

theimagemagazine

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A Look Back At The Year In Some Memorable Words

For the first time in history, one word was not enough to summarize the year.
Read all about it on pages 12-13

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General Information

The *Image* is produced by students in the News Production class. Free copies are distributed on campus. Subscriptions are also available for \$40 per year.

Rockwood student publications are the official student-produced media of news and information published/produced by Rockwood students and have been established by both policy and practice as designated public forums for student editors to inform and educate their readers as well as for the discussion of issues of concern to their audience.

Publications will not be reviewed or restrained by school officials prior to publication or distribution.

Because school officials do not engage in prior review and the content of all Rockwood student

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A full listing of all the policies followed by student publications staff members can be found at lancerfeed.press under the About tab.

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On The Cover

For the first time ever the Oxford Dictionary selected more than one word for their Word(s) of the Year. Oxford stated its reasoning for the multiple word choice was that an "unprecedented" year called for a unique approach. • art by CAOIMHE FARRIS

Image Newsmagazine Cover Story

The *Image* Chooses Its Most Memorable Expressions From 2020

Here are a few phrases we'd be happy to leave behind as we close out the year

"Turn your cameras on!"

"You're on mute."

"Did you check on Canvas?"

"My Wi-Fi is cutting out."

"You're frozen."

virtual learning

"Hop on Zoom"

"Pull your mask up!"

"We can't see your screen."

Did you share it?"

Zoom Bombing



Don't Drop The Ball

Hitting 2021 doesn't automatically mean things get better; if you want change, it begins with your attitude, actions

Staff Editorial

Staff Editorials reflect the majority opinion of the Image staff.

Going into the new year, resolutions should focus on moving forward. Stop thinking of things as a "new normal"—it's the world now, it might as well be embraced

As the clock ticks down on 2020, it's easy to look at 2021 as a chance for a fresh start. And, while the start of a new year is a good time to set goals, remember COVID-19 will not disappear when the countdown finishes.

We have already shown that we are resilient and we will continue to adapt and push through the challenges that are thrown our way.

We have had almost an entire school year to deal with remote learning and things have improved. But, it's not perfect. We all still miss the social connection we used to have at school.

While it is difficult to make those human connections virtually, it is not impossible.

Common Sense Media reports teens spend, on average, nine hours a day online, with 41% of teens admitting they "overdo it" on social media.

Teens spend a majority of their time communicating with others through the internet, so why is it so hard to engage in learning online?

The truth is, it's easy to hide behind a black box and send just enough in the chat so the teacher sees signs of life.

Engagement in virtual learning is give and take.

This does not only apply just in Zoom classes. Some students have

found that even in person, social distancing measures have made socializing more difficult than ever.

But again, it's not impossible.

Conversations might have to be a little louder to be heard through masks, but they can still happen.

It's not necessary to wait in silence for the teacher to call on an in-person learner that doesn't have their hand up or a student online, who is just a name on a screen, to answer a question.

Classroom engagement goes both ways and you decide what you get out of the class. If either the student or teacher does not give the 50% to meet the other in the middle, class instruction and interaction is simply not effective.

School will not look much different for awhile. So, while you are making the decision to attend in person or online, look at the bigger picture. The only way to get back to "normal" is to continue living your life "the new normal" way. Current problems can't be solved by looking at past standards.

As the clock, hopefully, strikes midnight on Jan. 1, 2021, it will be the start of a new year. It's up to us to decide if it'll be the beginning of a year of success and growth, accomplished through our new normal.

Stars & Gripes

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

Stars To:

- Marvel announced the new cast for the upcoming *Spider-Man 3* film, with Tobey Maguire and Andrew Garfield adding to the cast. It'll be like the Spider-Man meme come to life.
- Taylor Swift released her ninth studio album *Evermore* on Dec. 11, less than five months after releasing *Folklore*, giving fans everywhere whiplash.
- An 81-year old man in England named William Shakespeare received the COVID-19 vaccine. That should answer the question: To vaccinate or not vaccinate? Join us in the tale of the *Gentleman of Corona*.
- With completely virtual Fridays next semester, the end-of-the-week parking lot stampede will be a non-issue.

Gripes To:

- Matthew Morrison was cast as the Grinch for NBC's new musical over the classic Christmas tale. It's like we blinked and *Glee* came back from 2015.
- A report from Georgia said a couple playing Santa and Mrs. Claus may have exposed children to COVID-19 at a tree lighting ceremony. We guess they are on the naughty list now.
- A Dutch man hacked into President Donald Trump's Twitter account by guessing his password — maga2020! We hope one figures out our Lancer Feed social media password. (Hint: it's definitely not LancerFeedRules2021!)

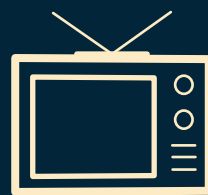
Gen Z Remembers

In the future, only one generation will understand these phrases

TOILET PAPER RUSH
OF 2020

Period
QUEEN
you tell 'em

'Murder Hornets'
invade
America

How there can be
1,000 movie choices
and **nothing** to
watch



Silly Bands
A **fun** and **affordable**
fashion accessory

ITS FROM A
Vine

Let's
take a
selfie



Curbside Pickup
Safe and Easy



#6Feet

#DueToCOVID

Spill
the
TEA



ASMR



Ready, Set, Graduate

Kingston, Rogan opt to get jump start on their futures

Morgan Vehige
• Sports Editor •

The end of the fall semester will look different for each student. Some will continue to stay online, others will be in-person. Others won't attend Lafayette at all, as they will be graduating early or be classified as early release students.

Early graduates actually complete their high school experience and is mostly used as an option when students want to begin college in the spring semester. Early release is for students who will technically graduate in the spring, but do not need any more credits, so do not attend school.

"It can be really beneficial for some, but I also don't want others to feel pressured into it. They can sharpen up on classes or study skills. We don't need more pressure on us. We all grow up quick enough, time flies quick enough. Enjoy life a little bit because that is totally fine," Wengler said.

Seniors Addison Kingston and Quinn Rogan are two who elected to graduate early. For each of them, it was always an option in the back of their minds.

"I first started thinking of graduating early before COVID started, I wanted to get things done early so I could have extra time to prepare and go to

**“
Graduating early was
always an option for me
but COVID definitely
made that choice
a little clearer.”**

QUINN ROGAN • 12

Once there, she'll take a year of classes before signing up to go on a mission trip. She cannot sign up for the trip until she is 19 years old, but Kingston is grateful for taking Advanced Placement (AP) classes in order to get a head start on her college career.

"It's been really nice taking those [AP Courses] because at BYU I'll have 15 credits going in so it's pretty much a full semester," she said. "I'll attend college for a year, and then go on mission. It lasts 18 months, so it will be really good for me to get that year in a little early so I won't get too far behind."

Going on a mission trip was always one of Kingston's goals. Her sister just returned from one in Seattle so Kingston is excited to do the same. The trip is sponsored through her church.

"They can send me pretty much anywhere in the world. This is something I've always wanted to do," she said. "We go and serve and teach about our beliefs to bring people hope, peace, joy through Christ and through God. I want to go because I'm super grateful for Christ and for God and I want to help other people feel this joy, too."

Kingston and Rogan suggest students consider early graduation and see if the option is right for them.

"Students who are considering graduating early need to have a plan for after high school because you have to learn to be more independent," Rogan said.

Kingston said students should talk to their counselors as soon as possible to make a plan to get all the credits they need early on.

"There's also looking into summer school to get a head start. It's not too bad to get extra credit there," she said.



Attending a virtual class at her home, senior **ADDISON KINGSTON** logs on to Zoom for one of her lessons. After the 2nd Quarter is over, KINGSTON will attend Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. • photo by SOPHIA SCHELLER

College and Career counselors Alex Dusenberry and Sarah Wengler, said they have not seen a significant increase in early releases due to COVID-19, but they are fielding more questions this year.

"More people are asking questions because we don't know what next week will look like, let alone next semester," Dusenberry said.

There are many options for seniors who leave at the semester like starting community college to earn credits. Others choose to work full time or begin internships.

"It depends on the circumstances, but it can open up their opportunities," Dusenberry said.

The decision also depends on emotional maturity. Some students need extra time before their next steps.

community college for a semester," Rogan said.

Her decision was solidified this semester.

"Graduating early was always an option for me, but COVID definitely made that choice a little clearer," Rogan said. "School is very different than it was before, so I think it definitely plays a role because some kids would like to get a head start and might not think they're missing out because of the world right now."

