why not show the world that we can communicate properly, that we can think clearly, and that we can express ourselves properly?

So I challenge you for a whole week to not abbreviate words or use techspeak. See how it goes and maybe one day this technology-based world will become less of a tech-based and more communication-based.

## Writing as Art

By Peter McMaster

It's 11 PM, your essay is due at 11:59 PM, and honestly you would rather go to bed and figure it out in the morning rather than see what sort of lifeless, flawed sleepless abomination you can pump out in 59 minutes full of nothing but pain. That Situation is awful, but the sad truth is we have all been there. We've all been writing for work since elementary school, and have never been given a chance to actually write about something we want, something we enjoy. Rather than writing your next essay on a book you were forced to read about some moral dilemma you honestly couldn't care less about; write about what you do in the free time, and be creative with the situations you can create with just words on a paper. As a senior at Parsippany High School, I got the privilege to take multiple electives, and one of those was

creative writing with Mrs. Vesper. The class involves looking at writing as an art rather than perfecting it as a job. It goes over everything from Shakespearean poetry, to writing short stories. It helps reveal the tiny intricacies of writing, that can help make writing fun. The class also involves making journals a few times a month about literally anything you'd like. You can write your thoughts, write about your day, or write one of the few prompts available if you really don't know. The creativity allowed to the participant in this class is near unlimited seeing as you can write about anything whatsoever as long as it's school appropriate obviously. Now, you may be thinking, "Wow that's cool, but I still don't like writing. There's still absolutely zero reason I'd take this class wow good job Peter this article was a waste of my time and your time". In

case you are thinking that no, there still are plenty of reasons to take this class. You may not realize it yet, but writing can be therapeutic, and can actually help you relieve stress just by writing your thoughts down. Along with being relieving, writing can also help you organize your thoughts into a coherent paragraph full of detail and information, rather than a three sentence text message you sent your best friend. It may even help you realize something that at the time wasn't a relevant option. Creative Writing is easily one of the best classes I've ever taken, and it's shown me so much about writing I'd never realized in the past simply because of the classic school system we were all endowed. Not only this, but the class has shown me that writing is a therapeutic tool that can be used to organize your thoughts into one paragraph, instead of a mess of statements in my head.

# Parsippany

By Emily Adawi

Elon Musk is commonly known as the genius who created Tesla, revolutionizing technology for society. What many people may not know is that he founded the SpaceX corporation in 2002, with the goal of reducing space transportation costs to enable the colonization of Mars.



On November 16 of 2020, four astronauts boarded the Falcon 9 rocket on an expedition to the International Space Station. A rumbling departure from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, setting off on a 27-hour pursuit of the International Space Station on SpaceX's first operational crew rotation flight to the orbiting outpost. The four-person team is heading for a nearly six-month expedition on the space station, the successful blastoff marked the start of the first human spaceflight mission to Earth orbit oper-

ated as a commercial service.

Garret Reisman played a major role in bringing cargo to an international space station, being one of the crew members that engineered the spacecraft pictured below. The name might sound familiar as he is a Par High alum who later went on to become a NASA astronaut



and SpaceX engineer. He worked with SpaceX for years, aiding the company in achieving NASA contracts and overseeing the operations of the Dragon spacecraft. Reisman played a major role

# X SpaceX



in bringing cargo to an international space station, being one of the crew members that engineered the spacecraft pictured above.

The crew will spend the next six months on board the ISS, spending time conducting microgravity studies and other scientific research. They also plan to send private citizens to the ISS next year for a private company

called Axiom, which plans to build its own space station to launch in 2024.



SpaceX's Dragon Spacecraft being launched November 16, 2020.

# The Terrors in the Philippines

By Mya O'Brien

On November 1st of 2020, Goni, a now known "Super Typhoon," devastatingly struck Luzon, an island in the Philippines.

The disaster carried aggressive downpours, hostile winds, and mudslides. The typhoon alone, "kill[ed] at least 25 people, injur[ed] 399 and affect[ed] 2 million people in 8 of the country's 17 regions, as reported by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) and Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). The typhoon left an estimated 845,000 people in need of assistance and protection." says the OCHA services. In addition, Typhoon Vamco has killed 73 people, injured 82 and affected 4.2 million people close to the same 8 regions as Typhoon Goni.

