Living in an Interesting Time

Perspectives from an Educator and his Students at Dedham High School During the COVID-19 Pandemic



Edited by: Michael Medeiros

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*The following collection of journal entries was compiled during the 2019-2020 school year in which, as of March 12, 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic forced the school to shut down for the remainder of the year. The first entry is a reflection written by Michael Medeiros, a social studies teacher since 2014 at Dedham High School, shortly after the announcement of the initial closure of the school. As part of the remote learning coursework, Mr. Medeiros had his students complete a weekly journal entry. Each of the following entries, organized by date of submission, include various sophomore students who had been enrolled in Mr. Medeiros’s history classes at the time.*

***March 18, 2020 - Michael Medeiros***

The late Bobby Kennedy, quoting from an alleged old Chinese curse, posited that he was “liv[ing] in interesting times.” While delivering this Day of Affirmation Address to the University of Capetown in South Africa, Kennedy explained that they were all living through a time period of “danger and uncertainty.” Those words could not resonate any stronger with the current situation in our world today amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. As an educator at Dedham High School (DHS) and resident of the town, I can attest that this has certainly been an “interesting” time to be living and teaching in.

Fortunately, in Dedham it seems as though we have been able to avoid the, as Kennedy noted, “danger” of the time. We have been very lucky thus far in not seeing this pandemic sweep through our town in the way it has elsewhere, but of course we all need to keep our fingers crossed (plus washed and sanitized). Certainly, however, we have been experiencing the “uncertainty” of this time. I can honestly say that “uncertainty” is perhaps the best word to describe the current atmosphere at Dedham High School, the time leading up to our extended school closure, and the future.

As the story continued to grow, it became increasingly more difficult to get classes started. Every class would start off with the students asking a million questions about what was going on, what my opinion was, and what was going to happen. With each rumor that would begin circulating around the school, the questions and anxiety level would increase. Students were getting very concerned about several upcoming events being cancelled, especially the prom. As a teacher, you always want to be able to get answers for your students, and thus it became increasingly frustrating not being able to do so. Each day that passed, however, became more nerve-racking than the next. Everyone began to shift from thinking about if it comes to Dedham, to when it would come to Dedham. Being in a school one is exposed to so many germs, and I can still remember getting sick so often early in my career. I suppose over the years one builds a somewhat better immune system, but hearing about the increasing ravages of the coronavirus did not help matters. I could tell that everyone was feeling this way since hand sanitizer was being used much more frequently, and one could not go a day without hearing at least a few bottles of Lysol being sprayed.

The hardest part was that everything seemed to happen so fast. One day I was teaching my students about Frederick Douglass, and then all of a sudden school was cancelled for the next day. Still though, there was “uncertainty.” Were we going to be out just for the day, a few days, or the whole week? Were upcoming events going to be cancelled? Despite being at home, there was still hope that we would soon be able to get back to our daily routines. “Uncertainty” continued to grow as the news story continued to evolve. As time continued getting added onto the school closure, and each event was getting cancelled or postponed, I could hear the collective sighs of my students.

As a teacher, I have been wondering how all of this is going to work in the long-term. For now, we are offering review work via online methods to the students in hopes of not losing what they have already learned, but for how long can that continue? We are scheduled to return to school on April 7, but the CDC is recommending no gatherings of over 50 people for the next 8 weeks, so how will that impact schools? If we remain closed for longer than April 7, how will learning continue? How will MCAS, SAT, and AP testing work with this interruption in learning? The ramifications will also continue into the next school year since each grade builds into the next one. While teaching is a challenging profession, it is about to become more challenging than ever. I must admit, however, that it has been amusing to see all of the people on social media wondering how teachers are able to do what they do, now that they are getting first-hand experience with having to try teaching their own children at home.

We are “creatures of habit,” and it has certainly been quite the adjustment for everyone in my household to get adjusted to not having the usual routine. Although the circumstances are unfortunate, it has been nice to get to spend more time with my immediate family. Time with them had been very rare lately since in addition to teaching full time at DHS, I am also the advisor to the Student Council, coach of the Speech & Debate Team, work a second job teaching a graduate school course, and am pursuing my doctorate full time. Over the past several days, I have been missing my students tremendously, and while sending them some review work, I decided to reach out and ask if they were willing to share some thoughts about the current situation. The following are quotes from a few of my current and past students:

* Jack Fonseca (DHS Junior) - “What is even going on? This situation is so complicated and I guess the students just want to know how this will affect everything? While yes, we did get ‘academic enriching activities,’ how are we going to cope with losing about a month of time to learn actual material? Hey, the three weeks could be extended further for all we know. As a junior, I’m definitely bummed about prom and the musical that I, among others, have worked so hard on. Also as an AP student, I’m definitely worried about how that is going to blow over once we get back. In all honesty, the main thing that concerns me as a student is how are we going to recover from this once we get back?”
* Alondra Msallem (DHS Senior) - “It’s been really hard for me to stay at home. Obviously, I am so thankful for being safe, healthy, and well-rested, but all of this comes with a price. I was looking forward to countless senior year opportunities and events that were near, but that are now postponed or even cancelled. It is very disappointing as a student to see what could’ve been of my last few months in high school. I just hope everything can get rescheduled, and I really hope I can get a traditional, in person, on the turf field, graduation.”
* Jacob Laprade (DHS Sophomore) - “Overall, at first I was kind of hoping for school to get cancelled, but now after just a couple of days of isolation, it has been brought to my attention that it is actually really boring. Now I sit at home wondering if we will resume school or what is going to happen next. I have realized that I miss school or just miss being able to get out of my house. I just hope this all ends sooner rather than later.”
* Joshua Bernadin (DHS Senior) - “This whole experience is a pain. As an extrovert, it is tough to stay in one place and stay away from people. Also, my dad is at work so I am by myself for most of the day.”
* Anonymous DHS Student - “It is very anxiety inducing and stressful knowing that such an impactful situation is out of your hands. I am self aware enough to sympathize with others who may be struggling to feed or care for their children, or victims of hate crimes, or the homeless/incarcerated populations that are being hit harder than I could ever know, but as an admittedly self-centered teenager, I am beyond upset about all the things I am losing or could lose with this situation. My conference is cancelled, prom is cancelled, graduation will probably be canceled, senior trips, vacations all cancelled. It's like everything I've worked so hard for all these years are being taken away. It all happened so quickly which makes it more difficult to mentally grasp. Just one week ago I was making jokes and dismissing it, and now I am basically on lockdown, not knowing when or how it will end. Will it force us to stay back a year, will it make people afraid of each other? The one good thing is that it is making people more sanitary, but that washing your hands should've been a thing everyone was doing since kindergarten, but I guess it's news to some. Hopefully whenever, if ever this virus weens off, people keep up this cleanliness. Maybe it's me speaking from a young healthy non-immunocompromised body, but it's not the virus that scares me, but its long term effects, and what it will do to us.”

While Bobby Kennedy argued that he was “liv[ing] in interesting times,” he did also contend it was “the most creative of any time.” Perhaps this sentiment will ring true in our era as well. After all, so many of us have suddenly found ourselves stuck inside our homes all day with nothing to do. Maybe some creative juices will start to flow. Ultimately, I believe that we will get through this time of “danger and uncertainty” if we are able to have faith in each other, stay positive, and be respectful of the guidelines set by those most educated in the field. For now, let us catch up on our reading/watching/gaming, write the book you always wanted to, paint the artwork you have always dreamed of, spend more time with those in your own household, and take things one day at a time. That may sound a little “hokey,” but it is just the perspective of this one educator living in an interesting time.

***March 30, 2020 - Caroline Dwyer***

School being cancelled due to Covid-19 has been a curse and a blessing. On one hand I get to decide how to structure my day, but on the other hand, prepping for exams like the AP Bio exam has become harder. With not being able to be in class learning the structure and material that will be on the new online AP exam, it is hard to know what to expect. Sure, College Board has been posting videos for AP Bio, but it's not the same as being taught in a classroom and since I’m not usually available during the time that they go live, it's hard to ask questions. My violin and voice teacher are still continuing lessons over Zoom. It's been interesting and different but I'm glad they are making the effort. I really do miss seeing them in person, they are both really fun people to be around. German school hasn’t stopped either. I am on skype during the normal school hours (9:30-12:30) doing group work with my classmates or giving/listening to the oral presentations that were prepared over the week. With the DSD2 exam coming up next year, I am glad my teacher found a way to teach us since it is such an important exam and it is what the school has been prepping you for since day 1. My ACT prep has also stayed the same, I just do more practice questions than usual each day. One thing that is a really huge downside is not being able to see my friends. Sure, there is FaceTime but it's not the same. I wish I could hug each and everyone one of my friends but that probably won’t be possible, most likely not until summer, depending on what goes down in April. What we have been doing is playing minecraft together as a way to hang out without being there in person. I was able to finally organize my room and my mom has been tackling a corner of the basement everyday in hopes to get to look close to descent. I have also recently been getting into Destiny 2 but my brother has been hogging the PS4, so I don’t get to play too much. My grandmother, who lives in Germany, is stuck in her apartment at the moment, which she is not too happy about. My grandmother is one of those people who can’t stay in one place too long, she always needs to be doing something. My mom and I have been calling her a lot more now since we are both at home.

***March 30, 2020 - Jack Millea***

So far, I like the virus. We are out of school and I have all the free time in the world. The only problem is that i can't see my friends. I convinced my parents to buy me some workout equipment and I now have a full home gym in my garage. I spend almost 3 hours a day in my garage or my driveway shooting hoops. I am also staying on top of my school work. I feel bad for the people who have contracted the disease and the people who have passed away but for me, this outbreak has caused nothing but a good time.

***March 30, 2020 - Benjamin Pfeifer***

I can confidently say that these past few weeks have been the most abnormal, weird weeks of my life. Nothing that’s happening even feels real and it all happened so quickly. We went from living our lives as normal, to being out of school for Friday through the weekend, to two weeks, to three weeks, and now until at least May 4th. It's crazy how fast things escalated, and we were all so focused on so many other things that it felt like this snuck up on us. I’ve been doing what I can to keep busy and not get too bored, but practicing social distancing is certainly a difficult thing. But, it is the most important thing right now and is the only way that we can successfully get through this.

***March 30, 2020 - Zara Shabazz***

My opinion on the Corona Virus outbreak is something I feel lots of others agree with. As a whole country I feel we could have better prepared for this virus. We should have also made more restrictions earlier in order to prevent the spread. Globally every country could have been better prepared. Wherever the virus started whether it was in China or not the government should have had more regulations on food and what people are putting in their bodies. Then there could have been a possibility that we could have avoided a pandemic. At first when this all first started I didn’t think much of it, I just assumed it was a different version of the flu. But after schools are shut down and seeing this virus everywhere I go, like social media I feel much different. I know that social media is making it more than it needs to be, some people tend to over exaggerate but I feel that some people need to be taking more precautions. People should not be travelling, and meeting up with others. I feel that staying at home is really important and as said earlier it should have been pushed ahead of time. If more restrictions had been pushed earlier it could have made nurses and doctors jobs a little easier. It's really sad to hear about the nurses and doctors that have died and are risking their lives to help save and treat the people with the virus. Hospitals are running out of space and supplies which is terrible. Just to think about all the other patients in the hospital that don’t have the virus but are there for other medical reasons, they are at high risk too. When a vaccine is made for the CoronaVirus I feel that the people who need it the most won’t even be able to access it due to healthcare insurance. This is a really terrible crisis for the ones most vulnerable.