After Lafayette, Rogan will attend a semester of community college in order to build up some credits before going away to school.

Inspired by her sisters' early graduations, Kingston saw she was on the path of early graduation also.

She will attend Brigham Young University (BYU) in Provo, Utah starting next semester.

Never Going Back?

In post-pandemic life, some of society's changes may never return to pre-COVID status

Caoimhe Farris
• Staff Reporter •

Public Swimming Pools



Splish, splash, we all took a bath, together, in a 20×40 square foot pit of water, with your lab partner in charge of keeping it clean. Yeah, we might be re-thinking this one post-COVID.

Table Condiments



Since the pandemic, we've swapped out crusty lids for individual packets, and we think it's something everyone has appreciated, particularly those who have fallen victim to the loosened cap prank.

Telehealth Appointments



The closest the world has come to self-Googleing symptoms, except this one won't only give you one of two responses: you're pregnant or dying.

Sharing Products

Sharing is caring, except when it's not. From food to cosmetics, swapping spit on the surface of our stuff has us thinking this should have been canceled long ago.



Contactless Delivery

It's pretty hard to pass up the opportunity to get your food without having to actually interact with anyone. We have a feeling that this convenience won't be going anywhere anytime soon.



Face Masks

If umbrellas can be made into a fashion statement on sunny days and Corey Hart can make wearing sunglasses at night cool, there's really no doubt that masks have a good chance of becoming the next big thing on the red carpet—especially when the mask can hide all kinds of flaws!



Celebrating Six Feet Apart

Pandemic tests
religious faithful
who find ways
to worship safely

Juli Mejia

• Asst. Web Editor •

Kevin Vera

• Asst. Sports Editor •

Faith and religion have been a source of comfort for many in this difficult year. This holiday season will be the first time since the beginning of the pandemic which will affect two major religious holidays — Christmas and Hanukkah.

CONTINUED ON PAGES 8-9

At St. Clare of Assisi Parish in Ellisville, senior **MARY GRACE DICARLO** prays at the Pieta, a statue based on the famous Michaelangelo work of Mary holding Jesus after his death on the cross. DiCarlo is a devout Catholic who is looking forward to attending midnight mass on Christmas Eve. • photo by MORGAN VEHIGE

Religion continued from page 7

For people of faith, the new normal has changed a lot about how they worship and how they celebrate religious holidays.

Senior Mary Grace DiCarlo, a devout Catholic, has been spiritually struck by this pandemic.

DiCarlo and her family go to mass every Sunday at St. Clare of Assisi. For her, the past couple of months have been difficult being away from her church.



"When they opened it up again, the first mass back, I woke up for the earliest one for 6:30 a.m. and I got there half an hour early, I wasn't going to miss it. I just cried the entire time. It was so good to finally be back."

Mary Grace DiCarlo • 12

At the beginning of the stay-at-home orders, St. Clare of Assisi ceased the celebration of in-person mass and switched to virtual.

One of DiCarlo's pastors, Associate Pastor Father Andrew Auer knows the big hit that was back in March and even now how there won't be a full church on Dec. 25.

"At first we didn't have many people attending, and we are still not quite to where we were before the pandemic, but we have slowly gained people back (between 100-200 per mass at 6 a.m. Sunday) as well as online

participants. Fewer people definitely can take a little energy out of the church, but for those who are coming, faith is obviously something important enough in their lives to practice even during a pandemic, which speaks to the depth of their devotion," Auer said.

For DiCarlo and many others, it simply wasn't the same. Being physically in the church is one of the most important factors. For DiCarlo, it's about truly being in touch with her God and religion.

"In March, it was two days before everything in the County was shut down. Archbishop Carlson shut down all masses because it's a public gathering and it just crushed me and my family. Because it is so much more than a thing I do on Sunday. I go to church every day. The mass is the highest form of worship and sacrifice for Catholics," DiCarlo said.

One of the biggest challenges of not attending mass is not being able to receive communion.

Even now, it has not been the same as people cannot share the wine out of the same chalice.

"When masses shut down that means no more Eucharist, without the Eucharist it is crushing. So for nine weeks I kept count every day. I was going on eight weeks and six days since the last time I had the Eucharist," DiCarlo said.

On May 18, DiCarlo got the chance to go back to service in person. During her time at home, she attended mass virtually but knowing that the feeling and connection wasn't the same.

"When they opened it up again, the first mass back, I woke up for the earliest one for 6:30 a.m. and I got there half an hour early, I wasn't going to miss it. I just cried the entire time. It was so

good to finally be back," DiCarlo said.

Since then the way back to a normal service has taken its time at St. Clare of Assisi. With a set of new guidelines and rules. They now have to see how they will celebrate one of the biggest days for Catholics, Christmas. St. Clare of Assisi has made a new scheduled program for attending church on the sacred day.

Time slots have been set up in the church in order to reduce the number of people at church and to still allow them to visit the church on Christmas day.

"It is usually jam-packed because a lot of people who haven't been to church in a long time choose Christmas or Easter to go again. So usually it's not a problem because it's just packed. We all have to sign up for different church times now. But this year, I'm anticipating the fact that people aren't going to get to go because there's just not enough room," DiCarlo said.

Christmas is one of the most important days for DiCarlo and her church, so St. Clare of Assisi included some drive-by events for children in addition to having assigned mass times for church-goers on Christmas Day.

For many, this will be a Christmas to remember.

Even in the current circumstances, DiCarlo and her family are looking forward to celebrating the holiday to the fullest.

"It is decked out extra fancy. Incense is used so everything smells really good. There's really elaborate music and usually extra bells. It's just a lot of extra. I don't want to say over the top because nothing is over the top when it is for the service of God," DiCarlo said.

Some people have even more to celebrate this month as their families are interfaith and celebrate multiple holidays.

Sophomore
MacKenna Glazer
celebrates both



Two symbols of the December holidays:
a menorah and an Advent wreath.

Christmas and Hanukkah.

In fact, the PEW Research Center reports that 39% of Americans who have married since 2010 have a spouse who is in a different religious group.

Glazer's parents are one of these interfaith couples. Her father is Jewish and her mother is Catholic.

Although Glazer doesn't consider herself extremely religious, she believes experience has led her to be a more open-minded individual.

"I enjoy learning about a bunch of different religions and if I do lean one way or another, I feel like I won't be able to go back," Glazer said.

And, Glazer gets to celebrate the two holidays Hanukkah and Christmas but was unable to travel to her grandma's house this year due to coronavirus.

The eight-day celebration of Hanukkah this year was from Dec. 10-18.

For senior Kylie Jansen, Judaism is an important part of her identity.

Jansen has been active within her religious community for quite some time but things have changed in this year's celebration.

She grew up going to Sunday

school, Hebrew school and is a counselor at a Jewish summer camp she used to attend.

"The importance of Judaism in my family is making challah together, lighting the candles on Hanukkah, going to services on holidays and having a Bar Mitzvah," Jansen said.

Even if Jansen is unable to go to services this holiday season, she and her family are finding ways to stay positive.

"My family and I are just trying to stay positive and keep our regular routines so we have some sort of normalcy during COVID. We still do the same stuff we just can't go to services or anything like that in person," Jansen said.

Although Jansen herself doesn't feel as affected, she does believe the Jewish community as a whole has been affected by COVID.

She said, "[The Jewish community has been affected] by forcing everything that is normally in-person to online, which is a problem for orthodox Jews all over the world who are very religious and spend a lot of their time at their synagogue."

However, Jansen does believe the community is a lot more tolerant because of their past.

"I do think the Jewish community is a lot more valiant than many people because of the issues that have occurred in the past. I think they are pretty much just trying to stay safe while still participating in what they can to honor their religion. A lot of synagogues have adapted by switching in-person services or events to Zoom, which is new for everyone," Jansen said.

While this holiday season may be different, both religious groups are adapting to continue their celebrations in the conditions of this year. Even though people are unable to have traditional gatherings with distant relatives and friends, they're still looking forward to the holidays.

"The best way to keep moving forward is to think about the future and what you are working towards because everything is going to get better eventually," Jansen said.

