

theimagemagazine

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One year later.

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On The Cover

Spring Break 2020. It was the week everything changed. In this edition, we reflect on the past year and the challenges the Lafayette community has overcome through perseverance and creativity.
• cover design by MAKAYLA ARCHAMBEAULT

Image Newsmagazine Issue #4

What would you have said if you knew *then* what you know *now*?

In a poll sent out to all students in their Rockwood email accounts, the *Image* asked "Looking back, if you could have given yourself one piece of advice last year before leaving school for Spring Break, what would you have said?" Here are a few of the responses.

“ Hug all of your friends before you can't anymore. ”

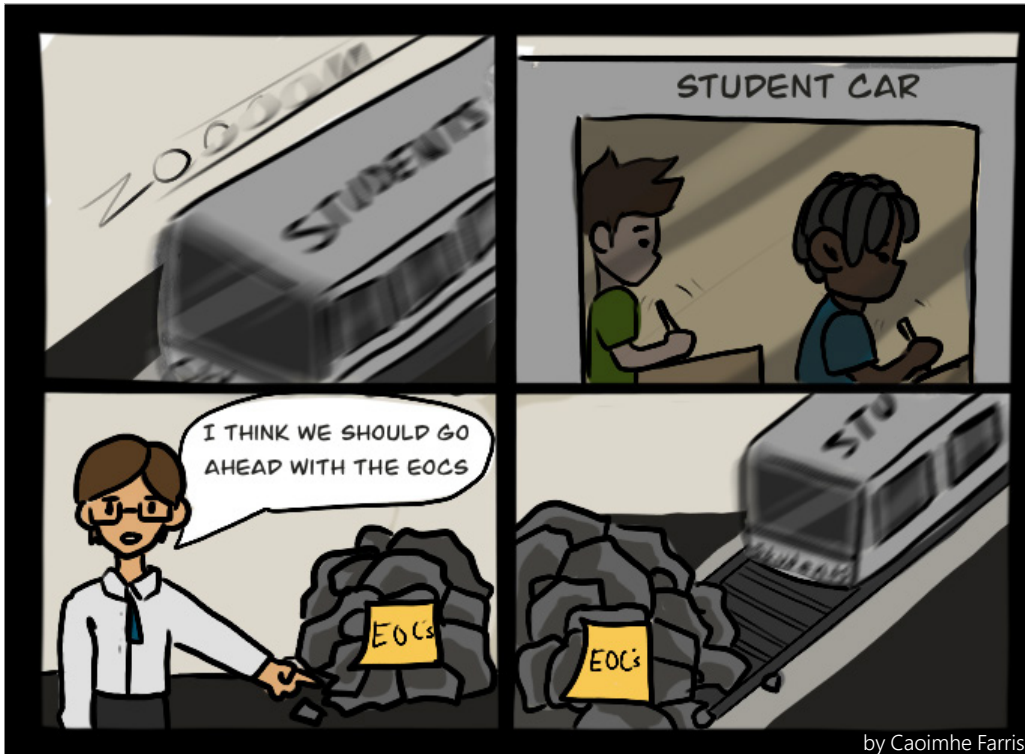
“ Get off your phone more and just live in the moment. ”

“ Buy a ton of toilet paper and paper towels. ”

“ Actually do the "optional" assignments. ”

“ Buckle up, get ready, and good luck. ”

“ Live life to a greater extent. Learn to love yourself. ”



by Caoimhe Farris

Stars & Gripes

Stars & Gripes is a satirical column written collectively by the *Image* staff members.

Stars To:

- With the Rockwood School Board election drawing to a close on April 6 hopefully we'll see a reduction in the yard sign advertising all over the district.
- Taylor Swift's newest release, *You All Over Me (feat. Maren Morris) (Taylor's Version) (From The Vault)* offered a (newer) version of an (iconic) track (that we will be listening to for the next week) (straight).
- FitBit: the somewhat unofficial sponsor of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris walking in all of their Instagram pictures.
- March Madness is coming to a close. While we're upset our bracket has been broken so many times, it seems we're all in the same court.

Gripes To:

- Black Widow's* release date was pushed back to July 9. Hopefully third time's the charm.
- The Suez Canal getting blocked by a container ship is the living embodiment of the "You had one job" meme.
- Georgia passes sweeping new voting laws with major restrictions. Sounds like the Devil went down to Georgia, looking for some votes to steal.
- Joe Biden's dog, Major, was sent away after biting incident. It appears personal space issues run in the family.
- Look for *One Fish, Two Fish, Racist Fish, Canceled Fish: the Untold Dr. Seuss Story* in bookstores soon.

Testing Our Patience

EOC exams will prove nothing, wasting valuable resources desperately needed in other areas



With a failure rate over two times higher than previous years, testing should be waived and funds redirected to improve student learning environments.

Education looks very different for students this year. And, it is no different even for students at a high performing school like Lafayette. Online learning, changes in schedules, quarantines and dependence on technology have created even more disparity.

Overall, the academic performance of Lafayette students is significantly worse than in past years.

The failure rate has increased from an average of 1.66% last year to a rate of 3.9% this year.

This is not simply an LHS issue. It is happening across the state.

So why is the state of Missouri still requiring schools to administer standardized tests this year?

The true value of End of Course (EOC) testing has always been somewhat questionable. And this year, more than ever, they will be even more unfair to districts with fewer resources for virtual learners.

Many colleges are waiving the ACT or SAT score requirements because they recognize that students are coming in with very different preparation.

This is a step in the right direction and the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE) should follow their lead and waive EOC testing.

Instead, DESE made the poor

decision that EOCs will be required and must be taken in-person.