Over this quarantine I have felt as if we are living in a movie, it doesn’t feel like real life. The days have felt the same and time seems to go by slow. Over these past few weeks I have been trying to be productive, but I find it very difficult to stay on task at times. I try to keep my mind focused on the positive things and doing hobbies I enjoy. For example painting is a big one for me, I’ve painted many things on canvas over this quarantine. I have also started to journal more and write down anything on my mind, plans for the near future or just positive notes to keep for myself. I want to start making more time to complete all my schoolwork from each class. I find it hard to make time and stay focused to complete assignments from all my classes. I will start to set reminders on my phone and limit the time I’m on my cell phone in order to keep up with assignments. I really just hope this can all end soon and changes start to be made.

***March 30, 2020 - Trinity Vo***

During the past few weeks I have completely changed my lifestyle and daily activity. No more hanging out with friends, sports, school, everything feels like it has drastically changed. My dad and mom have been scared because my dad is old and my mother has diabetes, making them both more susceptible to the virus. I find myself doing the same thing everyday;listening to music, eating, facetiming my friends, and going on runs. This has made me actually miss school for once, I feel like my life is on pause where I could’ve been making memories but instead I’m on house arrest for who knows how long. I also lost a lot of motivation to do any school work. I realized that I keep pushing my work off for the next day then not end up doing it at all. If we go back to school, I’m going to have a very difficult time getting back into the swing of things. However assignments like these I actually like because I can write about how I'm feeling during this time of stress. I just want things to go back to normal.

***March 30, 2020 - Brendan Stamm***

Today is March 30, 2020. It has been just about half a month since the schools closed due to coronavirus. We aren’t allowed to go back to school until at least May 4. I think it’s absurd that we’re going to be out of school for so long because of a virus. This is a once in a century type of situation. This is going to be something I will remember for the rest of my life, and will likely hear about in the future. I believe this virus was preventable because China was not openly honest when the virus first struck. They weren’t honest about when they found out about the virus or reporting about the number of infected, etc. There is proof that Chinese scientists who tried to alert the rest of the world about the virus were silenced one way or another. If the rest of the world had an advanced warning about the virus, we could have prepared for the worst. Now, hundreds of thousands are infected, and thousands are dead from the virus. I believe that the US is not on the declining end of the curve. I think the pandemic is going to get worse before it gets better. I believe it will be at least 2 more months before the virus is subdued, and we are able to begin to return to normal.

***March 30, 2020 - Katherine Soucie***

Over these past few weeks, I realize how important order is, getting up in the morning, having a schedule and something to do. At first, it was just a day off, and everyone was excited. It was like a snow day without the snow, meaning we could actually go outside and do stuff. My friends and I walked into Dedham Square and got Ron's Ice Cream. At the time, we weren’t thinking that this was going to turn into a long term thing. Later that night, we got a call saying we were going to be out of school until April 6, three weeks. Our initial reaction was shock and excitement, but the longer we thought about it, we started to realize that we were going to get bored. My parents, along with some of my friends’ parents started to become strict and not let us hang out at people’s houses, but we would still go on walks and run together. About a week later, Governor Baker said that all Massachuestts schools were to be closed until May 4. This is when it started to get really real. For me, the craziest thing for me to wrap my head around is I will not walk into my school for the whole month of April, I will not see my friends in person, I will not walk into restaurants, I will not play sports with my friends. This has been especially hard on my older sister, who is a senior and has been waiting 12 years to go to her senior prom and get to leave school a month before the rest of the school. These next few weeks coming up were supposed to be the time she was spending with her friends that she doesn’t hang out with outside of school, but they are still friendly.

For me, I am bored. I don’t have a lot to do. I go on runs because I need to get out of the house. I am learning to drive because I got my permit a couple of months ago and haven’t really had the time to learn until now. The sad part is, I was going to be doing my driving hours during this time, and now I have to wait until the summer at least. I slept for a long time, cause why not? I have nothing better to do. I made a cake a couple of days ago, and it was delicious. Overall, this disease has changed our lives and we didn’t see it coming. Everyone waved it off and didn’t take it seriously, while others have died because of our foolishness. I would rather be bored at home than get sick or get others sick, but I still wish that I could go out and have some fun.

***March 30, 2020 - Anonymous Student***

I never thought I would say this, but I miss going to school. Seeing my friends, and eating a chicken patty for lunch everyday, I was living the life. But, I was swamped with homework, and was in need of this corona-cation to catch up on my biology textbook reading. Who knew reading about mitosis could be a cure for insomnia? In more recent days, I regret to inform you that my mom has caught “corona fever”, a phrase I like to use not to mean the actual coronavirus, but rather an obsession of talking about the coronavirus. For reference, “Bieber fever” is an obsession with Justin Bieber, not an actual disease. My mother has also added “social distancing” to her vocabulary, and hasn’t let me hang with my friends for weeks.

I spent my first couple days of quarantine angry that our Sophomore semi was canceled, and a bit stressed as so much was unknown about when life would go back to normal. Over the last two weeks, I have become accustomed to a new normal. Though adapting to a new routine can be nerve-wracking, after a few days it feels like you have been doing it forever. In addition to not being able to leave the house, Stop and Shop is now a war zone. Empty shelves and people buying an unholy amount of toilet paper. I like to think of it as the toilet paper paradox. People are over buying it because they are afraid of stores running out. But, the reason toilet paper is flying off the shelves is because people are over buying it. Also a soup shortage led to a fiasco that will scar my taste buds for the rest of my life. It was late Tuesday evening, March 24th, when I ingested the most disgusting soup I have ever tasted (it was a new soup as the usual soup was out of stock). Never. I repeat never buy Campbell's Chunky spicy chicken quesadilla soup. Who in their right mind tasted this soup, otherwise known as vomit incarnate, and decided it was good enough to hit the Stop and Shop shelves? I personally feel it is my civic duty to warn the innocent grocery store shoppers of Dedham Massachusetts of the damage one taste can inflict on your taste buds. Even my dad, a man known to eat anything, agreed the soup was horrific, and went as far as to flush the concoction down the toilet.

Although I have spent much time on my phone, watching tv, and facetiming with friends, I also picked up a book for the first time in a while. Without a lot of free-time, I found reading to be a lot of work and boring. But, I’ve read three books already, so I mean not so boring after all. In addition to reading, I have also been trying to do school work, and continue to learn even though school is out of session. I have also learned a lot about myself like how I can’t carry a serious conversation without laughing, and I don’t mind having some me time. As a very social generation where people can communicate in hundreds of ways, it almost feels relieving to be able to spend time by yourself and sleep for more than 5 hours a night. To pass the time, I have also gravitated toward watching late night talk shows, my favorite being Saturday Night Live. Over the last couple days I have also watched all of the John Mulaney comedy specials on Netflix. I have also enjoyed listening to music. I don't know if I am going crazy, but I listened to the same song on repeat for half an hour and I didn’t even notice.

With school canceled, and consequently school events canceled or “postponed” to who knows when, I feel the worst for the 2020 senior class. If it was my last year of highschool, the last year before leaving for college or getting a full time job, I would not want to waste a minute cooped up with my family for days on end. I have two brothers, one of whom is a senior and the other my twin. Both seem to enjoy sleeping until 12 and playing video games, and don’t seem to be very concerned with the virus. In addition, I have spent more time with my family in the past few days than I would have in two or more weeks of corona free life. I feel as though my twin brother and I are slowly but surely ending our unspoken feud. As twins, I believe there has always been competition of who is the smartest or who gets to ride shotgun, ect., but after a few days in quarantine, I can definitely say that we are a lot more alike than I realized.

My mother has also become my personal CNN reporter as she insists on informing me of the current corona news. She believes school will be out for the rest of the year, and though I hate to say it, I really hope it isn’t. In summary, corona life so far has been a waiting game for when I’m going to eat my next meal, and spending too much time with my dog.

P.S. - my Dad has been experimenting with facetime for the past couple of days, and as we speak (or as I write) he facetimed me even though we are two rooms apart. In addition, it snowed. After a winter of barely any snow, when late March (almost April) rolls around Mother Nature decides now is the time for a snow storm.

***March 30, 2020 - Liam Kayyal***

The COVID-19 outbreak has affected almost everyone in the United States, as well as in many European and Asian nations including, but not limited to, Spain, the Netherlands, Italy, China, and South Korea. Despite scientists’ beliefs that the “Coronavirus” originated in China, most parts of China have reopened due to a successful practice of social distancing, as well as common awareness and preventative measures that citizens have taken. Unfortunately, many in the United States are failing to comply with the urges from the Center for Disease Control and we, as a nation, are facing economic and social crises.

I have not been severely affected by this outbreak, though I have experienced changes in my daily life, with finding myself morally obligated to stay inside and practice social distance leading the list. Alongside this, I no longer attend school in person and instead complete daily assignments online, and I now have an excess of free time. This free time has enabled me to work productively on tasks that I would otherwise not have done, as I would have been in school, though I do think that not being in school has discouraged me from wanting to learn. The fact that the assignments are optional is also somewhat discouraging, yet the circumstance and necessity for this is understandable, and I therefore tend to complete my assignments. In general though, I think that I am lucky to say I have not been individually affected, as my parents are both facing increased stress and hours that they must work in order to keep up with demands during such times. I can safely assume that this has happened to many, as millions in the United States have filed for unemployment and are stuck with their own crises. Ultimately, I think that as a result of this outbreak, I have gotten somewhat closer to my family and my community, and I have taken the time to realize that my compliance with preventative measures against the Coronavirus could be a fraction of the cause that could positively impact an abundance of individuals.

***March 30, 2020 - Madeline Aucoin***

These past two weeks have felt like an alternate reality. At this time three weeks ago, the coronavirus was only a small topic to me and nobody thought that it would be a big deal. As the days went on though, things started to slow down and more people started to get worried about the virus. One of the weirdest days to me was the last day of rehearsal for the musical. We were about to go into tech week and we were running through all of the numbers and video taping all of them. Friday’s school cancellation was announced during that rehearsal and it was weird to see everybody’s attitude about the show go from hopeful to discouraged. Everybody pretty much knew in that moment that we would not be opening the show the following week. Everybody felt very defeated because we had been rehearsing and putting this show together for months now, and we may not even be able to finish it. However, even then there was a spark of hope, but a lot of changes have happened since then. At that time, we thought we were only going to be out of school for two weeks, but now since we’re not going back until May 4th, I have less hope that we will be able to display any of the musicals in any way, which is really sad. I don’t even feel bad for myself because I am only a sophomore and I do many shows outside of school anyway, but I do feel really bad for the seniors. For some of them, it was their last show, and it was some of their first shows too, and I think that they were really excited to perform it, but now they can’t.