Senior KYLIE JANSEN holds the Menorah, which is used in the celebration of Hanukkah. • photo courtesy of KYLIE JANSEN



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tobacco
cessation
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RockwoodCPiP.org



Add To Cart

Restrictions, COVID concerns changes holiday shopping trends as gift-seekers adapt

Caoimhe Farris
• Staff Reporter •

Holiday shopping has always been a wonderful mix of chaotic and fun, but with new restrictions in place, it hasn't looked quite the same this year.



"Everyone in my family has a separate Amazon wish list we add things to over the year. Those lists are shared with the rest of my family and everyone just buys things from Amazon."

Luke Bower • 10

Online shopping has been around since 1991, Amazon being one of the first to pop up on the internet.

However, until this year, many families had turned the day after Thanksgiving into a major shopping event.

While adults typically spend more than teens do, students are not out of the holiday shopping picture.

Junior Alyssa Pick said, "Typically, Black Friday is a big deal for my family. Each year I normally go out with my mom and my friends. We normally would go to

the mall and stores in the Chesterfield Valley. This year looked quite different."

As COVID-19 cases get higher and higher, closing times for shops and businesses are getting earlier, and open times are getting shorter.

The idea of going to large malls and crowded stores was almost out of the question for many shoppers.

"Originally, we had not planned on going out at all for Black Friday, until we heard on the news that many people weren't shopping this year. My mom and I decided to go to three stores Friday afternoon. However we ended up doing most of our shopping online," Pick said.

Amazon has proven now to be a useful tool for holiday shopping, especially this year. In fact, statistica.com reports that globally,

Amazon took in just under \$1.6 billion between January and September 2020.

"I would say online shopping has been more of a blessing rather than an inconvenience for my family, since we're able to do shopping on our own time. While there are some frustrating factors to online shopping such as shipping fees and delivery time, it has been a very helpful tool for holiday shopping this year," Pick said.

For sophomore Luke Bower, this year doesn't look much different for him and his family.

"Everyone in my family has a separate Amazon wish list we add things to over the year. Those lists are shared with the rest of my family and everyone just buys things from Amazon," Bower said.

Statista.com also predicts the online shopping market size to hit \$4 trillion by the end of 2020.

Additionally, the number of online shoppers in the



Continue shopping?

United States is projected to reach 300 million by 2023.

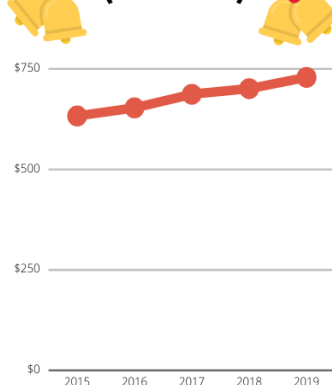
For students like freshman Paige Miltenberger, family holiday shopping has become a thing of the past.

"Most of the time my family has asked for really specific things so we have always had to order some stuff, but in the past my mom would go out to the mall and places like that to get stuff for us. Now it's all online," Miltenberger said.

With online shopping becoming the new normal, Miltenberger said that saying goodbye to shopping in person may not be such a bad thing.

"I think people are still going to in-person shop for the holidays in the future but it might be a little bit less because now it has been pretty easy to shop online instead of going to stores," she said.

Holiday Shopping (Billions)



National Retail Federation (citing the U.S. Census Bureau)

In 2020, the average shopper plans to spend

\$998

on holiday shopping



National Retail Federation (citing the U.S. Census Bureau)

2020 Holiday Shopping Stats

• Consumers spent \$9 billion online the day after Thanksgiving. That was up 21.6% from 2019.

• Holiday shoppers spent \$10.8 billion on Cyber Monday. That was up 15.1% from 2019 and set a record for the largest U.S. online shopping day ever.

*data from Adobe Analytics

Stuck at Home

COVID-19 exposure creates need for students to stay away from others to reduce virus spread

Caroline Black

• Staff Reporter •

Samantha Haney

• Staff Reporter •

Since high school students returned to Rockwood schools for in-person learning on Nov. 12, nearly 1,000 of the 7,700 students and staff members have had to quarantine due to COVID-19 exposure.

These numbers are based on data reported on the district's health indicators dashboard.

The St. Louis County Department of Public Health (DPH), requires anyone identified as a close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19 is required to quarantine for a 14-day period. A close contact is anyone who provided care, was in direct physical contact with, got respiratory droplets on, shared drinking or eating utensils with, or was within six feet of a COVID-19 positive person for a period of 15 minutes or longer.

The Chief Medical Officer for Esse Health, Dr. Rishi Sud explained that quarantine period is necessary because there is an incubation period before the symptoms may begin.

Since the focus of a quarantine is to avoid the spread of the virus, the quarantine includes those four to five days.

School nurses work with the DPH to determine the need for notification based upon the details of each individual's case.

If both the DPH and nurses believe a student or teacher is a close contact and at a high-

risk of contracting the virus, they will let them know and require a 14-day quarantine.

While close contacts quarantine for two weeks, COVID-19 positive students and staff members are required to isolate themselves for at least 10 days since their symptoms first started.

After a 10-day isolation period with no fever for 24 hours leading up to their return, those people are able to return to school.

Junior Naomi Wipfler was exposed on campus and identified as a close contact which required her to quarantine at home. She ended up contracting the virus which allowed her to return to school after a 10-day isolation period.

"I believe I contracted it from a student in one of my classes. They had been very closely exposed but remained in-person for classes. My concerns were not being able to keep up with my school work along with missing in-class Anatomy and Biomed labs," Wipfler said.

While she had concerns about her classes, Wipfler made sure to stay busy with social activities as best as she could.

"With my time in quarantine, I made sure to be caught up on all of my school work then spent some time playing online games with friends and time taking walks outside. The main challenge of quarantining was maintaining my social life, only being able to talk to my friends via FaceTime, Discord and texting. It was a bit of an adjustment switching

to online learning unexpectedly, but since I had done it all of the first quarter I felt mostly prepared," she said.

While her concerns were mostly focused on being able to keep up with school and maintaining a social life, other students had different concerns.

Senior Karan Kommu also came into close contact at LHS and was required to quarantine for a 14-day period since he did not end up contracting the virus.

Kommu said, "My concerns were with focus. I tend to focus better when I have a physical teacher and lecture in front of me."

To keep busy during quarantine, he started a variety of new habits as a way to fend off boredom. Kommu also found a couple upsides at the beginning of quarantine, although he was relieved to return to school.

"I began reading books like how to invest in stocks and *The 5th Wave*, a popular novel. I enjoyed having my own private space, but since I wasn't able to see any friends quarantine quickly got boring. I was ecstatic to be back and see all my teachers and friends," Kommu added.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), reinfection is possible but rare. Everyone is at risk for potentially having to quarantine, but the CDC states "people who have tested positive for COVID-19 do not need to quarantine or get tested again for up to three months as long as they do not develop symptoms again."

Isolation separates sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick.

Quarantine separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick.