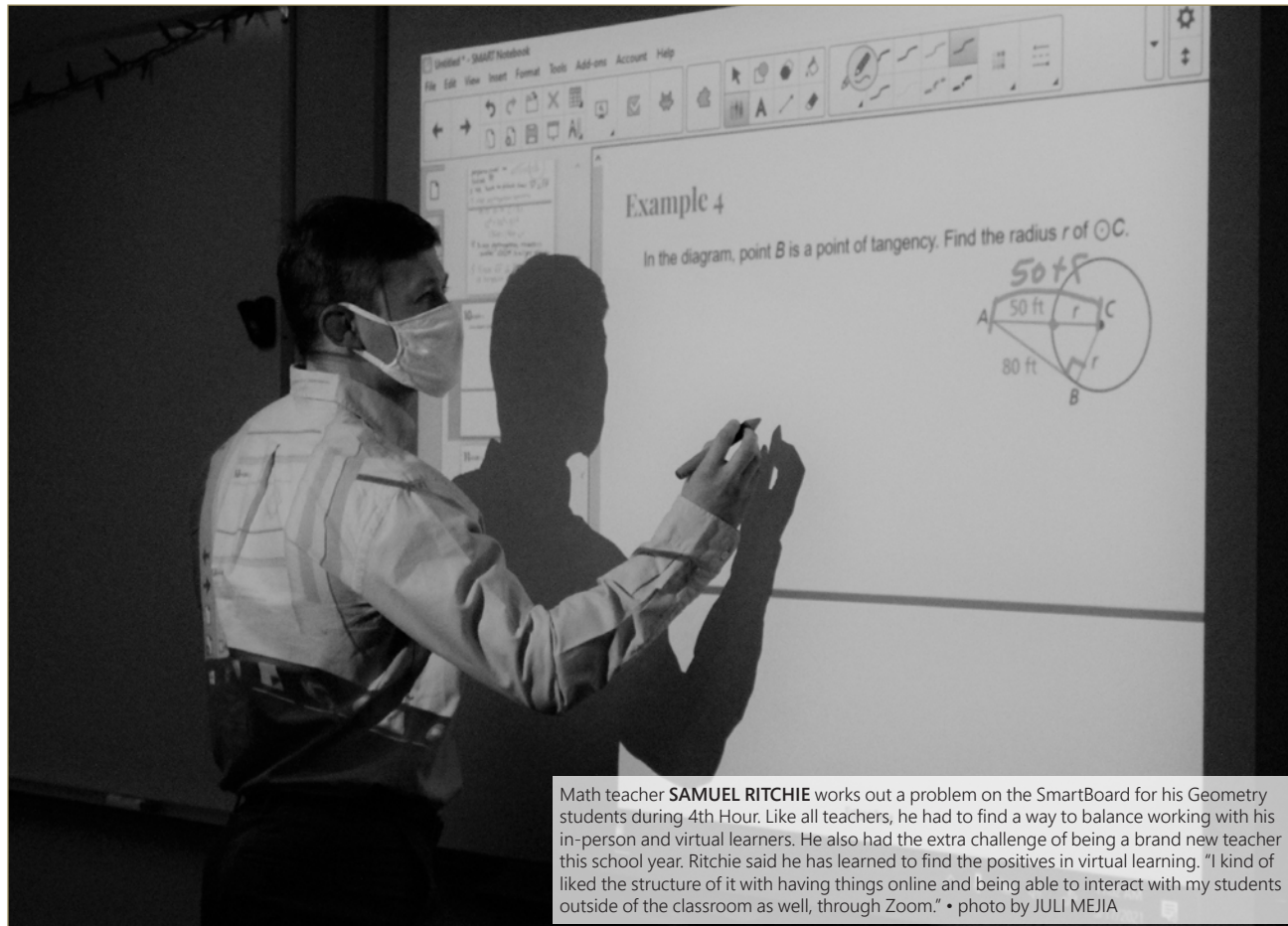
EOC exams are not cheap. With about 7,000 students at the high school level taking them, the tests, the staffing, transportation and testing site accommodations must all be paid for.

In previous years, EOC results have been used for school accreditation. DESE announced the results from this year will be used "to establish the current condition of student learning by understanding where students are academically in relation to Missouri Learning Standards."

The resources being used toward EOCs will do nothing but prove what we and the teachers all already know. We are already witnessing the direct results of the pandemic on education.

In response to this, DESE should focus on leveling the playing field in Missouri schools. Resources should be used to provide students with internet access, assist virtual students and provide more resources for teachers.

Rather than giving struggling students another test with inevitably bad results, the state should make resources available to improve learning environments for all students. Then, the results could be real academic success for all Missouri schools and students.



Math teacher **SAMUEL RITCHIE** works out a problem on the SmartBoard for his Geometry students during 4th Hour. Like all teachers, he had to find a way to balance working with his in-person and virtual learners. He also had the extra challenge of being a brand new teacher this school year. Ritchie said he has learned to find the positives in virtual learning. "I kind of liked the structure of it with having things online and being able to interact with my students outside of the classroom as well, through Zoom." • photo by JULI MEJIA

New Times Call For New Measures

First year teacher's background provides some help

Sophia Scheller
• Staff Reporter •

COVID-19 has caused challenges for teachers, but for first year rookies, like math teacher Samuel Ritchie, teaching during a pandemic is all they know. He said his bond with his dad is ultimately what sparked his desire to become a teacher. "My dad was a teacher, so I was raised in a teacher household," Ritchie said. "I think just kind of seeing the impact my dad made on his students [made me want to teach]. He was my wrestling coach and the impact he made [inspired me]. Just over the years I had so many people tell me, 'Your dad changed my life' and I just thought that I want to do something special like that, too."

To become a certified teacher in Missouri, one needs to complete student teaching with an experienced teacher. Ritchie did his student teaching before the lockdown hit. "I did that two years ago, so I didn't have to deal with COVID. It was pretty traditional. It [was] what I was expecting, you know, just a classroom full of kids up at the SmartBoard

teaching every day. There weren't any online assignments, it was all on paper," he said. But when it was time to step into his first real teaching job, things had changed completely and his first real students would all be online. Still, he thought he would be able to handle some aspects of the situation without too much trouble. "I think the advantage I had was being fresh out of college at Mizzou. We used Canvas. So I was a student on Canvas for the past five years at Mizzou," he said. Ritchie believes his experience with that program has allowed him to be able to adapt more easily to virtual learning. "I definitely think I had a leg up to some teachers who were brand new to Canvas, but there was also so much more on the teaching side of Canvas that I had no idea. There was still a lot to learn, especially with Canvas and just interacting online and how to work Zoom and all that," Ritchie said. His course load includes Geometry, Algebra 1 and Math in Careers. Balancing three preparations is hard even for experienced teachers. It is even harder when

students are both in person and online. He said, "Luckily my PLCs (professional learning communities) did a great job at showing me the ropes. With that being said I still spend plenty of time prepping on my own. I like to work ahead, so every Sunday I sit down and make sure I am prepared for the upcoming week." And though teaching in this format was not what he was expecting in his first year, Ritchie was quick to point out the positives of teaching virtually. "I kind of liked the structure of it with having things online and being able to interact with my students outside of the classroom through Zoom," he said. However he still appreciates finally having in-person students. "When you can't see your kids in person, it can definitely be difficult to make sure their needs are met. It has been such a relief to come back in person and get to meet and interact with most of my students. Even though there are some things that are still limited, I'm just thankful and appreciative for what we do have the chance to do now," Ritchie added.