I think this whole virus is especially frustrating for me because it is so hard to control and there is nobody to blame. I don’t know who made the executive decision to eat a bat, so there is nobody to my knowledge to pin the blame on. I don’t know where it even came from. That makes this whole thing a big mystery that is extremely hard to control, and that makes me really anxious. I hate whenever there are unanswered questions and things that affect me that I cannot control. I know I can take steps to make a difference as best I can but it's hard for me to process this whole thing because I don’t fully understand it. Things have been changing so rapidly and nobody knows what is to come, I just hope it doesn’t get too much worse and we can go back to normal soon.

***March 30, 2020 - Leila Smadi***

To sum up how I’ve been feeling during my time off, I would say that I’m mostly frustrated and bored. I’ve seen reports that the numbers of cases in other countries aren’t rising as quickly because said countries have done a better job of self-isolation. On social media, I see people that are hanging out with friends and even in large groups. It’s frustrating because if people actually listened to what they’re being told and stayed inside, the virus won’t spread as quickly and the number of cases won’t be skyrocketing. People are thinking “Oh, I won’t get coronavirus” and continue to interact with others, not even considering how selfish that is. I’m not sure if we will be going back to school this year until next year, but I hope that people isolate themselves more seriously so we don’t have to be quarantined over the summer. I’ve also been very bored, but I guess it has brought out the more productive side of me. I’ve been doing a lot of baking, reading, and painting since I never really had time to do these things while school was going on.

***March 30, 2020 - Francie Mullen***

The weather was relatively nice until yesterday and the gloomy weather has continued into today. The bad weather has been keeping me inside which kinda sucks, but it’s nice not having mass amounts of school work. I have been having a hard time with the AP work on Youtube just because it’s not as good as being in class. Each live stream seems so long and the first minute at least of each is just silence with nothing happening. Although I have been a lot less stressed because of not being in school. I’m also spending a lot of time on facetime with my friends because I can’t see them in person. My family has been doing groceries for all of my grandparents. Everytime my mom comes home she talks about how she can’t toilet paper at all let alone for three grocery orders. A whole bunch of people that I know have gone to another state as well. My neighbor went to Maine and my cousins went to Vermont. It feels a little like I’m on the scene of a zombie movie because a lot of people aren’t home or aren’t going outside.

***March 30, 2020 - David Liberatore***

Maybe I’m an outlier here, but this hasn’t really affected me a whole lot. I’ve always liked staying home anyways, so it really feels like a ridiculously extended weekend.

That’s not to say everything is great, though. A lot of people, including my brother, are having a less easy time coping with not being able to do much, whether it’s from boredom or just need to let out energy. Sometimes, important things are difficult to find (I’m sure everyone’s talked about the toilet paper shortage.)

Then, there’s people who are a little less lucky. Thousands of people have been laid off and have no way of paying for basic necessities, and of course, thousands have actually been infected with the disease. For most people, it consists of a really bad cough, and not much more, with isolation often being more difficult than the actual symptoms, but some people are on ventilators, unable to breathe.

In general, for the average person who stays home and takes whatever precautions are necessary to limit exposure to the virus, the pandemic is obviously not ideal, but it’s certainly bearable. However, not everyone is part of that average, and it’s been very difficult for those people. Two weeks into the outbreak, I predict that this sentiment will stay valid for a while until cases finally start to go down and life goes back to normal, but really, anything could happen.

***March 30, 2020 - Vivien Boudette***

Quarantine has been something completely new and different from anything I have done before. It is very strange having to stay at home and not being able to go anywhere or see anyone. During this time, I have been working on schoolwork and assignments, completing projects, watching TV, and most of wondering what will happen due to this epidemic: How are we going to complete this school year? (online, next year, during the summer, etc?); Will everything be okay for next school year?; When we will definitely be out of quarantine?; Will the virus reach my friends, family or me?; etc. All the uncertainty can be overwhelming to have to consider, but I know that hopefully this whole situation will get better sometime soon. One thing that is especially difficult is not being able to see friends. When going to school every day, I always see them, and often I see friends outside of school too, but now social distancing is stopping me from being able to see my friends, which is somewhat lonely and annoying to have to deal with.

Despite the many negatives of quarantine, I am still trying to see a positive light in it. For example, although being out of school has its downsides, it is nice to be able to do schoolwork at home at my own pace rather than being on a strict schedule, and many stresses that school puts on me have been relieved for the time being. Additionally, it is reassuring and positive to know that by being quarantined, and social distancing it will hopefully help to flatten the curve and make this epidemic be over much sooner than later.

***March 30, 2020 - Ian Stapleton***

Honestly it is not fun, I can't really hangout with many of my friends, as I shouldn't since it is a pretty dangerous virus. More people probably thought it was going to be like a vacation, but it has turned into only staying inside. Everyday, I usually just play Xbox with friends “for a while” and go in my driveway and just play some street hockey, pretty boring. My friends and I hung out only twice and we only went to high school and played football. Staying active is pretty easy since I usually go for runs and that is usually the highlight of my day. Finally I can't watch sports, which is one of my favorite things to do. All I have been watching is old WW2 movies from the 60’s. Overall, the coronavirus is terrible and I hope to be back in school soon.

***March 30, 2020 - Sani Lewis***

With COVID-19 happening and the world in confusion, shock, panic, and other feelings that cannot be described, the feeling that the whole world has even separated further apart has become another thing as well. When COVID-19 or Coronavirus started to appear it was more race based. Multiple myths started to come around on how it started and why it started, especially the “only people that are asian can get it” (which we all know is not true). It caused a separation, a racist separation; asians were starting to get looked at funny even more than they used too. The racist jokes came more into play, but not about the stereotypical eating rice and peeing coke. The so called jokes became more and more hurtful, making anyone feel out of place by hearing it or reading it. Rather it is social media or on the news or some podcast.

Over the past few weeks it became clear that some people think this is a joke and still want to wonder out in public. Getting exercise is one thing but we need to socially distance until new information comes out that is positive. This is one of the first times I have seen doctors and other scientists not know how to answer questions or even give out information because we have no clue of this. It is something new and something we were never looking out for

***March 30, 2020 - Rileigh Kelley***

This makes me think about how Animal Crossing came out at a scarily perfect time. Like I’ve seen people who have ZERO prior interest in games buy WHOLE Switch consoles just to pick up New Horizons. I’ve found myself going to the Animal Crossing community during quarantine, and I gotta say, it’s such a nice place. It’s such a peaceful game, and it brings people together, even when the people aren’t physically “together.” Which is exactly what we need during these times. It’s had a really positive influence on me, and is making this whole process much easier.

***March 30, 2020 - Joseph Connolly***

Throughout the whole experience I have realised how much we take for granted and how much I take for granted on a regular basis. Also how much you miss something when it's gone like the NHL and the NBA. It feels even longer when you can't do anything or go out even just waiting for everything to come back and be normal again. Lastly what I noticed about our government when a huge epidemic like this happens is how unprepared we are as a government and a country, but also how quick and how many people if they pitch in can get this figured out. We can’t do this alone, we have to beat this as a team.

***April 3, 2020 - Zachary Keaney***

Ever since school was closed a few weeks ago, nothing feels real or normal. Everything happened so suddenly. Just a few weeks ago, it was a normal Wednesday. I went to school, I spent time with friends. The next day, mostly the same, although there was some talk of the “Coronavirus.” I did not think much of it and still looked forward to the Sophomore Semi which was the following day. That night, school and semi were cancelled. One day turned into a few weeks, then a few weeks into two months. I would not complain if this were a normal school closing, if it had been merely another vacation. In that case, I would be seeing my friends and going to the mall, which I love doing. Initially, that was my plan when school had been closed for just a day. And then, the widespread panic, the urge to “quarantine” and “social distance.” It has been arguably the most horrible few weeks of my life recently. I cannot stand seeing my family for this long. I find it excruciating the time I see them normally. Although I understand the safety measures that we are encouraged to practice, I do feel as though the whole world is overreacting and the panic is unnecessary. This was especially displayed when I told my friends that I had gone for a walk in the forest and I had gone kayaking(alone) on the river, and they panicked and told me I wasn't allowed to leave my house. I miss my friends and I miss the mall, but most importantly I miss when everyone acted normal and everything was normal.

***April 3, 2020 - Christelle Maurissaint***

At this moment that's happening right now is very tragic and has put many of us in fear. This crisis has taken a large amount of people around the world. It's sad to see people are dying now each and every day. My mom is a nurse and there are times I get worried if she comes back home fine. No matter what, always be grateful for what you have and what I really start to think of more. I would have never expected this to get to this point.

***April 5, 2020 - Ian Stapleton***

One thing I hate about the whole corona thing is that I can't play baseball! Baseball is one of my favorite sports and I love playing it, I love playing for the school and town baseball. It really stinks since I am missing a season off of one of my favorite sports and its during highschool, highschool sports are supposed to be some of the best times and I can agree on that. But it really does stink not being able to play, hopefully corona doesn't last till the summer since I want to play summer baseball for the Dedham Legion team.

***April 6, 2020 - Sani Lewis***

What have I been up to during quarantine? I am learning a lot about myself. I realized that I like online school better than regular school. I like that at certain times I can go at my own pace. I can stop for a second and go to the bathroom and jump back into my work. I like the idea that I have more control over my schedule. I can take more time on my math work if I need to. But also I can work faster if I have to on other subjects.

***April 6, 2020 - Thomas Harris***

I hate this whole situation. I can’t wait for it to end. My house is turning into a prison. My parents don’t let me leave, not even to get food. I can only go across the street to Nobles to play lacrosse for an hour or two. I really want to have lacrosse because it’s my whole life and favorite thing to do. But I don’t think we will be going back to school. I just want to be able to go out and see my friends again.

***April 6, 2020 - Dariana Guevara***

These past weeks have been so strange to me. I thought that being home from school would be so much more enjoyable than this. Any chance I get to go outside I take advantage of it. I have honestly used this time to care to myself. I am home with my family as both my parents are working from home but I feel we are all very overwhelmed with how much time we spend together. I have gone outside to my backyard to play basketball with my brother and even after a while that gets boring. I now know that I took advantage of having the freedom of being outside or even being at school and out of my house. I think the only real thing I have been doing more of is cooking. Now that I am home I have been cooking breakfast, lunch and sometimes dinner for myself or even my family sometimes.