Top 10 Things To Do In Quarantine

1 Learn a new skill

Watch a new show/movie

3 Catch up with family or friends

4 Learn to cook or try a recipe

5 Start a journal or book

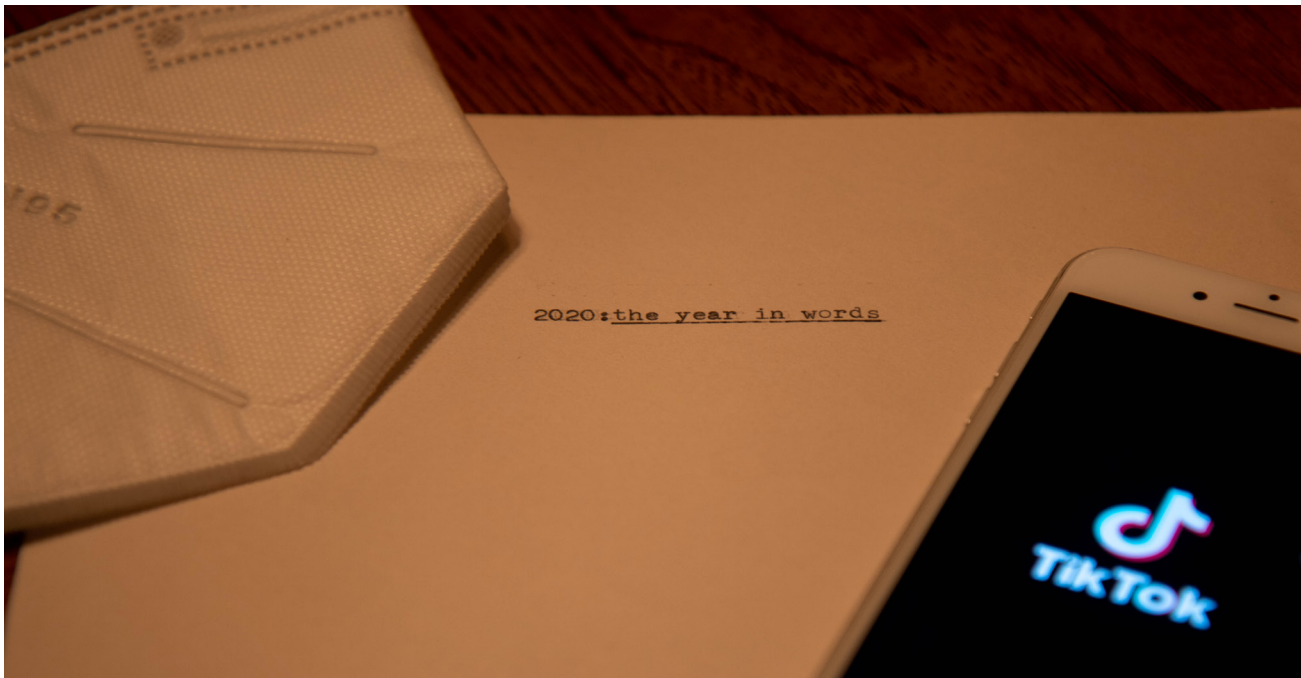
6 Start a new selfcare routine

7 Spend time outside

8 Start a puzzle

9 Organize your space

10 Get caught up or work ahead



For first time, Oxford-English Dictionary selects Words of the Year rather than choosing one

Jack Daws
• Staff Reporter •

In 2004, the Oxford-English Dictionary started releasing a word of the year in order to encompass the changes in the lexicon that took place in that year. Selfie, vape, toxic. These are some of the words chosen in the past. But this year was different. Choosing just one word to represent a year as unprecedented as 2020 would be a difficult task, so instead they chose a whopping 72 to represent the year. Some of these are the same words chosen by the dictionary, and others have been specifically chosen to represent the experiences of high school students, for whom the year 2020 was especially unique.

PANDEMIC

The most common idea associated with 2020 has been the pandemic.

The spread of COVID-19 across the world has upended the lives of nearly every single person on the planet. In addition to health and safety concerns, high school students have also lost some important changes to make memories.

Junior Bella Volmer said, "The pandemic has had a huge impact on people's lives this year. Most people spent at least three months in the house, but even now that we are back in school and the restrictions aren't as heavy, we still can't do everything we used to be able to do. It affected all the students so much. We missed out on so much stuff this school year, especially the seniors who are barely getting a senior year at all. For example, homecoming week is one of the most fun weeks of school, but we didn't even get half the stuff we usually do. The pandemic has made this a year that everyone will definitely remember."

Wildfires

This year also included severe wildfires that damaged much of Australia's land.

Science teacher Gretchen Whelan said, "Wildfires are a natural seasonal phenomenon in areas of Australia, however, climate change is leading to drier and hotter conditions that fuel these fires, making fire season last significantly longer and more dangerous."

The damage of these fires has been extensive and extremely harmful.

"They have led to millions of acres lost—habitats for both animals and humans, severe air pollution that harms human health in Australia and nearby countries, death to countless numbers of species many of which are endemic and endangered, loss of arable land for agriculture and property damage in the millions. Unfortunately, this will not be the last of major wildfires we will see in Australia and other places around the world," Whelan said.

Impeachment

On Jan. 16, 2020, President Donald Trump was impeached by the House of Representatives. However, the Senate voted not to convict and remove President Trump from office. This moment was significant considering President Trump is one of three U.S. presidents that have been impeached, the others being Bill Clinton in 1998 and Andrew Johnson in 1868. This significant moment in our national history marked the beginning of a year that has proven to be historic in its own right.

Virtual learning

Due to the pandemic, many schools, including Lafayette, shifted to virtual learning. Even though there were many students that preferred in-person classes, some people found ways to appreciate the unique opportunities of virtual learning.

Senior Trina Makalintal said, "In choir, we've definitely had to find creative ways to connect as a class. It's easy to forget that you're part of a musical ensemble when you're on Zoom and can only hear yourself singing. However, I think that virtual learning gave my classmates and I the opportunity to connect in unexpected ways. At times, we were more comfortable being vulnerable with one another, because we were all in similar situations due to the pandemic. I think there were deeper discussions in the Zoom chat than in real-life school."

Quarantine

With COVID-19 spreading through the Lafayette community, several students and staff have had to go through quarantine and/or isolation.

Junior Keith Woodfork had to go through quarantine.

"Quarantine for me was staying in my room. I couldn't go downstairs. If I needed to go to the bathroom, I needed to put on my mask and some gloves. I couldn't step out of the house. My parents would come upstairs and bring food up to my door," Woodfork said.

Junior Hailey Fitts has experienced both quarantine and isolation.

"While in isolation I found myself really missing the experiences of everyday life. Having your meals delivered at the base of your stairs every day is difficult, but then I became grateful for the time I was given to myself. Given our situation nowadays, things have been changing like rapid-fire, so being forced into isolation gave me the opportunity to reflect and I was able to come to terms with the virus, school, and even relationships. The promise of me being able to return to my life after quarantine was what kept me going. Seeing my friends and family, returning to sports, and going back to everyday things were somethings that I was truly looking forward to. I'm grateful for my family's and friends' support as well through quarantine, and I feel very lucky that I'm healthy and that I was able to return to my life once out of quarantine," Fitts said.

Among Us

During the overwhelming stress of 2020, people had to find ways to relax and have fun. One of these ways was the massively popular, space-themed, mystery game — Among Us.

Junior Kyla Davis said, "I liked playing because my friends all played, during quarantine we would all hope on a FaceTime call and play together for hours even. Even though we were all trapped in our houses, we still had a way to connect through a screen."

Mandate

In order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, many governments mandated masks, social distancing, and other efforts to slow the spread of the disease. St. Louis County, which includes most of the Lafayette community, issued some of these mandates. Having to wear masks everywhere was a major change, one that will leave a lasting impact on the community. Social distancing limits the capacity of restaurants and other businesses, causing many local businesses to struggle. These negative impacts illustrate the weight of the toll that the pandemic has had on the community.

Zoombombing

With Zoom being a cornerstone of virtual learning, it was used by every student of Lafayette. Certain people took advantage of the tool, choosing to "Zoombomb" classes, or join classes they weren't meant to join in order to disrupt the meeting. There are many stories of Zoombombing at our school, and though not all of them would be appropriate, some were still somewhat lighthearted.

Sophomore Oscar Labit said, "At a Zoom meeting for band, someone named Ellis D joined our Zoom meeting with a duck profile, and when our teachers tried to share the screen they would just share their own screen. They kept playing annoying duck noises. Then he was kicked after a minute or two."

TikTok

The short-clip social media app TikTok gained popularity this year, becoming one of the most popular social media platforms. The app provides an opportunity for some people to even gain fame. Viral videos can come from anywhere, including Lafayette.

Senior Lianna Littauer had one of her videos go viral on TikTok this year.

"My video was of my two wiener dogs wearing coyote vests. I got 1.3 million views and 200,000 likes. I honestly have no idea why it went viral. Maybe just because my dogs are cute. It was really weird having people notice that it went viral because I don't really enjoy attention, but overall it was pretty cool to have a viral video," Littauer said.

Covidiot

As COVID-19 became regarded by most as a serious issue with serious stakes, others became known as cOVID idiots, or covidiot, people who made decisions generally regarded as idiotic when it comes to the pandemic.

Senior Jenny Nyguen said, "As of 2020, you have people advocating for other people's lives and then you have those who believe COVID is not 'pandemic worthy' and are actually hurting others by their careless acts, these people are the covidiot. Actually one of my friends ended up in the news for having a big Halloween party. They were unmasked, seniors around 100+ of them with four to five positive COVID cases."

Karen

This year, Karen became more than just a name; it became a meme of an angry woman with a bob haircut who wants to speak to a manager. Though it can be easy to make fun of the name, not everyone named Karen is a Karen.

Principal Karen Calcaterra said, "I would not describe myself as the meme version of Karen, however, I, too, am fascinated with 'Karen-like' behaviors and have certainly gotten a chuckle from some of the creative depictions."