Coronavirus leads to great loss for Charlton family

Kevin Vera
• Sports Editor •

For some, looking at the statistics of lost lives due to the coronavirus is especially hard and upsetting. Junior Abby Charlton's grandfather was sadly one of those statistics. He died from COVID-19 in Dec. 2020, and for Charlton, the loss of her grandfather has been very hard on her. "I was pretty close with my grandpa. He got sick first and it was about early November when he tested positive. [He] was admitted to the hospital right away, and he was in a regular room for a while, and then his breathing wasn't going well, so they moved him to the ICU, where he was until he passed away," she said.

Charlton considered her grandfather to be one of her role models and she hopes people realize the reality of the devastating effects of the virus. "Even though some of us may not be affected, I think it's important for everyone to understand that it is very real and people are actually losing family and friends to this virus. I think others should know that life is very unpredictable, so you should tell the people you love how much they mean to you while you still can. I will never take my loved ones for granted again," Charlton said.

• photo courtesy of Abby Charlton



Flight School delayed due to COVID-19

Vijay Viswanathan
• Business Manager •

Last summer, senior Ben Coopmans was one of 230 Air Force Junior ROTC (AFJROTC) cadets nationwide to earn a scholarship from the AFJROTC Flight Academy. It was a dream come true, but unfortunately one that he was not able to see through yet. He has been passionate about flying for years. "I was introduced to flight the way many others were, that being through air shows. My father took me to them from a very young age, fostering a fascination for aviation that has been growing to this day," Coopmans said. Coopmans is the Cadet Colonel of Lafayette's 81st AFJROTC. Like so many things, due to COVID-19, the AFJROTC flight program was canceled for 2020. Coopmans said, "I was devastated when it wasn't able to happen last year."

However, Coopmans has not heard anything about the program for 2021, and is still hoping to go. "I feel quite privileged and blessed to have this opportunity," he said. He is interested in flying as a career path. "Flying represents a dream to me. It's really something I'm passionate about and I want to explore it," Coopmans said.

• photo courtesy of Ben Coopmans



2020 nuptials face pandemic postponement

Weddings take months to plan. There are tons of details and things to schedule. But because of COVID-19, language arts teacher Crystal Gray's wedding plans got more complicated than she ever imagined. Gray was set to get married in June 2020, but she and her fiancé, Michael Rempe, decided to postpone the wedding when the world went on lockdown. Though they were disappointed, Gray knew rescheduling was the only option. She got engaged in Oct. 2019 and set a date shortly after, but by that March, the couple already had the sense that they would have to postpone the event. "I think postponing was the best option, since both of us work at Big Chief Roadhouse, and we were also trying to figure out how to run the restaurant when there was no in-person dining. I guess we were a bit nervous, with the wedding and other things, plus we didn't really want a wedding where we needed to wear masks," Gray said. The wedding has been rescheduled to June 2021, and Gray said she feels the same emotions she felt a year ago. "I felt this excitement then, and I'm feeling it again now, along with this slight feeling of panic about getting ready," Gray said.

• photo courtesy of Crystal Gray



New baby reminds teacher to value family

Having a new baby is never easy, but having one during a lockdown is even more challenging. Science teacher Scott Haxton and his wife became first-time parents when their daughter Isabella was born on March 22, just after the lockdown started. For Haxton, his daughter is his pride and joy and he is looking beyond COVID-19. "I'm excited about the future and the chances for her," Haxton said. He said being locked down at home with their new baby was not bad. "It actually wasn't hard — it was kind of peaceful. I mean, we were scared we were going to run out of toilet paper, but the time away from family and friends gave us time to focus on bonding," he said. But the biggest lesson Haxton learned was about the value of family time. "I need to slow down and make time for my family, and set other obligations to the side. I'm very much a Type-A person. I love to get things done, and I really love attention to detail, but that can't be at the expense of spending time with my daughter. I want to make sure I am setting aside a lot of time for my family. COVID helped with that because we were at home and I was able to really focus in on just being with my family," Haxton said.

• photo courtesy of Scott Haxton



New puppy creates joy during lockdown

Sophomore Supreet Aradhya took advantage of quarantine to bring home a new family pet. The Aradhya family welcomed a new dog to brighten up their time at home. The family welcomed their furry friend, a Yorkshire Terrier named Minchu, over quarantine. "We adopted Minchu from a breeder in Kansas near where we have relatives. We visited them and on our way back, picked up Minchu on Aug. 2," Aradhya said. Although the family has had other pets in the past like fish and a rabbit, Minchu is the family's first dog. A 2020 September study done by the American Pet Products Association reported that 11.38 million U.S. households got a new pet during the pandemic. "Since we were all locked in during quarantine, we thought it would be a good way to raise spirits and have some fun at home," Aradhya said. Months later, Aradhya said Minchu continues to bring immense joy to their household every day since being introduced. "It's like having a best friend. Spending time with my dog has helped make lots of memories. Previously there would be a bit of distance, but now that Minchu is in our lives, it's brought us together," Aradhya said.

• photo courtesy of Supreet Aradhya

Staying Open

Duck Donuts helps community during COVID-19

Olivia Moran
• Staff Reporter •



Owner of Duck Donuts, Tori Bray, was initially concerned about the impact that COVID-19 would have on her business.

"I think it was the unknown in the beginning that was so concerning as a small business owner," Bray said.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many local businesses had to shut their doors last March.

Duck Donuts, a gourmet donut franchise in Chesterfield, opened in April 2019. The Bray and Hundlet families own the location.

But, their location never fully closed during the pandemic. Similar to many other food businesses, Duck Donuts offered curbside services with limited hours. The restaurant employs many high school students since the company is able to provide a lot of weekend hours and donut making can be fun for teenagers. Bray said the kids were happy to work on the weekends.

"We are so lucky. They all come to work with a great attitude and ready to greet the guests with a smile. They make the donut shop fun and it seems like they have all become friends," Bray said.

Most of their employees have been working since Duck Donuts first opened. Bray's son, Aiden Bray, is a Lafayette student and did work at the store for some time. Eight of the workers are now seniors. Both owners are excited for their new endeavors, but also sad to see them go.