***April 6, 2020 - Benjamin Pfeifer***

At this point I’ve pretty much gotten used to this quarantine-style life and am just trying to do my part to flatten the curve. I am trying to keep busy, but not just with school work. I am trying to do a variety of things to expand my brain and not get overly-bored. I have done an insane amount of baking and watched probably too much TV. Overall though, I am not at the point of complete boredom and sadness. I am trying to make the most of this and spend a lot of time with my family and facetiming my friends. This morning I got up early and made brownies for my Nana. A few hours later me and my brother drove up to her condo in Walpole to deliver them to her. We talked to her from the car, keeping our distance. It’s such a nice day out so it was nice to drive around. I am holding out hope that normalcy comes soon, but I am also aware that this will take time.

***April 7, 2020 - Anonymous Student***

This whole experience has been a roller coaster of emotions from the very start, my brain can’t decide whether this is the much needed time off to relax and catch up on personal projects, or whether to hardcore stess about the upcoming AP exams that I am totally unprepared for. Honestly it probably depends on the weather. Yesterday it was sunny and 60 degrees, I sat outside and read an entire book, it was probably the best day I’ve had in a long time, I was able to revert back to inner nerdy bookworm and tune out all outside distractions, I was so engrossed in my book I didn’t even notice the killer sunburn I got on my legs and face, it was definitely worth the pain though.

I have also been able to spend lots of time with my family, hiking, watching movies, and playing cards. I am currently the reigning champion of poker, monopoly, and euchre, even though in euchre you have a partner, my team has won every time. We also rewatched Freaks and Geeks, it is a classic and I think you get something new out of it every time you watch it. Anyways, watching Freaks and Geeks led us down a long Seth Rogen/James Franco road. We watched Pineapple Express, Superbad, the Interview, and This is The End, which turned out to be more like a horror movie. I had seen a few of these movies before, but seeing them back to back made me realize how many little jokes carry over between movies. It also made me realize how lucky I am that my parents and I have relationship where we can watch inapropriate movies without feeling that uncomfortble, I doubt other people watch movies entirely about marijuana and murder with their parents.

I got my permit a couple weeks before everything got so serious and I’m really glad I did because that would have set me back a lot if I had to wait 2 months to get it. It has also given me a lot more time to practice driving with my parents. At first it seemed really scary but after only about an hour of practice, I became way more comfortable, and honestly, driving isn’t as hard as it seems.

Despite all these good things that have come of our sudden time off, I still find myself wishing that things would go back to normal, that we could have our semi, prom would be rescheduled, the seniors could have a graduation, and everyone could go back to their normal routines, spending time with friends and family.

***April 8, 2020 - Esnaidia Joseph***

When the pandemic started it didn’t seem as much of an issue as it is now. I thought it was something that we would rarely acknowledge and it would pass within a couple of weeks. But now that we are missing school & businesses are starting to close down, it seems like this is only getting worse & worse by the day. Globally this has taken a toll on people’s businesses, rent, and even stock markets. With the stock markets decreasing each day, the issue is going to continue to get worse. This pandemic has affected me personally because I filled out a job, but now I'm not sure I would be able to get it because of Covid-19. It has also affected the african american community in China right now because many are being kicked out of their apartments,homes & hotels because many Chinese people think African-Amercans were the reason this all started; when statistically speaking, Covid-19 has been around for ages but no one took it seriously because not many people were dying from it then.

***April 10, 2020 - Zachary Keaney***

I wish that none of these events happened at all. I wish the virus was completely contained in China, never spreaded, and nothing had to change. I wish I could have been going to school all this time, seeing my friends, going shopping, or to a restaurant. I feel miserable and I cannot believe I have to endure this for almost another whole month. I am praying on anything and everything that the school date is not pushed any further. I have been doing virtually nothing all these weeks. I ran out of things and places to clean two weeks in. I lost interest in going outside alone, and it's been mostly rainy anyway. I have been eating, sleeping, occasionally playing video games, and staring at a wall all this time pretty much.

***April 13, 2020 - Sani Lewis***

At this point of quarantine, I am starting to lose my mind but in a good way. I’m learning what I am more comfortable with and what makes me happy. I am learning to realize that my goals in life have been in front of me for so long but I always overlooked them because I have been afraid. What am I afraid of? You ask me, I was afraid that my goals and my future were farfetch. But it’s not like I am asking for millions of dollars and to be rich and famous. I am asking to live the way I want and be free. At first I will be able to move out and get an apartment, have a stable job, it’ll be maybe my third job so it probably won’t be the best but at least I will bring in some income. One of my other goals and I stopped saying “future goals” because I can start all of my goals right now and have been doing so. For 3 years I have been trying to make a music band of some sort, a group of artists that will eventually expand into more than just artist of music but artist of other art. It’ll be a safe place and we can all do our thing and do our thing together and support each other. I already made my group or artist and it keeps on expanding. I love those guys as we are really becoming a family and I like that a lot.

***April 13, 2020 - Dariana Guevara***

My Easter was pretty good. My family and I had a big lunch which consisted of some seafood. My mother made some soup, my dad made crab cakes and I made some mussels. Everything tasted so delicious. Besides that we have done the same things we have been doing for the past couple weeks at home. I get up and go straight to my school work just to get it over with. I have been getting slightly more irritated than usual though. I miss going outside and I miss hanging out with my friends. I honestly will not be surprised if we all go crazy after this. I do hope that we can all go back to being normal, I never thought I’d say this but I actually miss school. I don’t really have much else to say about this past week so I think this is it for today.

***April 13, 2020 - Avery O’Connor***

During this time I have been feeling very relaxed, but cautious at the same time. I am making sure to stay home, wear masks if I go out to the food store, I am always washing my hands, and I am keeping my house extra clean. I am working out a lot and trying to attempt some of the work. I have been binge-watching Criminal Minds and I am going to make a huge cake for my birthday. Although many people are getting sick and this world is becoming a little crazy, this break has been a nice long break that has definitely reduced some of the unnecessary stress I was feeling before the break. I do fear for my mom because she is a nurse and is working hard everyday to help those who are sick, but it’s nice when the whole family is home together and we are able to do fun things. I wish this never happened, but the break that came with it has been nice.

***April 13, 2020 - Benjamin Pfeifer***

Everything is getting a lot easier. I feel as if I am in more of a routine now and am not as bored as I was at the start of this quarantine. I have found more things to do (such as baking, art, talking to friends on my phone, etc.). Now that work is graded I will be even more motivated to do things throughout the week and will have more things to keep me busy. I have also been using some of my saved up money to do online shopping, which is super fun. One thing that is getting me quite agitated though is people now following the rules at this time. It is very selfish and immature to still be going out unnecessarily. Nobody wants to be stuck inside but the only way this will end is if everyone does their part and we all follow the set out parameters of what to do. This faster everyone does what they are supposed to, the faster thing will get back to normal. Anyways, I am glad to be starting real school work and getting into an even more structured routine.

***April 13, 2020 - Landon Silver***

It is now a month into being off of school and not being able to go outside, this also means my life has been getting a little boring lately. Over the past months I have just been watching Netflix (if you want recommendations then I’d say All American, On My Block, and Murder Mountain are pretty good), playing Xbox (mostly Rainbow Six Siege trying to get to diamond), and sleeping. Recently though some weights I ordered to help me stay busy and in shape came so I have also been working out for 45 minutes to an hour a day. Overall things really could be worse, and they might actually get worse if we lose power during this storm, but I think I’m holding up pretty well right now. I actually do hope to go back to school before the end of the year as I actually did enjoy some of my classes (everything but Spanish, Math and English), and was able to see some of my friends. Also I am a little sad right now because I was about to get my license but the DMV closed because of Corona and now I am going to have to wait months to get it. Easter was yesterday as well, but it did not really feel like Easter. My family all of the sudden became religious and was watching some dude sing in a church on TV and that was all we really did. Hopefully this whole pandemic ends soon so we can return to our normal lives, and everyone can stop worrying about getting sick.

***April 13, 2020 - Troy Thornton***

Living during this pandemic is something I’m not used to. It’s interesting to know that the outside is constantly in a state of danger. However, I’m somewhat introverted, so I don’t mind staying home for a long time. I have a lot of fun activities to do while I’m home like playing video games, learning how to drive, and watching TV. But sadly, I feel like I can’t do anything that I want to do, and that is because of the school work that I have to do. I understand why we have it, and I don’t mind doing the work. The problem is that I feel like there is so much work for each class each day to the point that I’m using about 6 hours of my day just doing work. For someone who doesn’t wake up until around 11:30, I feel like that’s the majority of my day. There’s also the fact that this is all online work, which makes sense. But because of that, I always have a ton of tabs up on my computer (11 at this time), which means that it can be kind of overwhelming with all of the work. But besides the homework situation, I’m doing fine during this crazy time.

***April 13, 2020 - Kaitlin Sullivan***

Honestly these times are scary and unprecedented, but as much as I would enjoy returning back to normal, I would much prefer being safe and practicing social distancing for the sake of saving lives. The people who are disregarding and going out like it is normal are extremely selfish and are the reason this will continue on. In the duration of this, I have learned a lot about the terrible and unsafe conditions nurses and all frontline workers are having to work in, as well as how awful of a job our federal government has done to protect not only the workers, but the citizens of America. Trump started out by saying the coronavirus was a “democratic hoax” and now there are over 1.8 million cases worldwide. I find it ridiculous healthcare workers and hospitals do not have the resources they need to not only stay safe, but save lives. Everyday they are risking their lives by going to work and having to reuse N95 masks, gowns, etc. It can be summed up as an utter disappointment that Trump is failing to supply them with the needed equipment such as ventilators and does not understand the seriousness of this pandemic. Places that are being hit hardest right now, like New York, need the help of the president, which they should be getting since he declared national emergency, but instead he is mainly leaving it up to the governor who has far less resources to help than the president. It is an honest disgrace and I just hope as a country we can turn this around and stay safe by staying home, as well as supporting and helping those who cannot in any way.

***April 13, 2020 - Anonymous Student***

Hello Journal! Last week I read seven books! SEVEN! That has to be a Guinness World Record. All of these books I read in the flesh and or paperback.The alternative would be to read off my phone. My mom has tried to convince me ebooks are safer for all parties, for instance, so the delivery people have one less house to visit. Well, color me stubborn because one of the many reasons I enjoy reading is that I don’t have to deal with the headache that ensues after staring at a screen for hours. In summary, I would like to personally apologize to the Amazon delivery people who keep having to bring more books to my doorstep every week. Wherever and whoever they may be, Thank you. Also to the trees that had to be uprooted for my reading pleasure, my condolences. Just putting it out into the universe.

As well as reading books, I have also watched a lot of CNN. When she is home, my mom has the TV on to the news, and finds it necessary to act as my personal commentator. To summarize recent Corona news, President Trump is more incompetent than I could have imagined, and seems to only spread “fake news” on his daily national adresses. Even though it is known that Covid-19 is very deadly and has taken too many lives already, the news is turning this pandemic into a soap opera. For one instance, a doctor was on CNN talking about the virus and the working conditions for the nurses and doctors the hospital is working at. In his speech he basically claimed if people don’t continue to social distance themselves from others, the medical staff will be overwhelmed, and when they start dying, there is no hope for anyone else to survive.