The Karen meme has naturally garnered some resentment from people named Karen, but some are able to rise above it.

Secretary Karen Barber said, "I have met so many real Karens, but their names weren't Karen. I think we have all met those angry bitter people in our lives. I find that the people who come up with the memes and think the memes are true are the actual haters in life. I don't do a lot of social media so I don't get bogged down by it."

2020 A Brief Review

Australia Wild Fires

Declared among the worst wildlife disasters in modern history, more than 46 million acres burned and 1.25 billion animals were affected.

George Floyd Death

The May 25 incident during an arrest led to protests worldwide about police brutality and racism.

COVID-19

What started to spread in early March 2020 reached over 75 million cases and over 1.6 million deaths worldwide by mid-December.

Notable Deaths of 2020

Soccer star Diego Maradona
Musician Little Richard
Baseball stars Joe Morgan, Whitey Ford, Bob Gibson, Lou Brock, Tom Seaver
Mythbusters host Grant Imahara
Jeopardy host Alex Trebek
Actor Sean Connery
Actor Chadwick Boseman
Musician Kenny Rogers
Actor Kirk Douglas
Pilot Chuck Yeager
Politician Herman Cain
Congressman John Lewis
Actor Naya Rivera
Basketball star Kobe Bryant
Zappos founder Tony Hsieh
Musician Eddie van Halen
Scientist & mathematician Katherine Johnson



Retired NBA player **KOBE BRYANT** and his 13-year-old daughter, Gianna, were among nine people killed in a helicopter crash in Calabasas, California Jan. 26. They were heading to a basketball game at Bryant's Mamba Sports Academy. • photo by TNS

"An event in 2020 that really stood out to me was the deaths of three great celebrities that died early: Kobe Bryant, Grant Imahara and Chadwick Boseman. We often see celebrities as people who are kind of above us in a sense, and to hear they died and not from old age, is just kind of jaw dropping, because these were all great people that we've kind of looked up to for years, and not just in their accomplishments, but also their raw kindness and love of others." **Peter Schaper • 11**



Top Five Searches of 2020

- 🔍 Election Results
- 🔍 Coronavirus
- 🔍 Zoom
- 🔍 Kobe Bryant
- 🔍 PlayStation 5

Google Search

I'm Feeling Lucky

Top Pop Culture Moments

- *The Last Dance* Michael Jordan documentary
- Dave Chappelle's Netflix Special
- *WAP* by Cardi B and Megan Thee Stallion
- Harry Styles releases *Golden*
- Los Angeles Lakers win 2020 NBA Finals
- Katy Perry reveals pregnancy via a music video
- Megan Thee Stallion releases *Savage*
- Super Bowl LIV Halftime performance by Shakira and Jennifer Lopez
- Netflix documentary *Tiger King*
- Andrea Bocelli's Easter performance in Milan

*source Facebook

- "Mexit," the exit of Prince Harry and Megan Markle from the royal family
- Billie Eilish becomes youngest person to win the Grammy for "Album of the Year"
- *Parasite* wins the Oscar for Best Picture, becoming the first film that isn't in English to win
- *The Queen's Gambit* breaks Netflix streaming records

*source Good Housekeeping

“

Truly, the most important thing for me in 2020 was quarantine, through the spring and summer. During that time, I finally had a chance to sit down, without school, without my activities, without my job and think. I learned so much about myself, about what I want my future to look like, about what I need to be healthy, and what hobbies I enjoy. I got more sleep than I did since elementary school and had time to work on myself without being pulled from place to place.

I finally realized to a large extent I was 'going through the motions' and lacking introspection. It was truly such a unique experience. A lot of people struggled, which is completely valid and I recognize it was definitely not a happy time for many people. I don't want to glamorize the negative effects of the virus, but personally speaking, spending those moments, sitting back and processing my life for the first time in years was so vital. Truthfully, I was most at peace that I've ever been in a very long time.

”

SARAH NASSAR • 11

2020 IN POLITICS



FEBRUARY: IMPEACHMENT TRIAL

President Donald Trump speaks about his impeached trial to a crowd of supporters at a rally in Michigan. He was acquitted on both articles of impeachment on Feb. 5. Fifty-two Republican senators voted against the charge of abuse of power, and all fifty-three voted against the charge of obstruction of Congress.

MARCH: FEDERAL STIMULUS CHECKS

In response to economic hardships caused by the coronavirus, the Senate package offered economic relief to Americans. The \$1.8 trillion package gave help to small businesses and \$1,200 to most adults. The bill was signed by President Donald Trump on March 29 and checks were issued in April.

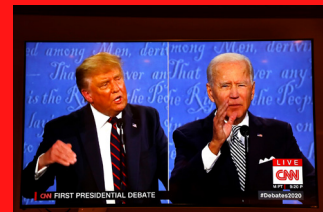


AUGUST: JOE BIDEN SELECTS KAMALA HARRIS AS RUNNING MATE

Harris was a former rival of Biden in the Democratic primaries and was a U.S. senator from California and the Attorney General in California.

SEPTEMBER: THE FIRST PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

President Donald Trump and Democratic Presidential nominee Joe Biden clash at the first presidential debate on Sept. 29, 2020.



SEPTEMBER: JUSTICE RUTH BADER GINSBURG PASSES AWAY

Ginsburg died on Sept. 18 at the age of 87. She served on the Supreme Court beginning in 1993 and was only the second woman appointed to the court. She was famous for the variety of collars she wore with her black robes.



NOVEMBER: BIDEN/HARRIS TICKET WINS PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

President-Elect Joe Biden speaks after the Electoral College formally elected him 306-232. The popular vote was 80,026,721 for Biden and 73,891,295 for incumbent Donald Trump. Trump's legal team filed multiple unsuccessful lawsuits attempting to overturn election results in key battleground states.

DECEMBER: COVID-19 VACCINE RECEIVES FDA APPROVAL

Nurse Vanessa Arroyo receives a dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, made by Pfizer and BioNTech on Dec 14, 2020. Frontline workers were the first group to receive the vaccine, followed by residents of care homes.



PHOTOS USED WITH PERMISSION FROM TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

page information collected by
Vijay Viswanathan and Cece Beckmann

Ready To Play

Spring athletes anxious for return to sport they missed last year



Senior **SYDNEY BERRY** makes her way down the track. Berry had been looking forward to her junior track season, anticipating a strong bond with her teammates, but then COVID-19 forced schools to shut down along with sports. Now, Berry and her teammates are preparing to take the track once again.
 • photo by SOPHIA SCHELLER

Sophia Scheller
 • Staff Reporter •

April 9, 2020. That was the day the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) announced spring sports would be canceled for the 2020 school year.

Senior Aidan Rosen-McGinnis had traveled to Florida to spend his Spring Break on the beach. He never expected the virus to begin to throw a wrench in his vacation plans.

"[The virus] starts to pick up and everyone's like, 'Oh, this is actually going to be a big deal, a real thing,'" Rosen-McGinnis said. "[Florida started] shutting down the different places [while] we were still on vacation."

Before Spring Break, teams still held preseason practices, not knowing what the path ahead looked like.

Senior runner Sydney Berry had big hopes for her upcoming track season.

"It was obviously a rough start at the beginning of last year because we lost a teammate," Berry said. "So everybody really came together and starting the first day of school we had a bunch of track meetings all the way up until the season started. Then in winter we went to workouts."

Berry believed the bond between the girls going into the regular season, having grown with them since the beginning of the school year, was really strong and would help them in their competitions.

"There were so many girls that went and it really felt like a team. I built a lot of friendships with everyone," Berry said.

Through the team's bond and the anticipation building for the next season of track, Berry geared up through tryouts.

"I was really excited for the season. Once we started practice, we did time trials, so I could see from that first practice or that first week of practice a huge difference in my growth," Berry said.

But, once schools began to shut down, Berry and Rosen-McGinnis began to lose hope about actually having a spring season.

"So at first, yes, I was doing workouts. [Our coaches posted] a work out for us to do at home every day. I was really on top of it. I would run in my neighborhood and sometimes go on trails around my house," Berry said.

Despite the strong start, Berry found it was hard to find motivation as the year progressed with no news of a season approaching.

"I tried my hardest to, you know, act like we were going to come back, but I knew we weren't. The motivation slowly started disappearing," Berry said.

Though Rosen-McGinnis quickly figured out he would lose his junior volleyball season, he figured out how to adapt to his newfound time at home.