To operate safely, Duck Donuts took several precautions including installing plastic barriers, social distancing and closing indoor dining.

However, they also took a creative approach and installed a walk-up window that customers could order at without going inside the building. Customers were allowed to order outside, on the phone or through the app and pick up their items at the new window. It has become so popular that Bray thinks the window will continue to be a big hit moving forward.

Duck Donuts did not only remain open for their regular customers, but also served frontline workers. Two of the current owners are nurses, also working that job during this difficult time.

Duck Donuts would match any donut purchases made by frontline workers or medical employees.

"During the peak of COVID, so many customers were taking donuts to hospitals, COVID testing sites and places where essential workers were working countless hours," Bray said. "After work we dropped off donuts at the local emergency room departments and essential medical facilities to show support for the community."

Often times, they would bring donuts to Saint Luke's Hospital in Saint Louis.

"We love our community and were honored to be able to give back to these hometown heroes," Bray said.



"COVID-19 really hasn't been bad. People will order online and then pick up from the store a lot. I think it's helped. I'm proud of my mom. She's worked hard in the business."

Aiden Bray • 10



1 • A nurse at St. Luke's accepts a gift of boxes of donuts for the employees on duty from Duck Donuts during a long shift at the hospital. • photo courtesy of ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL OF ST. LOUIS.
2 • Duck Donuts makes each donut custom to order, with many different cakes and icings for customers to choose from. • photo by CORREN TIPTON



Sofia Ganev
• Staff Reporter •

"[Sports] Fusion was left no option but to permanently close our doors to the community we love due to the devastating impact the COVID-19 response had on us and our entire industry."

That was the message on Sports Fusion's website. Sports Fusion was a popular local entertainment venue where visitors could enjoy

laser tag, mini golf, dodgeball and other activities. Due to the economic impact of the pandemic, the business, located in Chesterfield, shut down on Aug. 15, 2020.

Senior Will Knowing worked at Sports Fusion for a year and a half. It was his first job.

When he heard it was closing its doors, he was devastated.

"You really felt the family aspect since it was a small business where you knew all of the upper management, all the

way up to the owner," he said. Knowing's job held sentimental value, even if he didn't enjoy every second of it.

Although he didn't rely on the job to pay for his essentials, it was hard for him to see the place lose business.

"When I was a kid, Sports Fusion was where all the cool birthday parties were. I could never get enough laser tag and would end up at the top of the scoreboard," he said.

On weekdays, Knowing noticed there were often more employees than customers.

Lafayette even held their Senior Celebration event at Sports Fusion.

Over 100,000 establishments in the U.S. have either temporarily or permanently shutdown due to COVID-19.

Greg Hoffmann, Sports Fusion's owner, lost all the investments and an entertainment venue with a strong reputation that served the community for 11 years.

"I was fortunate to have savings, but that was intended for our retirement. I have lost around \$1 million, mostly in the value of the business," Hoffmann said.

One day before their busy Spring Break week, St. Louis County ordered Sports Fusion and similar entertainment

centers to close for three months. This meant Sports Fusion was closed during, typically, their three most profitable months.

Hoffmann recalls the day he told his staff they had to close permanently.

"It was a gut wrenching experience. We called them all in for a meeting and just explained it was just financially impossible to go on. There were a lot of tears and it was very emotional," Hoffmann said.

Senior DJ Sherman, who worked at Sports Fusion, noticed a change in business instantly when COVID hit.

"The days were a lot slower and my time shifted to more standing around and cleaning rather than running dodgeball and laser tag games 24/7," Sherman said.

Sports Fusion was designed to have large groups of people together at events which made staying open even after restrictions were lifted a bit challenging.

The closure was difficult for employees not just for the loss of a job but for the memories they made there.

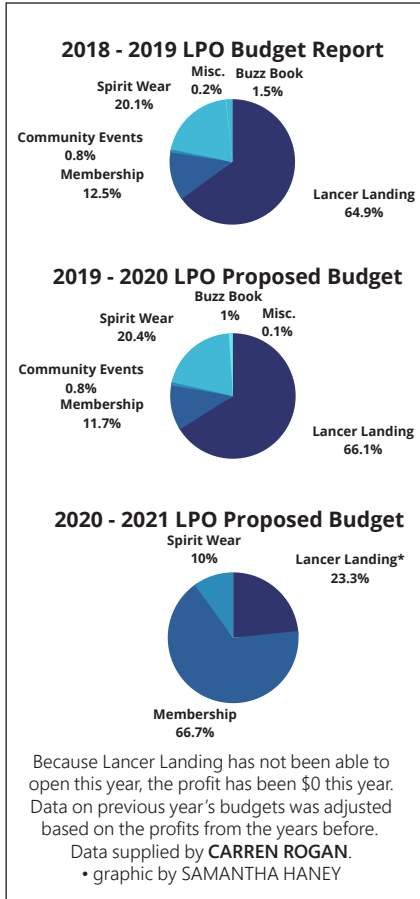
"It is sad, not only from the angle of losing a job I liked, but a local business going away and a place I went to and loved as a kid," Knowing said.



A photo captures the last moments of the staff spending time together at Sports Fusion. After the last day of work on Aug. 15, they had a farewell party where they played laser tag and dodgeball and shared memories together. • photo courtesy of GREG HOFFMANN

No Place To Land

School Store closing creates loss of income for LPO



Samantha Haney
• Staff Reporter •

"When my oldest daughter was in 8th Grade, a friend of mine, Rose Conway, was running the store up here. She said, 'Whatever you do, make sure you volunteer at the school store. Teachers come in, administrators come in, the kids come in. It's an excellent way to get to know people. The better you know teachers and administrators, the more helpful they are when you need them,'" Lancer Parent Organization (LPO) Treasurer Carren Rogan said. "So I thought, I'm doing it."

Rogan started volunteering on Tuesdays and Thursdays every week for about five years. When more people got involved, she moved to one day a week. This year, the store is closed.

Lancer Landing sold everything from food to spirit wear, but Rogan said it was also a therapeutic environment.

"A lot of kids spent their entire lunch there talking to us, because they didn't have somebody to eat with, so I think about those kids [and] who they're now sitting with. You know, maybe it's helping them. But I miss seeing the kids, I miss interacting with them," Rogan said.

Another important thing to her is the fundraising. Money raised from the school store went to teachers, students, Special Olympics, and other things around Lafayette. The school store normally raises the majority of the money for those events, and the closure has been a hit to fundraising.