In addition, my mom and I have been bringing my dog on a lot of walks as of late. This seems to be a popular activity as there has been a surge in sidewalk traffic in the last few weeks. Babies, bike riders, runners you name it. I have also come to face the fact that my dog has a disease. Napoleon syndrome. She barks like there's no tomorrow at any dog that comes within a 10 ft radius. Also as a smaller canine, she sees no danger in confronting other dogs 5 times her size. In other news, my Dad taught my brother how to use the grill the other day. It was painful to watch, and I don’t think he should pressure a career in the kitchen. Too awkward with the grill tongs.

Speaking of grill tongs, today I made my second appearance during this quarantine at the famous Dedham Stop and Shop. We had to leave early, as in 8 a.m., in an attempt to snag as much toilet paper and paper towels as possible. Who could have envisioned the new year would bring toilet paper shortages? My 2020 vision sure didn’t catch that. Also, Easter really snuck up on us this year. Usually, my family makes the hike up I-95 to Portsmouth, New Hampshire to celebrate the holiday with family. Of course it’s my mom's side of the family. I have a running theory that no one really knows what's going on the dad’s side of the family. Maybe it’s just a me thing. Sadly, due to the global pandemic, Easter plans have been canceled. Luckily, my mom made the effort to cook a ham, and our little celebration was just as good as the usual Easter proceedings minus the awkward interactions with distant relatives, and small talk. But, after a full week of my head in books, I need to get back to my school work. I missed a lot of assignments last week that I need to do. This is the first week of graded assignments, so I really got to get my head in the game.

***April 13, 2020 - Madeline Aucoin***

We’ve been in quarantine for around four weeks, I think, but it still doesn’t feel real sometimes. Because I am stuck in my house, the time is flying by much faster and it's crazy that it is already April. I am trying to find things to do to keep me busy, but a lot of the time I still find myself just sitting in my bed watching netflix. While stuck in the house, I’ve been baking, painting, doing online voice lessons and online workouts with my friends. On Easter, I made homemade cheesecake for the first time and it actually came out pretty good. I am hoping that the schoolwork that is required now will force me back onto a schedule and I’ll start feeling normal again, but for now I’m doing good, and still hanging in there. I miss my friends so much but thank God for Facetime.

***April 13, 2020 - Liam Kayyal***

I think that what is currently happening is surreal, and I am still somewhat taken aback that this is happening right now. I would like to hope that we will return to school, though many of the people I have asked seem to think otherwise. I hope that I will still be able to learn sufficiently online, and I am also a little bit more nervous for the AP exam, despite the fact that it will be much shorter. As I said previously, I have not been individually affected by this pandemic greatly, though I no longer physically attend school or go to work. Unfortunately, many people have been seriously affected by the coronavirus, and I think it is great that medical students are graduating early so they can help fight against the coronavirus on the front lines. I think that anyone who is still working today is pretty brave and helping the whole nation greatly, though I do not have any other thoughts about the virus, as I am still somewhat shocked considering that we have already been out of school for a month.

***April 13, 2020 - Brigid Murray***

When life goes back to normal I’m going to be outside all day. I’m going to hug my friends and tell them how much I missed them. I’m going to put my phone away because it’s been used way too much lately. I’m going to go to concerts, Red Sox games, and amusement parks. I’m going to say yes even when I feel like saying no because staying home is dumb. I’ll thank my teachers and never complain about going to school again. I’m going to do all of the things that I took for granted.

***April 13, 2020 - Katherine Soucie***

This is crazy. I didn’t realize how important having something to do was. I was very stressed out with school and was in need of a break, but this is very long. I’m not saying I want to go back to school because it is not the funnest place to be, but I do like having something to do and a place to go where I can see my friends. It is crazy to me that we have been out of school for this long and it is even crazier that we might not return to school until next year. It is also so weird to think that there is a possibility that this might last through the summer. The only time that I leave my house is to go on a run, or go on a drive. I have been taking this time to learn how to drive. It is frustrating because I was supposed to start doing my driving hours so that I could get my license as soon as possible, but now I don’t know when I will be able to get my license.

***April 13, 2020 - Brendan Stamm***

I have started to get very bored while in “quarantine”. Although I’m not really in quarantine, it feels that way because I can’t really leave the house, can’t hang out with friends, or go to school. I have been spending as much time as I can outside playing street hockey, shooting pucks, etc. but it’s starting to get boring. I also spend some time playing video games online with my friends which helps me stay connected. Honestly it doesn’t feel like April because normally I’m outside, hanging out with friends, and doing a lot more than I am now. I would normally spend the weekends hanging out with friends, weekdays going to school, the gym, and doing homework. Due to the coronavirus, I’m stuck at home, trying to find ways to entertain myself.

***April 13, 2020 - Trinity Vo***

This entire experience has been unreal, almost like a dream. I’ve been looking back on old photos and videos in my camera roll seeing all my friends do fun things, making memories and it makes me sad knowing that we could be making more memories right now if it weren’t for this pandemic. I feel like my life is on pause, this time I can never get back. I understand that this time is much worse for those dying and if you’re a senior. Obviously i’m only a sophomore and still have a lot of time left in high school but it feels like i’m wasting away so much time right now because next year is going to be really challenging with APs and calc coming up and having to stress all the time about college. Also this year has been so good so far with friends, and just life in general so it's sad to think that when things were going so well and just to come crashing down like this.

***April 13, 2020 - Vivien Boudette***

Coronavirus really has been something that has changed my lifestyle and world. Before this whole fiasco happened, I would go to school everyday, see friends on weekends, go shopping, go to the movie theater, and really just be able to do what I wanted. However, now with this pandemic going on, I cannot do any of that. I have to stay isolated at home, most stores and places are closed, and the only time I can leave is to go for a walk. Instead of going to school physically, I have to do assignments at home, which is very weird compared to the normal routine. When realizing all these changes that have occurred, it has really opened my eyes to how much freedom I had prior to the epidemic, and how I could do as I pleased. It is much more different now and it is making me realize I was taking that freedom for granted before. I think one thing that was very different and weird, was celebrating Easter during the pandemic. Usually, during Easter I would see my family and have a big celebration. However, with Easter happening during the pandemic, all this celebration and fun was not there anymore, and we just facetimed some family members instead.

Obviously this time is a once in a lifetime experience, and something that will be cited in future history books. It is strange, yet sort of cool to think I am living through such a historical time. Honestly, I will never forget about this time, and it will be something I will reflect and learn from for the rest of my life.

***April 13, 2020 - Owen McNamara***

This virus has taken its toll on everyone. I understand that everyone needs to self isolate and do their part. I will never take for granted the ability to do activities as simple as going to eat in a restaurant. I am looking forward to going out to dinner with my family, hanging out with my friends and watching sports. I think this virus will change how the entire country operates. Things like movie theatres and school will be changed forever. One thing that may come from this is the lowering cost of college for the future. I am grateful that nobody has gotten sick in my family. Coming from a large family, yesterday was awkward with just seeing my immediate family. Instead of having a large meal followed by an easter egg hunt and a game of basketball, we had a zoom call. It was different but I was happy to see everyone. Each week I have had a Zoom call with my mom’s family and my dad’s family. I hope to go to school soon and return to whatever is normal.

***April 13, 2020 - Francie Mullen***

This quarantine has felt a lot like when I go to Canada in the summer. Where I go is my grandparent’s small farm house. There’s no wifi or cell service anywhere near the farm, and each neighbor is at least a mile away. The farm is on a hill that flattens out into a field that runs all the way to a cliff that drops down to a rocky beach. It’s really pretty there, but there aren’t many people there that my siblings and I would talk to outside of our family. In that way it feels much similar. I’m also using my noise cancelling headphones a lot more. Both in the farm house and my house you can hear what one person says in the basement from the attic. This makes having my headphones really nice because I can listen to music while I draw or something like that in peace. Unfortunately unlike in Canada, we can’t go to the beach or go much of anywhere because of coronavirus. Although I am grateful that we do have wifi at my house instead of it being like in the farm house. It’s easier to keep in touch with my friends and family that way. It also lets me listen to a lot more music. I’ve also been playing a lot of video games, specifically “Hollow Knight,” but I’m stuck trying to beat one of the bosses. My dad has been playing a lot of music. He keeps playing “Nobody Told Me” by John Lennon. He calls it his “quarantine song” as a justification for playing it so much.

***April 13, 2020 - Joseph Connolly***

As of late I have been spending my time going on runs and jogs during the afternoon and it helps that the weather is now truly getting nicer out on these harsh times. On my runs I really get to clear my mind from everything and get to stay active during these times with no spring sports or even just sports in general. It's really nice just to be outside and smell the fresh air and see everything you see on the journey. From people walking their dogs or people on their lawn just relaxing. It's still hard though not seeing my friends and other family members through this. The sport I’m missing the most is the NHL. I love hockey and thought this year was the Bruins' year to win Lord Stanley's cup. Now though everything is postponed and until then the Bruins will have to wait what's rightfully theirs. I’m a little excited to start learning new material in online school, it will give me something else to think about and learn from instead of the whole epidemic that is going on. This as a whole has been a giant new learning experience for everyone. Everyone working together in their own way to help one another in these harsh times is amazing . So I can't wait until we conquer this as one as well.

***April 13, 2020 - Anonymous Student***

Last week was pretty crazy with passover being on Wednesday and Easter on Sunday. We celebrate the religious part of Passover and the candy and eggs part of Easter. Wednesday I helped my mom and we spent the whole day cooking, usually we have a big Sedar with the whole family so everyone brings one dish but this year we had to make it all, I think I can say with confidence that everything we made was 1000 times better, especially the brisket, not to exaggerate but I think it was the best I’ve ever had. We had a zoom call with my whole extended family so you can imagine all the ways that could go wrong, there were someone’s camera was upside down the whole time, there was someone who a distant relative had invited to the call, but nobody knew who they were, there were many overlapping conversations, and even when we were on topic, no one knew whose turn it was to read. Luckily there was a 40 minute time limit so that really saved us, when you are on a call like that, there is no escape, usually my cousins and I will go for a walk, or climb up onto the roof, but that wasn’t happening this time. We did it though, we made it through the Haggadah and we were able to end the call with very limited chit chat at the end, although we did have to see two people’s grandchildren, I honestly had no idea who they were though, my grandfather's second cousin? What does that even mean?

Anyways, we made it through our first virtual Sedar, with only three renditions of Dayenu, and two readings of the questions. I know that seems vague but I don’t think they have another name, but anyways we survived. I’m realizing now that my writing style includes a lot of rambling so I’m sorry you have to figure out what I’m trying to say.

Saturday we went to Hull to spend some time with my grandmother, we went for a beach walk and then she wanted to show us her garden, we were 6 feet apart of course and we didn’t go inside her house at all. She was happy to spend some time with us but I think she was sad she couldn’t give us a hug or show us the inside of her house, she had just gotten it raised to protect from the flooding that happens so she moved some things around inside too to change it up. I got to drive halfway home which was exciting, it’s much more enjoyable when you have a destination. I only drove halfway because I didn’t want to drive on the highway, I’m definitely not ready for that yet. It was the first time I drove with my brother in the car though, he’s 12 and very talkative so that was challenging but he said I was a good driver so at least I have the approval of someone who doesn’t know how to drive, that was sarcasm but I’m sure you picked that up.