"Even though there were a lot of dark times during the [initial] quarantine, I think it was actually one of the most beneficial, if not the most beneficial time of my life, because I've discovered more about myself," Rosen-McGinnis said.

Although he found that in lockdown it was



"Even though there were a lot of dark times during the [initial] quarantine, I think it was actually one of the most beneficial, if not the most beneficial time of my life, because I've discovered more about myself."

Aidan Rosen-McGinnis • 12

CONTINUED from page 16

difficult to find the good, by the end he appreciated the down time.

"I explored new habits and different things. New interests. And it taught you how to just live with yourself because we're in a world that's like, so go, go, go. You don't even use your home. Everything's so materialistic, you're caught up in your phone and then [with the lockdown] you are basically forced to slow down and actually find yourself," he said.

He also found time to dig deeper into his

interest in nutrition and experiment with his knowledge.

"I've messed around with some plant-based and vegan diets, all that stuff, just trying stuff, because I've really had nothing to lose. I also got into reading, more reading books that were interesting [to me. I also explored] meditation and breath work. Just stuff that can benefit your mind and body when you really have nothing else to do," he said.

Berry shares some of the same feelings with Rosen-McGinnis about the sudden

break in responsibilities following spring break, while finding it harder to stay on top of her athletic responsibilities.

"You know, it's crazy cause I kinda liked it at first," Berry said. "I'm always moving and I'm always occupied with some thing. It was nice to just relax and not have any responsibilities, but it got old, pretty fast. Since I was the only responsibility I had, I didn't lose motivation in school necessarily, but it was hard to get up early and go work out or just do everyday things. Because everything was shut down."

Q&A with Brynn Jeffries

Senior excited to step up, lead her soccer team after canceled season

Q: What happened last year following the spring sports cancellations?

A: Shortly after trouts and a few practices the season was canceled due to COVID. Obviously I was very unhappy because the team and I were really looking forward to the season. We had great potential for the year so it was disappointing that we weren't able to play.

Q: Any heightened feelings of loneliness or depression or anxiety? Did it interfere with your normal functioning ability?

A: During quarantine I found myself at times unmotivated because of not being able to be in person for school, play sports and see my friends everyday like I used to be able to. It was a big life change but I kept a positive attitude about it so it didn't interfere with my normal functioning ability.

Q: Did you continue to train in soccer with the hope of just having an extended Spring Break?

A: Even when it didn't look like we were going to have a season, I continued to workout everyday in case we would be able to play potentially, despite everything going on.

Q: Was there ever a point where you lost all hope for your season?

A: When I heard news that we were going all virtual and spring sports weren't happening is when I lost hope. I knew of others who mentioned we might play a few games in the summer, but with everything that was happening I saw that being very unlikely.

Q: What do you think will be different coming from a sophomore to being a senior?

A: Being a senior instead of a sophomore will be different in terms of leadership and experience. I hope to be a leader for my teammates because of the experience I've gained from being on varsity all four years. I want to make every practice and game count as I know this will be my last high school season.

Q: What were your goals and aspirations for last years season and how have they changed or differ for this upcoming season?

A: My goals and aspirations for the last seasons were to have fun but while pushing myself to get better each day. Winning districts has always been a big goal of mine whether it was basketball or soccer. This upcoming season that goal remains the same while being able to have fun with my teammates for my last year.



In a game against Rockwood Summit, senior **BRYNN JEFFRIES** shoots a free throw. She had 14 points and went four for six from the free throw line, helping the Lancers to a 55-31 win over the Falcons. Last year, when the pandemic started, Jeffries was able to finish out her junior basketball season, but lost her soccer season. She is hopeful that since fall and winter sports took place this year with restrictions that the spring season will also be able to start as scheduled. • photo by NATALIE TOMLJENOVIC

Home for the Holidays

Visits over break look different this year

Elizabeth Elliott
 • Staff Reporter •

As the holidays approach, college students have re-invaded our homes for Winter Break, however, many of them didn't just bring home dirty laundry. They may have also brought home a case of COVID-19.

While medical experts say it's best to quarantine for two weeks after arriving home, even a few days of isolation, avoiding close contact with family members and mask-wearing inside the home will lower the risk that a returning college student will unknowingly transmit the virus to others.

College campuses have had rising COVID-19 cases with over 321,000 positive cases from 1,700 different schools according to *The New York Times* as of Nov. 19.

Junior Casey Murphy's brother, Aiden, Class of 2020, returned home from the University of Kansas (KU) for Thanksgiving and will not return until second semester.

Many universities switched to remote learning at Thanksgiving and plan to continue through the end of the semester to avoid students traveling back and forth over the holidays.

According to the KU Housing quarantine and isolation data, the university has had 1,426 positive COVID-19 cases as of Dec. 11.

"A big concern for my family with my brother coming back was a week prior he had traveled with his cross country team and stayed in a house for the weekend with a whole bunch of other college kids in a place that didn't force a mask mandate," Murphy said.

Before Aiden came home, his family sanitized the house, including his room, and stocked up on supplies and food.



Class of 2020 grad **AIDEN MURPHY**, stands between his parents displaying the logo The University of Kansas in Lawrence. He returned home just before Thanksgiving and will not return until the start of second semester. • photo courtesy of CASEY MURPHY

"The only thing our family did differently was enforce that he self quarantine in his room for two weeks. His room and gaming setup is all in the basement so his contact with the family and time in common family spaces was pretty limited already. Which made my family and I feel a lot better about him coming home," Murphy said.

The family's plans for Thanksgiving were altered when

a relative found out Aiden would be home. Concerned about Aiden not having the proper time to quarantine, extended family that had planned to come stay at the Murphy's decided not to.

"While I feel like it is never perfectly safe for anyone to come back from a trip, my family and I all trust my brother that he wore his mask and took the measures needed," Murphy said.

Students give thoughts on college siblings return

Q: Did you feel it was safe for your sibling to come home?

Pooja Reddy • 11: This holiday season my older brother, Rithik, came home from Boston University. I definitely think it was safe for him to come back considering his college has been relatively strict with COVID procedures and regulation; however, cases have been steadily increasing in the past month.

Patti Kirtley • 9: I felt pretty safe when [Grace] came home [from school]. We weren't worried about it because Vanderbilt is strict about their restrictions; and her rapid test did come back negative.

Q: What concerns did you have about your brother coming home?

Reddy: We did have some concerns about him returning considering he's dependent on using public transportation and going to local grocery stores, which ultimately exposes him to a higher risk. But this past semester he has been having food delivered to his apartment, spending time with friends in smaller gatherings and having multiple COVID tests during the year.

Q: How did your sister coming home for the holidays impact your family?

Kirtley: I share a room with my sister, and [having her] move back in was definitely a big difference. Otherwise it felt like how it was before she left for college. It's really nice having her back.

Cece Beckmann
 • Staff Reporter •

COLLEGE COVID KNOW HOW



Get tested prior to coming home and quarantine after testing to avoid exposure

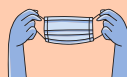
Information from AARP



Quarantine after returning home and limit contact with family members



Limit social activities



Wear masks in large groups and around the house



Check state and local restrictions

Coronavirus vaccine offers hope

Quick development, approval, implementation has people feeling positive about end of pandemic

Sophia Wasson
• Staff Reporter •

Keira Coverdell
• Staff Reporter •

It happened much faster than anyone imagined. What typically takes years to make, test and perfect, scientists have made a reality as this month COVID-19 vaccines from two pharmaceutical companies, Pfizer and Moderna started shipping across the country and being administered to people.

The Pfizer vaccine was first administered on Dec. 14 to a critical care nurse, Sandra Lindsay, in New York. Since the first vaccination, millions of doses have been sent to each state to distribute among those who are deemed top-priority, including healthcare and essential workers who are caring for patients with COVID-19.

But questions about the vaccine rage through the country, including at LHS. People wonder about the safety of the vaccine, its long-term risks and when it will actually be available.

Politicians are already debating over the vaccine and whether or not it will eventually be required for students and school staff members such as diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis to name a few.

Right now, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices has only voted to recommend Moderna's vaccine for emergency use in those 18 and older and the Pfizer vaccine was approved for those 16 or older.

This leaves all those in middle school, elementary school and many high school students out of the vaccination group for now.

Still, many students are adamant about getting the vaccine when the time is right for them to do so.

Junior Zakee Branch said he believes getting the COVID-19 vaccine is essential.