"I miss making the money so we can do the grants for the teachers. We're not going to do any grants this year. Maybe I mean, we might have a little bit of money. Normally, it's \$18,000 to \$24,000 that we're giving back to the school," Rogan said.

Without the income from the store, it has created a limit on how many events, grants and spirit wear can be purchased for this year. But, even without the income from the store, the LPO has been able to continue supporting Lafayette.

"We do Lancer Award scholarships, we're going to still be able to do that this year. We donate to the classes, we still did that this year, because the classes haven't been able to do their fundraising. So I thought it was really important to make sure that we're still supporting the classes. [These are] our two biggest expenses," Rogan said.

While it's still important to support these efforts, Rogan is hoping that the school store will be able to open soon, even with some limitations.

"We've had times that we've had to restrict the number of kids coming into the store, that there'd been like shoplifting sprees. All of a sudden, we're like, 'Okay, I think that kid,' and when there's too many, you can't really watch for that. So we've had to limit the store use periodically because of shoplifting. If we have to limit, just to keep safe still, we're good at that and we can do that," Rogan said.

Lancer Parent Organization Treasurer Carren Rogan said she misses having the doors to the school store open, not just because of the lost income for special school projects, but for the time she and the other volunteers spent seeing and talking with students.

• photo by **SAMANTHA HANEY**



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The Healing Power of Art



Artist junior ISSY GROSZ
• photo courtesy OF ISSY GROSZ



1

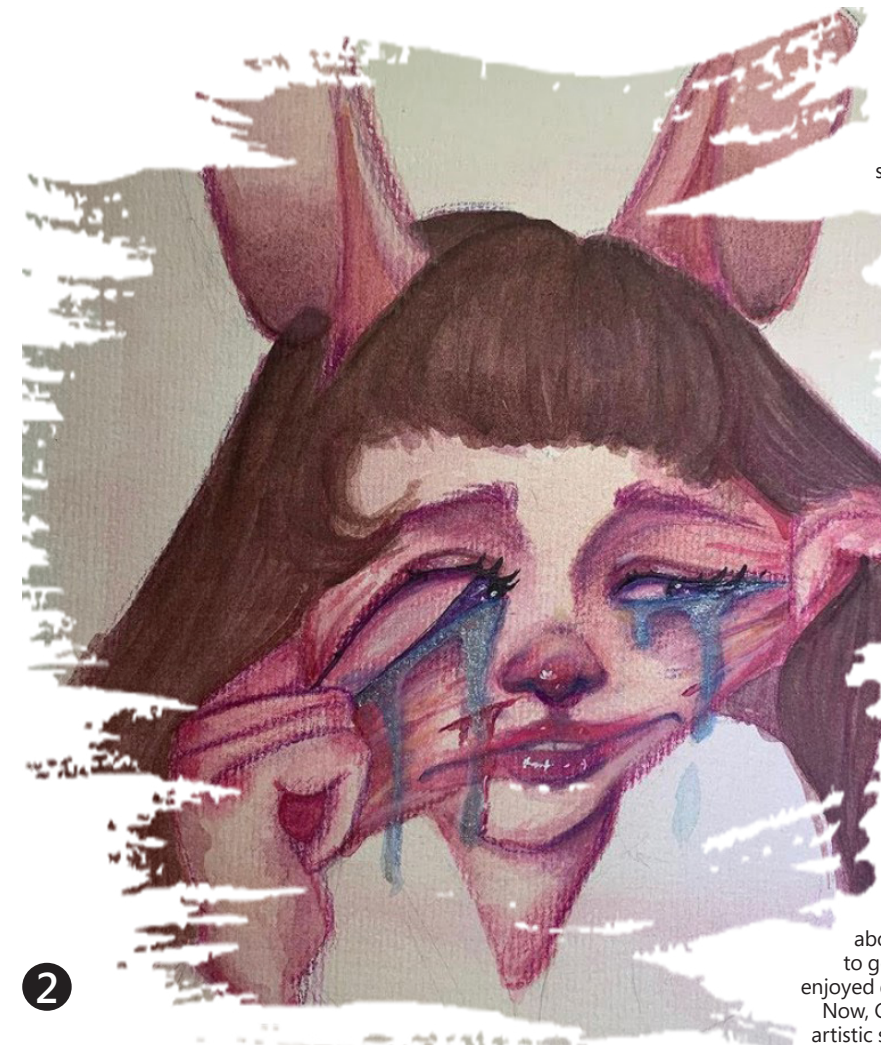
Quarantine provides chance for artist to rediscover passion, therapeutic benefit of creating

Janka Gerber
• Staff Reporter •

With each stroke of the brush against the paper another problem fades into oblivion. Each scratch of a pen fills the background like music. In a time where everything is out of control, the canvas provides a sort of release for an artist where every color and component is of their own design. The quiet solitude that quarantine provided was used as a space to create and release the built up frustration and turn it into something that can be held.

Junior Issy Grosz is an artist who spent her time drawing and painting her way through quarantine. Instead of letting the chaos of COVID-19 create another setback for her, she decided to utilize it to get back into her passion.

"It made quarantine a lot more tolerable, because I felt not as bored. I could just sit down and watch whatever and do art all day," Grosz said. "During 2019 I was going through a really rough time, and some not so good things had happened, so I kind of stopped doing art. But I remember buying a sketchbook on March 13, which was the very beginning of quarantine."



2

After overcoming the artist's block that plagued her for over a year, her art and ideas came back, giving her purpose through the pandemic. Grosz created a way for her pain from the year before and the stress of COVID-19 to be molded and mended into string pieces.

Finding new ways to occupy her time, Grosz explored new mediums in her art. She said she typically stays in the realm of watercolor, but decided to delve into gouache to further her skills.

In addition to gouache and watercolor, Grosz decided to adventure into the world of digital art as well, and decided to buy a drawing tablet.

Grosz is extremely proud of her progress as an artist during quarantine because of how much work she did to improve and extend her abilities as an artist.

Every artist has an origin story, and for Grosz, her love started young. She explains using art as a way to find herself through school and life due to being a more shy individual.

"I've been into art my whole life, but I think I really started drawing everyday in 8th grade. I am already really introverted and perfectly okay with spending time alone, but it was nice to have an outlet to express myself."

Describing the beginning of her journey as an artist, Grosz painted a picture of a determined young girl who was searching for her own way to communicate her emotions to the world.