Sunday was Easter, we dyed eggs, which is usually a Saturday night activity but we didn’t have time so we just did it the morning of. I didn’t know until recently that most people don’t even use real eggs, they just use the plastic ones, I don’t see the point of that, dying them is half the fun, and after you find them you can do egg fights, something I’m sure sounds crazy and is exclusive to my family but they are so much fun. Basically you smash the eggs against each other and the one that doesn’t crack it is the winner. My mom made pancakes which she never does, emphasis on NEVER. We did some gardening, we had a ton of wildflower seeds to plant in my backyard. I'm really excited about how they will turn out, the rainy weather today is great too, it's going to make them grow so much faster. A couple years ago my cousins and I decided that just looking for eggs was too easy, so instead, we partner up and one person gets blindfolded and the other has to find the eggs and then give the person who is blindfolded directions to pick up the eggs, it is easier than it sounds, it is usually a race to see who can find 6 first and then we switch, it’s a lot of fun. We didn’t race this time since there were only two of us, but it was still a good time.

***April 14, 2020 - Sean Minard***

During quarantine I feel as though I haven't been impacted too heavily. Many people I know have been struggling to deal with the change. I have chosen to look at quarantine as a break from average life, and use the time stuck at home to expound upon interests. With the use of modern technology, I have been able to keep in touch with friends, as well as keep up with what is happening in the community. The quarantine personally hasn’t affected my hobbies or or interests other than sports too severely. I know others are having more of a difficult time, but as someone who tends to stay home and play videogames of his own volition, I’ve been able to stay sane.

***April 16, 2020 - Katarina Uhrmann***

These times are crazy. I truly never imagined that my life would ever be like this. If you asked me in January what I would be doing right now I definitely would not have said this. I really just wish (and I cannot believe I am saying this) but I really wish I was back in school right now. I feel like I am going bonkers spending so much time inside this house. On a good note I have been discovering new hobbies, like drawing, baking, exercising, and playing the “Piano Man” harmonica solo on my harmonica. I have also been watching WAY too much tv.

***April 20, 2020 - Liam Kayyal***

`The past month for me has been a series of days during which I have done almost the exact same things. Although my days do differ, the differences between them are generally minimal, though I have not been bored during these times. Although I understand why people are complaining about staying inside, going outside even for a little while is fine and I personally have been fine inside. On the flip side, people all over America have lost their jobs and are now on unemplo\yment, with some of them making minimal revenue while others are making more money on unemployment than they were when working. The United States is also the leading nation for Coronavirus cases and while many other nations seem to be beginning a slow recovery, these signs are not necessarily prevalent in the United States just yet. I think that people are just not taking the virus seriously, despite the extensive damage that it has already caused. Conclusively, I have been doing well inside, unlike some, and I think that Americans need to take initiative and abide by the rules set by the WHO.

***April 20, 2020 - Kevin Robinson***

I have only seen a few friends because of the virus. When we go out we get wicked dirty looks by passing cars when we don't have masks on. My dad says it's like the Dr. Suess books with the sneetches; the star bellied ones think they’re better than the rest just because they have stars. My dad talks to my brother, sister, and I a lot about how the whole world shut down for only 1% of the population that’s supposed to die from the virus, which makes it sound crazy.

***April 21, 2020 - Madeline Aucoin***

While all of this stuff still just keeps dragging on, I’ve been really searching for things to do to keep me busy. One of the main things that I have been doing is going on walks. Fresh air feels really good after mostly being inside all day. I like to walk over to Legacy Place, because its a nice path and its right across the street. However, it's super weird sometimes too. It feels like the upside down from Stranger Things, because half of the parking lot is completely empty and the only cars there are going to Whole Foods. I have been going to Legacy for almost all of my life and I’ve never seen anything like it. Every single store is closed except for Whole Foods and take-out places so nobody is ever there. It is a really relaxing place to go take a walk, but it is slightly creepy at the same time. I can’t wait for everything to open back up again.

***April 21, 2020 - Avery O’Connor***

During these times I have started to grow very bored. To combat my boredness I have been doing things that I definitely would not have done before the quarantine. I dyed my hair at home and then toned it with purple toner. My hair is now a mix of white, blonde, and a hint of purple. I really like it and I have been able to learn how to do a lot of things with my hair since I have so much time over this break. I miss my friends. I hate not being able to laugh with them everyday and play around in class. I also tried to re-pierce my second hole in my ear, but it got really swollen, so I had to stop because I thought my ear was going to pop. I have done a lot of painting this break. I have painted the deck and the exterior of the other house my dad owns, and then we are going to paint our own house. After that, we are going to paint my aunt's deck, who broke her hip recently. I try to keep myself busy, but everyday I run out of things to do and I return to binge watching my shows on Netflix.

***April 21, 2020 - Benjamin Pfeifer***

Today is my birthday, and it’s a bit disappointing to be spending it in quarantine. I know that when all of this is over I will be able to have a fun celebration with all of my friends. I have gotten many texts and calls which is super nice, seeing how I can’t actually see a lot of people today. My family and I are still trying to make the most of the day. We are all going to have a nice dinner, cake, and hang out tonight. With news just being spread that school is cancelled for the rest of the year, I am a bit upset. It sucks that things will never go back to what they were for this year, but whatever they need to do to stop the spread and have the best set-up for next year, is what’s best. I am going to miss all of my teachers, but I am hoping I will be able to reunite with them eventually.

***April 21, 2020 - Zara Shabazz***

The news of school being cancelled for the rest of the year wasn’t a huge shock but still upsetting to hear, especially for seniors. I would be devastated if I was a senior and wasn't able to have a real graduation ceremony. Completing school work outside of class feels very different, almost like homeschooling. I don’t like it very much because I find it much easier for myself to procrastinate. But, I hope to improve on that and make myself organized with a schedule for school work and tasks to do. I try to keep myself busy with activities like painting, or cleaning/organizing, and taking walks or runs at the park occasionally. Keeping yourself busy is a very good way to get into a routine during these hard times.

***April 21, 2020 - Zachary Jurdan***

I haven’t been doing well with my school work, but this week I intend to complete all of it. I usually am bad at that, I get easily distracted and just don't do any homework but I have removed all distractions so I can easily complete all I have. I think the lack of social contact is hurting us all, I have been on calls with my cousins and Facetime my friends regularly to keep in contact but it isn't the same, and I don't think I can stand my family for another few weeks. I decided to watch “TheWalking Dead” again last week and I’m already on season 5. I'm just very bored, not able to be out with friends. I am trying to learn popular songs on my saxophone just to keep myself occupied, I am also trying to learn how to play the Otamatone that I have but it’s hard and very annoying to my family. Really missing school and friends, I hope we are back soon if at all this year.

***April 21, 2020 - Vivien Boudette***

Quarantine has been going on for about 5 weeks now, and it has started to feel a little bit more normal, but honestly, the longer I am in quarantine the harder it is to be isolated from the world. Every new week and every new day that passes by, I just want to be “free” and want to see friends, go places, etc. Every new day, I was just able to be free more, but the news seems to tell otherwise. There have been a lot of stories about coronavirus going all the way into the summer, or even next year, and a second wave/strain of the virus coming back in the fall. This is scary to think about, and it's really weird to think that this quarantine lifestyle is just going to be our normal lifestyle for a while.

Of course, the future is unpredictable, and anything could happen. Coronavirus could be over soon, or it could become a virus that regularly comes back. It is impossible for anyone, even a medical expert, to predict exactly what will happen and how long the entire world will be shut down. I think everyone is hoping for everything to be okay sooner than later, but all we can do is continue to take precautions and time will tell what will happen.

***April 21, 2020 - Anonymous Student***

Well my life has been kind of all over the place. I’ve been experiencing a lot of emotions: sad, happy, lazy, inspired. Today I woke up to a message from my friends that we won’t be going back to school. I honestly didn’t know how to take it. I definitely knew that it was coming but I was kind of happy with the idea if we did. I even had a dream about it. My dream was that we actually returned on May 4th and I was getting ready to go school. I put on my best outfit like it was the first day of school and was nervous. You know how dreams take you from one place to another all of sudden, so all of sudden I was walking around with my friends trying to find the study group for the AP Bio Exam. When I woke I was so confused because I don’t even take AP Bio??!! But anyways now I’m kind of just wanting to go outside and hang out with my friends. I never really missed school, I just miss hanging out with my friends. I’m also glad that we cancelled April vacation because it’s honestly so stupid since were already in “vacation.” That would mean that we are done with online school earlier so I think that’s really good.

***April 21, 2020 - Leila Smadi***

Obviously, I understand that there are people in the world that are in much worse circumstances than I'm in, but I can't help it feeling disappointed about how the rest of this year could be affected. There were a lot of things that I was looking forward to in the spring, like the musical, the spring one-act plays, and an internship I was going to do and they’ve all been cancelled . My summer has been affected as well, because one of the summer programs that I've been attending the past 2 years has been cancelled, as well as summer swim team, and I know that I won't be able to work for at least the first half of summer. I think this year has been the most challenging academically and I was really looking forward to having a fun, relaxing summer but from the looks of it, that probably won't be happening since coronavirus cases are still skyrocketing. I really hope it dies down soon so the 2021 school year won't be affected.

***April 21, 2020 - Brendan Stamm***

Today, the governor announced that all schools will be closed for the rest of the year. I was very surprised when he announced this, because I was expecting to go back for at least a couple weeks. I think it makes sense though because in Massachusetts, we’re on the decline, and if everyone went back to school, that could cause a second wave. It’s likely the right decision, but I still think it’s crazy that we’re going to be out of school for almost 3 months due to a virus. I never would have thought something like this would ever happen during my lifetime, but sure enough, it did.

***April 21, 2020 - Anonymous Student***

What’s up? Today, my schedule was pretty empty as usual. We are going on week six of quarantine. I still can’t believe it’s been six weeks since school, and life as we know it shutdown due to the Covid-19 outbreak. The days go by slow, while the weeks go by fast. Time flies when you're doing nothing at home (no sarcasm intended). My days have consisted of dog walking, doing homework, and eating mini muffins. More specifically, blueberry Little Bites. I have also read four more books since the last journal. I’m on a roll.

My mom has been pretty busy with work, so she hasn’t had much time to fill me in on the news. I can take a guess though. Donald Trump probably made more false coronavirus related claims while the media is flooded with every corona related story possible. OMG, another grandchild visits their grandparent with a sign outside a nursing home. Up next, pets are flying off the shelves spreading joy during these troubling times. What are people going to do with all these new pets when they have to go back to work? Just because they have time now to take care of a new dog or cat, don’t they remember the reason they never got a pet before quarantine. In other news, I heard through the grapevine that North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un was very ill. I can only pray he goes quick.