"I would get the vaccine so I could return to a stable life. I think some people will choose not to get vaccinated and they will still come to school. I do not think it is going to be mandatory," Branch said.

He also thinks there will most likely be more solutions and precautions for people who choose to not be vaccinated.

"The vaccine will not stop the virus, but it will limit a lot of cases. I think that the vaccine is a huge step for returning to a normal life," he said. "Nothing is 100% yet, and even when it is, it does not mean that the virus will just die."

Others agree that the implementation of the vaccination does not mean life returns to the way it was before.

Senior Nathaniel Mahone said, "I think

the vaccination will help decrease the spread of the virus, but it is not a cure. It will take several months of the continued health precautions that those in the medical field suggest, to really see a drastic drop in COVID-19 numbers that is sufficient enough to get back to normalcy."

Mahone said he knows that there is truth from the cautions indicated from medical experts.

"I think our idea of normal will be changed for a while. To enjoy the things we did pre-COVID-19, I think it will still take a little bit less than a year to really start to feel that normalcy. That said, it may take a couple months after that to truly stop worrying about this virus and focus more on the building safely," Mahone said.

Senior Rebecca Atteberry agrees and wishes there was a way for schools to require the COVID-19 vaccination.

She said "I think it should be mandatory for schools to require the vaccine, but I'm not sure if they'll actually implement that. Since there are people out there heavily anti-vax that would fight the mandate."

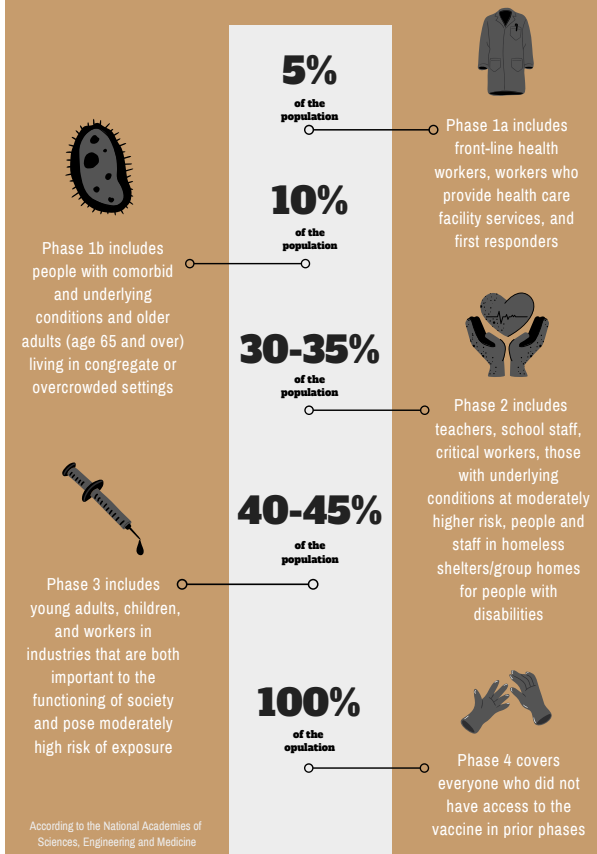
While there is always a possibility that those who don't get the vaccine will never get the disease, Atteberry said people who get the vaccine should advocate for it, and encourage other people to receive it as well.

"I do think the vaccine will help stop the spread. Still, I don't think the world will go back to normal for a while. It may get better but normal seems far away," she said.

Though many are worried about potential adverse effects of the vaccine because of how quickly it was developed and approved, researchers said the vaccine was developed in a very different way than those from the past that had caused adverse effects.

Unlike previous vaccines, like those for measles or polio, the COVID vaccine does not contain any living virus because it is an mRNA vaccine.

WHO WILL GET THE VACCINE FIRST?



The CDC describes a mRNA vaccine as "a new type of vaccine to protect against infectious diseases. To trigger an immune response, many vaccines put a weakened or inactivated germ into our bodies. Not mRNA vaccines. Instead, they teach our cells how to make a protein—or even just a piece of a protein—that triggers an immune response inside our bodies. That immune response, which produces antibodies, is what protects us from getting infected if the real virus enters our bodies."

The COVID-19 mRNA vaccines give instructions for cells to make a harmless piece of what is called the "spike protein." The spike protein is found on the surface of the virus that causes COVID-19.

COVID-19 mRNA vaccines are given in the upper arm muscle. Once the instructions (mRNA) are inside the immune cells, the cells use them to make the protein piece. After the protein piece is made, the cell breaks down the instructions and gets rid of them

Letters to



Hannah Fitts
• Staff Reporter •

Freshmen

Dear 2020,

Hey, you've been tough on everyone this year. Oh, and how could I forget corona rona, what did you do! You made us wear masks more than three-fourths of the year, and sometimes, I am just in awe of how you have affected us. You also have shown me how unclean we used to be when it came to wiping surfaces down. I honestly don't think anything inside my house has been this clean. We've had our tackle COVID together by wearing masks and staying six feet apart. So 2020, you've done damage to us all in one way or another, but hopefully we can turn things around.

Stay safe and clean!
Sincerely,
Annie Leath

Sophomore

Dear 2020,

You were not one of the best years I've ever had. I mean, we started very rockily, going into this year with a fractured ankle that just so happened to need surgery and spending my New Years in pain shoving ice cream into my face while watching *Teen Wolf* while everyone was out partying with their friends and having the best time of their lives.

Fast forward into March, girls wrestling placed second at State and we were all very excited. I wasn't able to participate, but I was happy for my teammates who went out and gave it their all. The year was getting better. I was getting my boot off soon and I could finally start working on rebuilding my ankle strength. I had plans to go into the weight room with some of the wrestlers who wanted to stay in shape, but then corona came and completely turned the year back upside down.

It was very hard adjusting to this new lifestyle with having to wear a mask every time you walk out of the house, online school, not being able to see friends or family. It took a hit on my mental health. I was very unmotivated, sad, stressed and lonely.

I wasn't prepared to be in quarantine for four months. When I heard the news we were getting an extra week off during Spring Break I was excited making plans with friends, knowing I got to get extra sleep and more time to relax, and that made me happy, until I learned the week was going to turn into over four months. It was hard being

Dear 2020,

Thank you for having an interesting year. I have learned a lot from you. I am grateful for more time with my family during the spring. I really did get closer with a lot of people. I am going to take away some happy memories from this year.

Since this year is not like the others, I am not so grateful for the troubles you have given people. I now have learned what Zoom is and now log on every day to go to school. I am not very thrilled about the pandemic either. If you had told me, or anyone, that we would be wearing masks in 2020, I would not have believed you.

Hopefully, 2021 will be better. I guess we will find out soon enough.
From,
Evelyn Matusiak

away from people for such a long time. I missed my friends daily during that time. We talked on the phone, but that's way different than talking in person.

The days felt like they were replaying the same thing over and over. My missing assignments were piling up and I was very stressed and all over the place until about July when color guard season came and I finally got to interact with people in person. It was my first year doing it and a lot of things got canceled like band camp which sounded fun. I was bummed about it, but I knew it was the right call if we wanted to keep our season going. I'm so thankful we were able to perform at all. It was fun even with the six feet restrictions.

Wrestling started a little over a month ago. It's frustrating having to wear a mask while wrestling but it's a sacrifice I'm willing to make. One of the most disappointing things is not being able to physically give your teammates the support they need. It brings us together and shows how much we care for each other without using words. Corona was hard to adjust to this wrestling season but we are making it work with what we have.

I'm very thankful all of my family and friends are here and healthy. Hopefully, we get to go back to normal soon. I think we all need it at this point. 2020 will be one for the books.
Sincerely,
Jayla Jones

2020

Juniors

Dear 2020,

You were pretty fun for three months, but then you threw COVID at us. It was completely unexpected, but it wasn't all bad. Although quarantine made me feel trapped at times, it really did teach me what's truly important in life/how little I actually need to be happy. Not only did I have a lot of much needed downtime from school stress, I got to spend more quality time with my family which I didn't always have time for before, so thank you.

Yes, I missed spending time with my friends, but I also found who my closest friends were during this time because we still talked and connected despite not being able to see each other. We all learned how to show the people we care about that we love them in new and different ways, which was an awesome experience! I was able to strengthen many of my relationships, and looking back, there were so many FaceTime calls and laughs and jokes with my favorite people.