"I felt like there wasn't anything significant about me. I didn't really have any skills so I wanted to get into art because it was just something that I enjoyed doing and it felt good to see myself improve."

Now, Grosz's determination helps her further her artistic skills in AP Art Studio, where she uses the class to exhaust frustration, pain, and to fuel her imagination further like she did in quarantine.

Pandemic aside, Grosz describes art as something that helps her cope and work through really difficult times in her life, or even just small things that either bother or inspire her.

"Art helped me get through something really traumatic that happened in 2019 that actually carried over into 2020. I remember feeling really hurt by what had happened and it really affected my mental health. I remember I made one specific painting that really helped me work through that," Grosz said.

The piece she created is a striking portrait of a distorted girl who is crying, and she is gripping and pulling at her pink, bruised and cut skin.

Even though she loves art, Grosz isn't sure it is something she will pursue for her future, but she knows it is something she will always hold close to her heart.

"I don't know if it's something that I would want to do as a career path, I would definitely consider going to art school, but I'm not exactly sure yet. I think it will always be something that's at least a hobby for me."



3

1 • ISSY GROSZ painted a portrait of Korean pop singer, CHAEYOUNG from the group TWICE, using watercolor, her main medium when painting. 2 • GROSZ painted this a self portrait to help her with feelings of confusion and not feeling like herself because of her mental health. 3 • GROSZ tries out gouache for the first time, and painted a portrait of a woman with blue hair with starfish clinging to her face. • art by ISSY GROSZ

Getting back into rhythm

Lancer Regiment Drum Major reflects on impact of restrictions; expresses gratitude for perseverance of directors, members

Hannah Fitts
• Staff Reporter •

"I was going to give it all I had for this last year and really try to help the band grow and develop, not only as a musical group, but also as a family. I knew the band directors had a great show planned, and we would do amazing. But, of course, that was before COVID," senior Matthew Brodsky said.

Since his freshman year, Brodsky has been a proud member of the Lancer Regiment Marching Band, playing the trombone for three years and conducting for one. At the start of 2020, he was awarded a leadership role as one of the two drum majors with senior Lily Gregory.

But, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Lancer Regiment did not have the season they were expecting.

In early August of the 2020 season, it was decided that all competitions were canceled. Under normal circumstances, the band would have traveled to Truman State for a week to work on marching fundamentals, their show and team bonding. They would have had their first competition at Edwardsville High School.

"Up until we had a rehearsal on the same day we would've actually had our first competition in Edwardsville, I don't think I actually felt the impact of everything," Brodsky said.

Once restrictions were lifted, Lancer Regiment was able to start performing at halftime again at varsity football games. As one of the drum majors, senior **MATTHEW BRODSKY** is responsible for conducting the show and making sure all the sections stay together. The show this year was called Back in Black. • photo courtesy of **MATTHEW BRODSKY**

During the 2019-2020 season, Brodsky played trombone for Lancer Regiment. The band had a full competition season and performed for halftime like this one at the Homecoming football game. • photo by **SHANNON WORLEY**



"That was when I truly realized that our season for 2020 wouldn't be like any other," he added

In Lafayette marching band history, there have been several significant accomplishments such as in 2019 when they placed 32nd out of 80 bands at the Band Of America Super Regionals.

However, with competitions canceled, Lancer Regiment members were disappointed they would not get the chance to bring home any titles this season.

With all of the COVID-19 hurdles in their way, Brodsky knew they were facing an uphill climb to have any kind of season at all.

"Just when everyone was about to lose hope and say goodbye to the 2020 season, we were given the green light to perform at football games, and we hit the ground running," Brodsky said.

Band fundraising, performances and practice guidelines were altered to follow COVID-19 protocols but still allow for somewhat of a performance season.

The staff helped make this possible, especially Band Director Brad Balog.

"We have added several non-contact fundraisers this year to try and recover some of the lost revenue," Balog said. "As for guidelines for the Lancer Regiment, we had all students wear masks at all times and have bell covers on their instruments. To accommodate for social distancing, we also maintained a strict social distance of a minimum of six feet at all times — whether we were in the stands or on the field."

All of the Lancer Regiment staff were able to come up with a new, safe show with all of the seniors voting on what music they would play. Brodsky was pleased to see that the group overcame all odds and continued to have a positive, energetic 2020 season.

"Lancer Regiment continued to work hard and be positive during challenging circumstances and that makes me immensely proud," Balog said.

Though it was a season Brodsky never imagined he'd be part of, he said it will also be a season he will never forget.

"When I was a freshman, I thought band was just a group of people walking around and playing music. I really wasn't into marching band in middle school, but I had some friends who were doing it, so I decided to join in. Marching band turned out to be one of the biggest highlights of my high school career.

Not only did we work hard to make some amazing shows, we

also all became a family," Brodsky said.

While thankful for all of his fellow marching band members for making his last season the best it could be, Brodsky is also grateful he had the chance not only to help lead the band, but also see the great potential this group has both on and off the field.

"As I was approaching my senior year, I looked forward to being able to teach others the lessons I learned as an underclassman," Brodsky said. "I was fortunately still able to do that this year, and I just hope some of the freshmen, sophomores and juniors learned a thing or two about what it means to be in the Lancer Regiment."

Throughout all the ups and downs Brodsky has faced in high school, Brodsky said without the Lancer Regiment, he would have never found his passion for music and that he has developed a whole new appreciation for every performance he had the opportunity to be in, and even the ones he missed out on.

"I will never take any show or chance to play for granted again. I'm going to miss the band, but I also can't wait to see the bright future the Lancer Regiment has ahead of them," he said.



“My favorite memories with the Lancer Regiment would be at competitions and football games. The best feeling is when you finally got that last note and take that final step and finish your performance.”

Matthew Brodsky • 12

Pigments For Your Imagination

A Few Colorful Facts For International Crayon Day

In 1990, Crayola made history by retiring eight colors and placing them in the Crayola Hall of Fame: maize, lemon yellow, blue gray, raw umber, green blue, orange red, orange yellow and violet blue.

The first crayons were made from charcoal and oil and can be traced back to Europe. Eventually, powdered pigments replaced the charcoal and wax was used instead of oil to stiffen the mixture.

Crayola Crayons were invented by cousins Edwin Binney and C. Harold Smith. They founded the Binney & Smith Co. which later became Crayola LLC.

The first box of Crayola Crayons was sold in 1903 as an eight count box. It included red, orange, yellow, green, blue, violet, brown and black crayons. That box cost a nickel, or around \$1.50 in today's prices.