The typhoon was not only detrimental to the island, but brought some more issues with it. Tropical storms Atsani and Etau hit Luzon and Visayas from November 5th



to November 8th. Not only that, but also an additional category 4 typhoon, Vamco, hit central Luzon on November 11th until the 12th. It is claimed that these major events left tens of thousands of homes in Manila flooded, bringing landslides in Cagayan and Isabela. According to the DSWD report on November 25th, about 367,000 houses have been either damaged or completely ruined, mainly from the typhoon, Goni. About 33,300 people remain homeless, one third is staying in 181 evacuation centres and the rest with families or friends.

"The national capital has not seen such devastating flooding since Tropical Storm Ketsana (Ondoy) of 2009 and Cagayan Valley has not experienced such ferocious deluge in four decades. As of 25 November, Typhoon Vamco has killed 73 people, injured 82 and affected 4.2 million people in almost the same 8 regions battered by Typhoon Goni. On 19 November, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte placed the entire Luzon under a state of calamity to facilitate swift relief and rehabilitation efforts in typhoon and flood-hit communities." Currently it is said that, "the country-based humanitarian partners under the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) umbrella will focus on life-saving and time-critical recovery needs of people, especially women and girls, living in the hardest-hit provinces, Albay." It is hoped that with these floods, the amount of people in shelters and evacuation centres will decrease and these disasters will come to an end, which will hopefully lead to the recovering process starting soon.



# Cooking Together

By Oliver Ibrahim Aibo

*The Ratatouille Musical* has been cooking online. Popularized through TikTok, the crowd-sourced, fan-made musical has all the ingredients to be a five star dish.

The musical started with a tune composed by Emily Jacobsen, an elementary school teacher, while she was cleaning her apartment. The lyrics are as follows: “Remy, the ratatouille / The rat of all my dreams / I praise you, my ratatouille / May the world remember your name”.

This audio quite literally blew up overnight, and videos using the song ranged from creating rat-themed earrings to individuals dressed in rat suits dancing to the beat.

Soon enough, a full arrangement of this song was created, featuring backup vocals, a complete melody/harmony, and instrumentals.

Composers on the app inspired by this musical masterpiece decided to make some songs of their own, all revolving around the plot of the movie *Ratatouille*, that follows the journey of Remy the rat as he follows his dreams of cooking in Paris.

As songs became more and more complex, involving long dance breaks and humans dressed as cheese, soon, they caught the attention of Broadway producers, and the composers have received multiple offers to bring their visions to life.

Nothing is official yet, but the creation of this musical is truly a testament to the influence one person can have on the world, especially when assisted by social media.



# Driving Alone

By Jui Amin

This year with the driver's ed classes have been changed drastically due to the coronavirus, and Tim Barrett, owner of Auto Arrow school, expresses the problems that have come with it. Instead of the traditional behind-the-wheel driving during classes, schools like Auto Arrow have had to push things back until it's more safe. Learning how to drive as well as getting your license during these times has become more difficult, especially with having everything online.

Restrictions that have come with the driver's education program include smaller driving sessions as well as not being able to go to the lessons as often. Each state has its own lockdown regulations, so some people have the lessons strictly online. This can be bothersome as learning online isn't as efficient as learning with an actual car. This is because these online classes can take up more time to cover material, making it harder for some people to get the driver's license quickly. Another problem with having driver's education online is technical issues since some households struggle with the internet. For in-person learning, teens have to make appointments, and depending on the pandemic rules, practice hours are limited. In New Jersey, many DMV offices are closed, so online appointments are necessary. Road tests have also changed, with the administrator, who usually sits next to the driver, watches from afar. They are replaced with a licensed driver, such as a parent or guardian.

Online driver's education courses do have some advantages over in-person virtual classes during this time. For example, taking an online course would be more beneficial for some as it allows you more self-paced learning. The in-person programs that have been switching to virtual include other students in classes. This means you would not get 1-on-1 time with the instructor. Online classes can also be useful for teens with busy schedules.