I'd say 2020 affected me more positively than negatively and I'm very grateful for that. I'm not sure what 2021 is going to hold for us, but I think the important lessons we learned from this year are going to continue having an impact on the way we live, even if/when things end up going back to "normal". I'm excited to see that change!

Ayesha Muhamamd

Seniors

Dear 2020,

I was not expecting anything like you. In some ways you terminated many of the opportunities I was looking forward to. My summer camp at John Hopkins University, gone. My job at Sports Fusion, gone after it closed permanently. A week of travel around the Midwest, gone. So, yeah, I lost a lot, but it made me learn a lot as well. (I hope) I became more appreciative of the opportunities I've been given so far and the things that I'm able to look forward to. I caught up on a lot of family time that I've definitely taken for granted before you turned the world upside down.

Even though our school started the year off all online, I didn't mind being at home anymore. Sure learning in person is so much easier than learning at home, but it wasn't a huge bummer that it didn't work out that way.

You've made me more adaptable to what life throws at me and for that I thank you. I hope that I and everyone else can make the best of whatever situation 2021 will throw at us, and that everyone can recover from whatever they faced this year.

Even though COVID-19 should fade from relevancy in the hopefully-near future, I won't forget my 2020 experience.

Thanks 2020,
Tanner Wahl

Dear 2020,

Of my many years on this earth, you've definitely stood out as the most irregular year I've ever experienced. From forest fires to a global pandemic and an election in between, there's no doubt you will go down in history.

The negative experiences we've all gone through this year won't be forgotten. Whether it was not getting to participate in sports or missing out on family traditions or even losing a loved one there's been a lot of circumstances that have really sucked.

However as we move into a new year, it's the positive memories that we should all try and remember and take with us into the new year.

I'm really grateful that you've given us time to connect with our families over the last several months, and am so thankful that we live in a country and a community that has done everything possible to make this year as good as it can be.

You've brought the best out of so many people and have shown how many of us have huge hearts and want to share love. So, even though you've brought an onset of loneliness, fear and maybe even tears, it'll be the laughs that we'll all try and remember in our next chapter.

Respectfully,
Zach Patton

Dear 2020,

As one of the craziest years to date begins to wind down, a true reflection of my last 11 months is in order. I have been bombarded with a plethora of challenges due to COVID-19. The biggest consequence has been the forced separation and isolation. As my community of friends and family serve such a vital role in my life, restricted contact took a lot of time to get used to. However, searching for a dim silver lining, I'm excited that global awareness regarding infectious disease has drastically increased. This will better prepare everyone in the future.

Another obstacle you put in the way is online school. During Spring Break, I vividly remember thinking two weeks extra vacation would be amazing. I never in a million years would I have thought it would be another seven months before I returned. However, I was able to find positive aspects. Throughout the online process, I was able to practice and master self-motivation skills. These skills were cultivated because there was not a teacher to keep me focused. In total, you threw out copious challenges for me and others to maneuver. As a result, we were able to grow and learn to adapt.

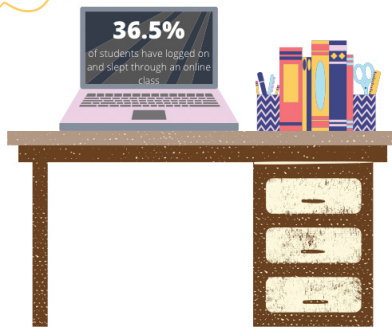
Looking forward to 2021, I hope we can retain our old "normal"s I would love to be able to experience the college atmosphere without worrying about staying six feet apart. Hopefully, 2021 will be a breath of fresh air.

Sincerely,
Hayden Somach

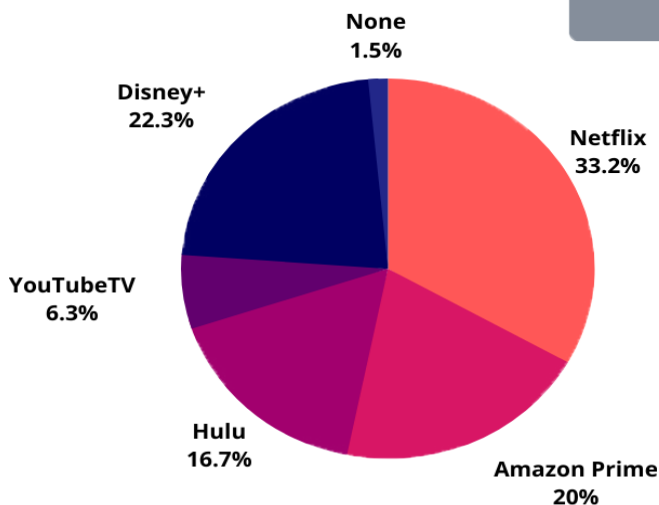
LANCER ANSWERS

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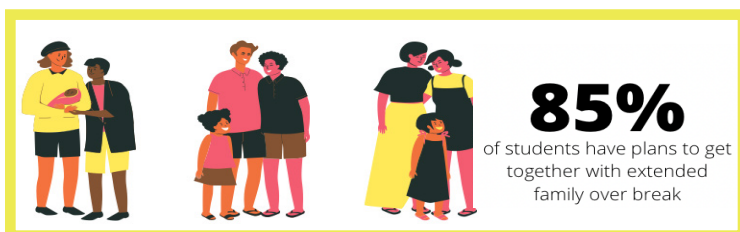
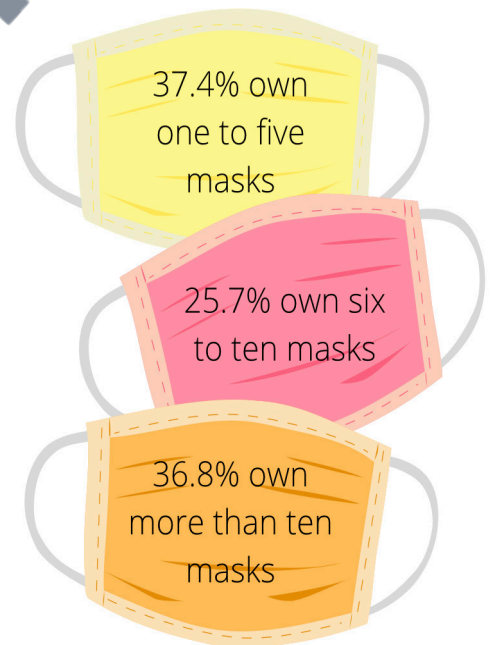
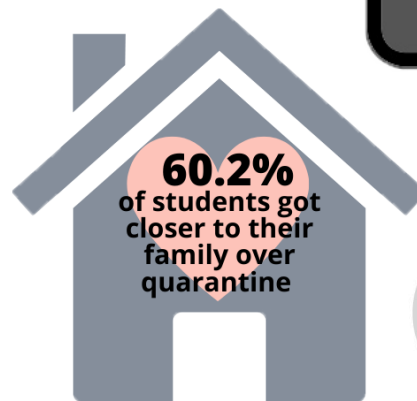
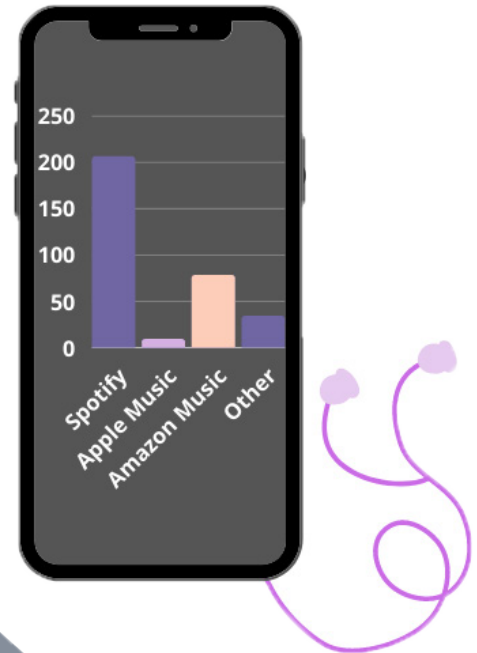
The *Image* sent out an email poll to get some thoughts on a variety of topics as the 2020 year comes to a close. Here are the opinions of 334 students who responded.



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It's the ... for me

being late to ZOOM calls

not wearing your mask over your nose

"open note" tests

not being able to eat at school

bad internet

no traveling

every camera off

not thinking the virus is real

no toilet paper

2021 Starter-kit