In 2020, Crayola teamed up with the CEO of MOB Beauty, Victor Casale, to bring 24 new colors to represent 40 different worldwide skin tones.

120 Crayola Crayon colors are currently available.

In Ancient Greece, Rome and Egypt, evidence suggests that artists used certain types of wax and colored pigments, a recipe similar to the modern day crayon.

*Information from crayola.com

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When You Wish Upon a Star

Escadrille team unable to travel for competition

Cece Beckmann
• Staff Reporter •

The magic of Disney is something that has been felt by both children and adults. Dreams of dancing with princesses and spinning in the tiny teacups has come true for millions of people, and has become a travel tradition for many more.

However the pandemic has caused those plans to fall apart faster than the drop on Splash Mountain.

For members of the varsity Escadrille team, which was not allowed to travel for their annual trip to Disney World this year, that has been the case.

Because the competition was being held out of state, it went against Rockwood School District's COVID-19 travel policy.

"The only travel we are allowing is one day, so the team has to come back by night of the same day. For State Competitions, they are allowed to stay overnight for just one night," Activities Director Jon

Sumner said.

Every year, they compete with the Universal Dance Association's National Dance Team Championship against teams in 26 divisions in both Semifinals and Finals.

The team does more on the trip than just compete. They typically stay on Disney property and spend time at the different theme parks.

Assistant Coach Maria Schou said, "I believe Escadrille has been traveling to Disney for about ten years. Typically we would get to Orlando on Wednesday evening. We would spend Thursday practicing and exploring one of the parks. We would maybe spend that night visiting and practicing with other teams."

Then, the team would compete on Friday and Saturday.

"Escadrille has only made it to the Finals a handful of times. We were hoping to get another chance this year," Schou said.

Sunday evening and Monday would be dedicated to

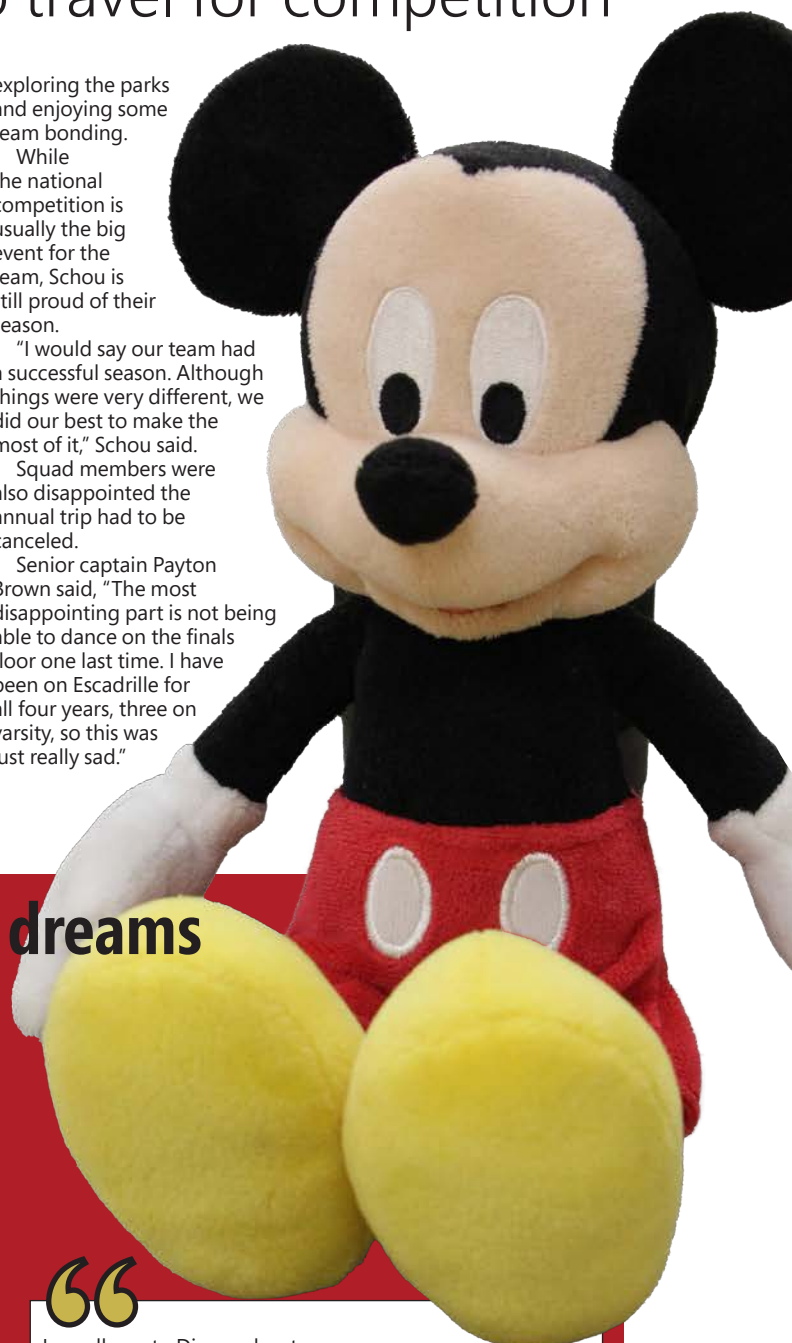
exploring the parks and enjoying some team bonding.

While the national competition is usually the big event for the team, Schou is still proud of their season.

"I would say our team had a successful season. Although things were very different, we did our best to make the most of it," Schou said.

Squad members were also disappointed the annual trip had to be canceled.

Senior captain Payton Brown said, "The most disappointing part is not being able to dance on the finals floor one last time. I have been on Escadrille for all four years, three on varsity, so this was just really sad."



COVID-19 dashes Disney dreams

“

Choir and orchestra had our annual trip planned last year, [and] everyone was very excited about it and prepared. About one and a half weeks before we were supposed to leave, Disney shut down. All of us were very upset due to the excitement revolving around the trip and how much time and energy we put into planning out our days there. I was not very happy about it since I had to wake up at 5 a.m. to get our Disney Fast Passes."

Peyton Einig • 11

“

I was so sad about the choir trip to Disney being canceled. I was really looking forward to it, We had a lot of fun things planned. It was disappointing to put all the time into the planning to get canceled. And, it was going to be the last big thing we did with the seniors, so it was upsetting to not be able to have one last hurrah. We still got shirts for the trip though, so it's funny to see people wearing them even though the trip didn't happen."