My mom did tell me about the obituary pages in the newspaper. Allegedly, with the corona outbreak, there are 5 times as many obituary pages which is sad as the virus is so easily spread and deadly. Luckily, to my knowledge none of my friends or family have contracted the virus. Also is it just me or does the words “social distancing”, and “pandemic” really hit a nerve. I’m so tired of hearing them, and honestly whenever I do, I feel a mix between unbearable cringe and anger. I have not adventured back into the grocery stores, but I can only imagine things haven’t changed much. With items flying off the selves, you would think the grocery stores would stop restocking the items that don’t sell. If you can’t sell a certain food during a pandemic, then you will never be able to sell such an item. For example, I feel as though now is a good time to remove olives completely. In my opinion, olives are the most undesirable food in the market. No offense if you like olives; I personally believe they taste like burnt rubber. My sophomore year, though shortened, has been the best year of high school so far.

***April 21, 2020 - Katherine Soucie***

Today, I watched Governor Baker’s press conference. After hearing him talk about the number of cases and the number of available hospital beds, he finally told us what was inevitable. We will not be returning to school this year. My mom had suspected it and told me to prepare myself, so it wasn’t a complete shock, but it is still crazy. Like my sophomore year is over, like that was it. Not only am I sad that I will not see my friends for at least another month and a half, probably more, I can’t get my licence. I haven’t even started my driving lessons but because of this quarantine I have been driving every day. I feel like I could take the test now and I would pass. Overall, I miss my friends and I miss having fun.

***April 21, 2020 - Kaitlin Sullivan***

The coronavirus has caused school to officially end for the year. Although I expected this, it is still sad to hear. It also makes me feel very badly for the seniors since it is such an unimaginable way to end a year with such importance. I am very grateful for all of the healthcare workers and how brave they are. I saw a story about a New York doctor who actually got the virus, but returned to work as soon as he recovered. In addition, I saw another about how a retired physician, who was 68 making her at higher risk, offered to help once she saw it was needed. Something that is getting me pretty upset is how people are protesting stay at home orders. The reason as to why this gets me mad is because there is a reason for it. By people going outside in large groups, they are not just putting themselves at risk, but all the people they come in contact with. In times like these we cannot be consumed by selfish wishes, but instead help and support those who need it.

***April 21, 2020 - Zachary Keaney***

I really don’t know what to do with myself anymore, I haven’t had my phone the whole quarantine and so I can’t talk to my friends. I really miss my friends and I feel like they are all strangers to me, like I have to re-meet them and re-befriend(?) them. I feel like every day this whole situation gets more and more absurd. I just want everything to go back to normal but I fear it never will. My neighbor told me that if we are going back to school this year, her mom won't let her go because of the virus. I feel like nobody will look at crowds the same way again. What if after it's over people are still wearing facemasks? Or asking to stay 6 feet apart? I wish none of this ever happened.

***April 21, 2020 - Rahul Sharma***

I was on my phone and then saw that schools had been cancelled for the rest of the year. It was crazy. I had many thoughts in my head about what was going to happen about school. Would we repeat the year, when school would start, and could this be changed? I think it's crazy that in the future people would look back at now for history and we would have lived it.

***April 27, 2020 - Brendan Stamm***

I’m still in shock that school is canceled for the rest of the year. We were only in school for just over half the year, and we’re missing about 3 months of the school year. It feels like an extended summer break, with more work, and everything is closed. Also, it doesn’t feel like late April already. I feel like it’s the middle of the winter because I can’t go out and do anything I would normally do in the spring. I just hope mostly everything is cleared up by the summer, and definately by the fall. I love to play hockey, and train, and I haven’t been able to do that since the end of February because of the coronavirus. I really hope stuff begins to open soon so I can get back to training and playing hockey. I honestly miss playing hockey more than I miss seeing all my friends at school. Hopefully this will clear up in the next month or so, so I can get back on the ice and in the gym.

***April 27, 2020 - Anonymous Student***

Hello Journal!! Today was the same as them all. Woke up, ate muffins, watched some netflix, did some homework, had some Chinese food take out, and I am hopefully going to go to sleep before 2 am. Not making any promises. Staying motivated during this time has been hard because there is just no incentive, or tests/ quizzes to study for. Not that I want to be taking tests, but online school is just not the same as being in a classroom with my friends and teachers. There is also not much to do except what you have been procrastinating for the past couple months, which I continue to procrastinate. I don’t know how people work from home. Honestly, the only skill I have learned during this whole quarantine is how to convince myself to procrastinate more. For example, after opening my chromebook to do an assignment, I convince myself that the simple lifting of the screen was enough, and maybe I should take a Netflix break.

I have listened to a lot of country music as of late. What is everyone’s deal with it? I like it, and it reminds me of the good times ahead, especially summer. The worst part of this whole thing is that even though it is almost summer time, and we won’t have to deal with school work, the possibility of still being stuck in quarantine by then is maddening. If I were to make a prediction about the future which seems so unpredictable after this complete dumpster fire of two months, I have a feeling, in the long run, this is going to go down as the craziest year of my life. Hopefully this will all end soon, so I can see my friends before I lose all sanity. I have finished a couple series on Netflix including Outer Banks. I started Tiger King, but I got bored. Maybe I will try to get into it again. I believe I have watched every SNL skit to date.

All I can wish for at this point is for the AP exams to be over. I am so scared, especially since I have never taken an AP exam before, and timed exams make me anxious. Also my brain feels like soup after two months of quarantine, so… I am not feeling too good. Thankfully the subject material they are testing us on is limited to only a couple chapters which was a huge relief. I also can’t seem to do anything productive before 7pm.

No more news of Kim Jong Un since last week. Is he alive? Is he not? Who is to know. In the president's very presidential addresses, Donald Trump informed the country to inject themselves with disinfectant as a treatment for the coronavirus. I think the hair dye and self tanner has finally reached his brain. He claimed the statements were sarcasm. I think I can speak for the majority of Americans when I say we are laughing at him, not with him. Even though the lack of activity around the world has led to weakened economies, I believe this quarantine has been good to the environment with less transportation pollution, and such.

***April 27, 2020 - Avery O’Connor***

Since I have been home I have been eating very unhealthy food, so I have decided to start eating better. My AAU basketball team and I shared recipes with each other for healthy meals that we can eat. I have made many new delicious things that are healthy. I am enjoying being able to eat fruit smoothie bowls and different types of salads. I was able to go grocery shopping with my parents and they let me pick the foods I wanted to eat. I am starting to feel more productive because of school work, working out, and I have been being more active. I am happy that I do not feel super stressed out about school, but I do miss seeing my friends. The one thing I do not miss at all about school is the tests for some of my classes. On test days I was always very stressed and it was always hard trying to be happy on those days. I am also happy that I have had time to do more of the things that I love. I am happy about this nice break, but it also is bad at the same time.

***April 27, 2020 - Liam Kayyal***

Over the course of this school closure, I have come to realize that doing my schoolwork daily is much easier and more beneficial than doing it all in one day. I found that spreading out the work allows me to absorb more information rather than be overwhelmed by a large amount of information in one day. With the AP exam nearing, I may have to start doing several assignments per day for certain classes to reserve a lot of time to study. I have also realized that April is already almost over, which seems crazy to me considering that we left school in March. Despite all of these realizations, I have been making the best of these times and doing what I can to stay in good health.

***April 27, 2020 - Francie Mullen***

It’s been rainy and gloomy for a while. It kind of sucks to be stuck inside the house when you’re already stuck staying six feet apart from the rest of the world. My dad says the rain is good for the grass seed he put down before it started raining. Although even when it’s been nice out there have been days when I’ve been stuck inside because of how much work I have. There have even been times where I haven’t been able to clean my room because I’ll be doing school work until five or six o’clock. I feel like I’m spending more time on school work than I would during a normal school day, but I think that’s just because I finish later cause I wake up later.

***April 27, 2020 - Owen McNamara***

This virus is causing me to go insane. The weather has been terrible lately so it has been difficult to go outside. The only thing I am looking forward to is the Michael Jordan Documentary on ESPN. For five weeks there are two hours of the documentary on Sunday Nights. Last night I watched the second part or episodes 3 and 4 as they are broken down. It is such a good program and I will be sad when it is over. I have been doing my schoolwork during the week and then I become very bored on the weekends. My motivation to do school work has diminished over time because I am thinking what is the point if we are not going back to school. I do think that life will never be the same after this. I do not think people will handshake anymore and other things like that. It will be interesting to see what is going to happen in this world. I think it is very premature to open things in the states like Georgia but time will only tell.

***April 27, 2020 - Zachary Keaney***

I was absolutely devastated when I discovered that we weren't returning to school this year. Never in my whole life have I ever wanted to go to school so badly. Of course I miss my friends, but I genuinely miss my teachers and it makes me so sad that I will never return to their classes. The next time I am in school I will have completely different teachers and classes. This year I was blessed with really good teachers and I felt comfortable in all of their classes; this has never happened to me before! I really hope I am as lucky next year but it will never be the same as my sophomore year. I am really grateful for the amount of time I had to spend in school this year and so I can't say 100% that it was ruined.

***April 27, 2020 - Sani Lewis***

Today is my dad’s birthday. He’s another year older than what he was before and I couldn’t be prouder. My mom is also pregnant with my step dads baby but we have no clue of the gender but I believe it is a girl. I already have two younger brothers so having a baby sister won’t be as hard for me. My maturity was already high, but since all of this quarantine has been going on I feel as if this helps build on my character. It helps me learn and grow on the things I need too.

***April 27, 2020 - Vivien Boudette***

Another week has passed in quarantine, and things have pretty much remained the same in the world. Corona cases have been rising, deaths have been rising, and people have been isolated. Things got a little bit more real this week, as we learned school will be out for the rest of the year. This is really weird to think about and realize that I won’t see a lot of my peers until next year, I will never step into another one of my classes from this year, etc. Something that is even worse about this is that even though we get to be out of school for longer than just summer, we cannot even go anywhere or see friends. When looking at the news, whether it’s on a website, or even just on the TV, it seems like every single story is about the virus or the pandemic. It feels like the virus is taking over the world in a way. Although there is so much negativity associated with this virus worldwide, I feel like there are actually positive things about it. I think overall, the world has become more connected from the pandemic and rather than focusing on war, conflict, etc, we are focusing on working together to overcome this time together and even help each other out.

***April 27, 2020 - Anonymous Student***

I’ve been really struggling with how to manage my time. I underestimate the amount of work I have and usually put it off until the last day which ends up biting me in the butt in the end. Procrastination has really been hitting hard now. I’ve been thinking of how this is all going to end. Not so much on when it’s going to end because God knows when that will happen, but more so what will happen when the quarantine is lifted. I feel like life will definitely be different for everyone after all of this. We won’t “go back to normal.” I don’t really know how to explain but we’ll see life in a different light, I guess. Like a fresh start. Most of us will start another year of school. And the seniors of 2020 will start college! It’s weird to think about.