As the year goes on, people have been slowly adjusting to the new driver's education classes. Driving schools are most likely not going to reopen this year, especially until news of a vaccine comes out.

# The 2 Week Break Dilemma

Administrators and Students at Parsippany High School are unsure if they should go all virtual for a minimum of 2 weeks after the holiday break.

By Mya O'Brien

The coronavirus cases have spiked over the recent months. The New York Times have just reported that New Jersey has just hit 383,354 total Coronavirus cases. This just placed New Jersey as a "high risk" state according to npr.org, along with saying how New Jersey has 25+ cases per day. Although just this piece of information may lead many to believe we should just pursue the all virtual situation, there are many other things that administrators have to take into consideration in order to be sure they're making the right decision.

Npr.org reports that, "The poll of 849 teenagers, by Common Sense Media, conducted with SurveyMonkey, found that as schools across the country transition to some form of online learning, 41% of teenagers overall, including 47% of public school students, say they haven't attended a single online or virtual class." With this, it leads many teachers to not want to go virtual, since it's proven that lots of students do not attend and do not take this seriously which means they are not learning the appropriate curriculum and there isn't much the teachers can do to make them do their work.

Another thing that has to be taken into account is the students' mental health decline when stuck at home and not having the social interaction they're used to. The Beacon states that, "According to a study conducted in June, 75% of college students reported feeling more anxious or stressed due to online learning. Now, with only 4% of colleges fully reopening their doors to in-person instruction for fall semester, online school has made this emotional stress the norm for most students." This must be taken into account considering how serious the effects are. To contradict, most would rather be safe and not take the risk of getting sick and affecting their family.

Something else that strikes the administrators is: is this situation bad enough to cut some of the senior year out? Seniors are overall disappointed since their senior year

has been different. The constant use of masks, the lack of clubs, the usual senior traditions cancelled. Just not the ideal senior year they've imagined since freshman year. Alicia Day, a supervisor at School-Based Clinical Services, Acenda says that "These seniors are feeling kind of lost and sad and really need their family's support. Now is the time to connect with family members, both near and far through Skype or Zoom. Look at old family photos and discuss heritage or make a family tree. Communication is also imperative during this time. As everyone is experiencing a full range of emotions, it is important to be able to openly share thoughts and feelings, support one another and respect each other's experiences."

There are many more things that the teachers and administrators have to take into consideration, but the question lies, is this enough to stay in school or are the cases just unsafe for the daily arrival of students to continue?



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## The Back Page

The Back Page is an Opinion section. All views expressed are held solely by the author.  
To participate and have your voice heard, email [mreidinger@pthsd.net](mailto:mreidinger@pthsd.net)

# COVID-19 Changes Life More, and More.

By Peter McMaster

COVID-19 has been a very interesting situation for students and faculty alike, and to say that there hasn't been some trial and error would be false. Due to the unprecedented situation we're in, school for everyone involved has been greatly changed due to COVID-19. To



start off the year, students were required to simply wear masks, and try our best to avoid one another. As the year continued, there were lanes setup, and one way hallways created in order to try and get the students as far apart as possible, to make sure as little contact as possible happens. Of course, this is all happening with many students; almost half opting to have a fully virtual class experience in which they spend the day at home. This is an available option to all students, making contact with other people as optional as possible. Not only has this affected school life due to the obvious change in the

school day and schedule, but this has also altered students' home lives as well due to the fact, at least half of school is virtual for everyone. This can affect how students perform due to their surroundings, their effort, and overall their attitude and happiness. Being home all day may

sound appealing to most, but the unfortunate truth is that human beings are social creatures, and even the smallest amount of social interaction maybe enough to fulfill someone's day and they don't even realize because they've never been so deprived of socializing. Even a walk outside can help. In all forms of life, COVID-19 has altered the way we live our daily lives, and it's affecting people more as time passes. All we can do is hope it ends soon, and be thankful we go to a school that has high safety standards.