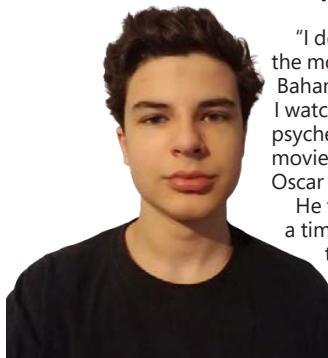
Lena Niblett • 11

“

I usually go to Disney about once a year. It's a family tradition. My mom is a travel agent, and so we get discounts. We had a trip planned for Spring Break 2020, but it got canceled. Funny thing was, our first planned park day was the first day the Disney World parks were officially closed due to the pandemic. To me, Disney represents a fun place where I can take a break from the real world and just have fun. There are a lot of rides and attractions that are based off of my favorite movies, so it is super cool to visit those." Katherine Limburg • 9



Benner finds escape, fosters his love for film during lockdown



Caoimhe Farris
• Staff Reporter •

“I don’t really have the money to go to the Bahamas, so instead I watched some more psychedelic or surreal movies,” sophomore Oscar Benner said.

He found that during a time when leaving the house was not an option, movies were a great way to escape.

“ I’ve felt very trapped, very claustrophobic in my home. I felt like being transported to a whimsical realm would help. Oscar Benner • 10 ”

other people as a social event, and I can see that as a healthy thing, but I could never really see escaping reality being a healthy thing.”

But when lockdown hit and there was nothing but time, Benner had a bit of a change in his attitude about using film as an escape.

He said, “I still do it. I’m not shaming people who do it. I mean, nobody wants to deal with reality. But I do see watching a movie as escaping into your own little world so you don’t have to deal with the problems of the big world,” Benner said.

When he was younger, Benner discovered he had a love for movies.

“I thought, why would you listen, when you can watch and listen? I didn’t really get into ranking movies or having a favorite until I saw *The Matrix*. It was very revolutionary for the time. There’s never been anything like it,” he said.

Escaping reality can be a good thing sometimes, in moderation.

Benner recognizes that anything can be unhealthy if consumed at a faster rate than normal.

Despite his love for movies, if it weren’t for the circumstances due to COVID-19, he would choose a different lifestyle.

“I’d say the best thing you can do with your life at the time is to make the best of it and not sit around and watch movies all the time. [They] can give

you a glimpse of history, maybe some inspiration, and if you do something productive after a movie, go right ahead,” he said.

He added, “I think watching a movie can be a complete distraction from the outside world and reality. I think these distractions are the reasons the world is in the shape it’s in. But I don’t think it’s changing anytime soon, so you might as well kick back and watch a few films.”



The Lancer Feed asked in a Instagram poll which movies and shows the Lafayette community binged over quarantine. These were some of the most popular responses. According to an article by BBC, Netflix gained 16 million new clients as a result of the lockdown. One of the most popular shows, *Tiger King*, reached 64 million views. • art by JACK DAWES



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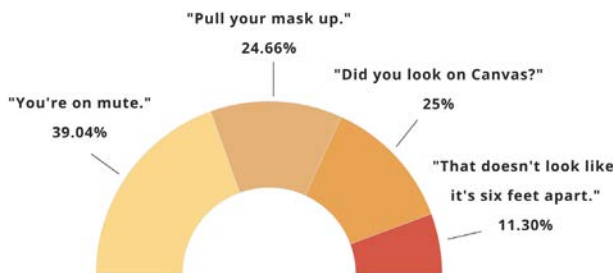
We asked, you answered

The *Image* collected student opinions in its monthly poll sent out through email to all student Rockwood accounts. We asked opinions relating to the past, present and future of COVID-19 and its impact on our world.

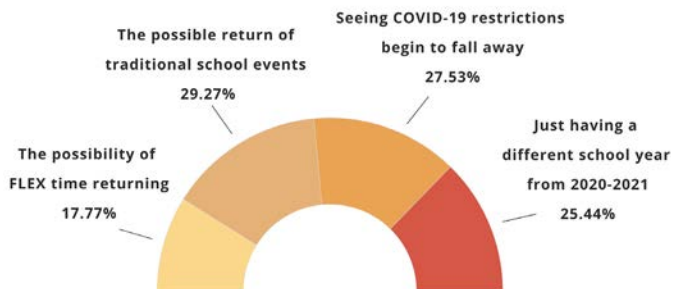
Here are the results from the 293 responses.

page design by Samantha Haney

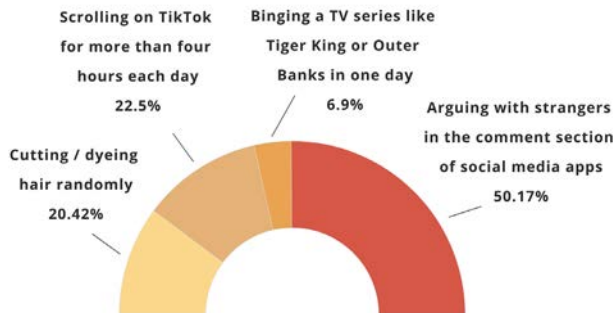
What phrase have you heard most in the past year?



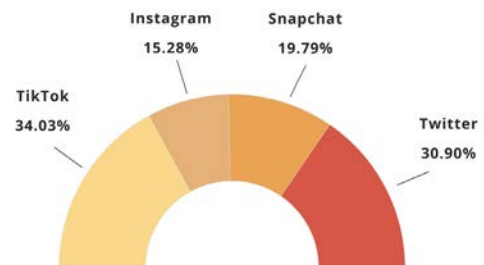
What are you most looking forward to going into next school year?



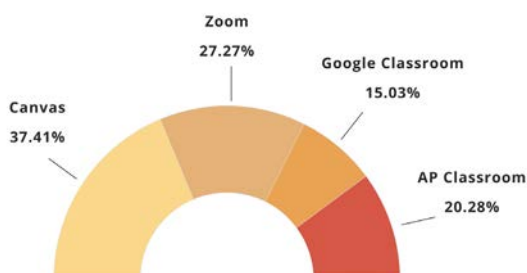
Which initial quarantine trend needs to disappear permanently?



Which social media app is most likely to fade away in the next couple of years?



If you could get rid of one technology item for the upcoming year, which would it be?



Of these popular artists, who had the best album drop of 2020?