***April 27, 2020 - Leila Smadi***

I’m starting to lose track of days, it feels like March was only yesterday. Time is passing so quickly, but days are passing slowly. If I look at the clock and then look at it again later, I’m always surprised to see that only twenty minutes have passed because twenty minutes feels like two hours. I feel like I’ve also lost productivity, because I haven’t really been doing much besides sleeping and watching tv. The first few weeks of this, I was super productive but now I’m the complete opposite of that.

***April 27, 2020 - Kaitlin Sullivan***

Life still feels weird at a time like this. During the weekend I went to the grocery store for the first time since COVID19 got very serious. My mom brought me a mask from work to wear for the sake of other people. Wearing the mask made me realize how appreciative I am to all those healthcare workers because honestly, it is harder to breathe in them. I could not imagine having to wear multiple masks for hours and hours on end, I know it is important to do so, but still. It is also strange that when I was walking through the store I noticed that when someone was not wearing a mask they were definitely in the minority. It makes me happy to see this though because even if it is an adjustment, it is so important to make these changes in order to keep other people safe.

***April 27, 2020 - Benjamin Pfeifer***

For my journal today, I am going to be talking about my daily routine in quarantine and how it has changed. At the beginning of the quarantine, when work was not mandatory and I wasn’t motivated to do anything, I would sleep until about 11:30 or 12, and then get up. I would keep up with work for some classes, but ignore most of it. Then I would go on a walk later in the day. At night I would watch a lot of TV and play Roblox with my friends. Now though, I feel like I have a really good schedule and daily set up for myself. During the beginning when I was not as productive, I was still keeping up with some sort of exercise (walking, online routines, etc.), and now that is very important in my day to me. I wake up and eat breakfast at about 9:30. Then I do a workout, get ready for the day, and clean up my room. By about 11:30/12 I log onto Classroom and check out what work I have to do for the day. I try and get all of my assignments done by about 3:30/4 (this is about half of a normal school day). I also break for lunch at some point during the day as well. Then at night I try to go to bed earlier (10:30-12) so that I can get up and have a productive day. Overall, I am glad that my daily routine has improved for the better.

***April 29, 2020 - Ashton LaCharite***

My feelings haven't changed much since we’ve been in quarantine. It feels odd to be considered a primary source in history but it has got me thinking. We are no different than the citizens that were diseased in the 1300’s due to the bubonic plague. Sure our advancements in medication plays a bigger role in keeping the virus at bay but it still begs to question if we are going to be recorded any differently than they were. Our future textbooks will talk about the big leaders who may or may not be doing the right things for our people. But, the textbooks wont talk about the “little people” or most importantly, the people it had affected the most. Sure we’ll be mentioned as numbers or statistics, but will they ever know us by name? I'm sure it wouldn’t be that way, which is fine because it's not an important detail. But i've always wondered what it would have been like to directly know about a person in the same class (socially) as me during that time period. People, of course, could look back on any Instagram posts, or journals we leave behind. But would that be enough? One person surely couldn't speak for all 7 billion of us on what we thought about the virus at the time. I'm sure as a teacher, looking at each journal entry the students give that you can tell the similarities and differences in our outlook on the situation.

***May 4, 2020 - Troy Thornton***

Only 7 weeks left of school. I really want school to be over. I really don’t enjoy the school work I’m getting. I have work every single day. I did actually like the guiding questions video we did yesterday. I found the Donner Party situation to be very interesting. It is kinda weird how I’m more worried about school than I am about the coronavirus. But honestly, besides the school work, I’m fairly content staying at home. I do kinda miss my friends though, so it would be nice to see them again. But besides that, I’m good.

***May 11, 2020 - Dariana Guevara***

Wow, only 6 weeks left of school. That is so hard to believe. This school year has passed by so quickly yet so slowly. Everything going on right now still feels so unreal to me. It has been about 2 months since staying home. Don’t get me wrong, I love spending time with my family, but we are all spending too much time together that it’s extremely frustrating sometimes. As I am pretty sure I have said before I have used this time for self care. This past weekend was Mother’s Day so we had dinner with my grandparents (we live together). But I also took the time to pamper myself. I did a face mask and I gave myself an at home mani-pedi and it was nice. May for me is easily the worst month ever. I know a lot of people might love May because of the weather but not me. Unfortunately I suffer from severe pollen allergies which sucks. But it does start to clear up in June so that is what I look forward to. That is all I am looking forward to as of right now. I can’t wait for June to come so I can finally feel like myself again without all the sneezing and puffy eyes.

***May 11, 2020 - Zara Shabazz***

This past weekend was Mother’s Day, so my family and I visited my grandmother and we all had a nice dinner. I painted my grandmother an abstract painting as a gift for Mother’s Day. My family and I have also been enjoying card games and board games to play. As we come to the middle of May, I have a feeling some places will start to gradually open up. Some states have already opened up businesses but with social distance rules, which is a start.

***May 11, 2020 - Landon Silver***

Well recently my parents have been forcing me to go driving so I can get out of the house, even though I can’t hang out with my friends so why would I have left, and I went on a drive today. It was good I guess it was really a 20 min driving session and it was just like every other one. Also I have been slowly getting to platinum on “Rainbow Six Siege” I’m getting closer, although I solo que so it is rather difficult. Overall every day kind of feels the same in quarantine, I feel like literally the only difference is what classes work I decide to do for the day. Also I have found that I am very forgetful, and sometimes I put off work saying I’ll do it another day just to never do it so online class really is not as good as real school at all. I really would much prefer real school.

***May 11, 2020 - Ashton LaCharite***

Today has been a bit slow but it's been enjoyable. I spent my time organizing my room yet again putting off my school work. I'm finding it harder to keep motivated but I'm trying my best to stay focused. I've been doing some indoor gardening and ive made a few moss jars. Today i planted some oregano and put some candles on my windowsill. I'm hoping that creating a calmer environment in my room will help motivate me to do some work. Ive been reaching out to more people in my communities and joining a few groups that do weekly “movie nights”. I finally finished part 2 of “JoJo’s Bizarre Adventure” with my parents. I'm thinking about watching Gundam Wing because a friend of mine has been begging me to watch it with her. I'm still keeping busy with writing and trying to stay creative. Im sure its driving my parents crazy at this point! Lets hope we don't go any longer before I start painting the walls!

***May 11, 2020 - Troy Thornton***

I think there’s only 6 weeks left of school. That’s pretty cool, since it’s going to go by quick. But next week I have to do the AP Bio test, so that’s not going to be fun. But I feel like this week’s going to be ok. I don’t feel like it’s going to be as busy as last week or the week before. Apparently on the news, some states are starting to open up stores and restaurants. So there’s a chance that I might be able to hang out with friends before the school year ends. That’s something I’m looking forward to. But overall, I’m doing fine. I’m making my way through the pandemic like everyone else.

***May 12, 2020 - Trinity Vo***

I am so happy and relieved that the AP exam is over. I definitely feel less stressed and that the rest of the school year is a breeze, it's practically summer lol. I ordered a ripsurf which is like a ripstick but looks like a mini surfboard, and although I don’t know how to ride a ripstik, my mom thinks I need something to do or learn to keep me sane. I don’t know if this is true but Baker is starting to allow places to open back up and slowly lift the stay at home order? I hope this is true because then things can go back to normal.

***May 12, 2020 - Owen McNamara***

I am excited that the golf courses have opened. I will be playing golf Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. It is an activity that can be very socially distant and it will be good to be outdoors for long periods of time while remaining socially distant. I hope this thing ends soon but I know that there is going to be a new normal in regards to everyday life.

***May 12, 2020 - Anonymous Student***

Yet another week has gone by and the boredom has started to set in. I’m pretty impressed with how long it took though, I was feeling good up until last week. We have still been having movie nights, and the peak of my week was probably making a batch of chocolate chip cookies. I have also still been running with my cousins, on Friday we saw baby geese. They were adorable but the adult geese freak me out, they look so vicious, like they are going to attack at any moment. My brother wants to get ducks which I think is a horrible idea, they will be cute when they’re little but who wants a grown up duck? Also they need water to swim in and it's not like we have a pond in our backyard. My brother has always loved animals and tried to find ways to convince our parents, but they have never worked, I’m worried because now my mom isn’t shooting down his ideas. Either she's giving him false hope, which is just mean, or she's actually considering getting ducks, a dog, a cat, and a hedgehog. If they do get another animal I just hope they wait until I go to college because there is no way I’m taking care of it. We already have the cutest little bunny but I do most of the work even though she is both of our responsibilities.

Anyway, the movies this week were great in my opinion. Friday night my parents wanted to have a “date night” so they ate food in the basement and watched a movie on the laptop, while Sid and I stayed upstairs. We decided that Sid would pick a movie and then I would pick one. He picked something called “Undercover Grandpa,” which I’m sure was fine, but I convinced him that we should watch “Dirty Grandpa” instead. It was definitely inappropriate, but it was hilarious, and pretty on par with other movies we have watched over quarantine. Then I got to pick the next movie, I chose “The Breakfast Club.” I’ve seen it a few times but it's a great movie and surprisingly, Sid loved it, he said that was the best movie night ever so props to me. The next night some suggestions were thrown out, mostly Pixar movies, but no one could agree, then I remembered a movie that I loved as a kid but I barely remembered it now, I had seen it in the movie theater with my dad, I must have been 4 or 5, we also had it on DVD and I used to watch it in the car. It was the perfect movie for tonight and I knew everyone would be on board. So I said my suggestion, Wall-E. I know it's a kids movie but it has some great messages and it's really well made. There are a lot of images that make you think about the future and how we should be treating the earth. I highly recommend it for all ages.

***May 13, 2020 - Madelin Aucoin***

I am starting to get really tired of being stuck in quarantine. Not being able to go to the theatre, hang out with friends, and go to school is something that I did not think I would have to deal with for this long. I have been doing a lot of drive by parades for my friends on their birthdays. It feels kind of weird doing them because they are so unusual and something that I would never think I would be doing. They are really fun though. My friends and I play loud music and make posters and cards and social distance while wishing our friends a happy birthday. I am hoping we can begin coming out of social distancing, because it is kind of driving me crazy.

***May 13, 2020 - Brendan Stamm***

I am beginning to get pretty bored during this “stay at home advisory”. I haven’t been able to play hockey or even be on the ice in over 2 months. That’s the longest I have ever gone without playing hockey, and it’s driving me crazy. Hockey is a large part of my life all year round, and it’s crazy that I haven’t been able to play in 2 months. Also, when I’m not playing on the ice, I’m usually in the gym at least 3 times a week, but I can’t do that either. I’m really hoping things start to open back up soon because I am getting very bored stuck at home.

***May 26, 2020 - Vivien Boudette***

Now that we have been in quarantine and doing school online for a while, I have started to get pretty used to it. A few weeks ago, I still found it very weird having to do school online and a little bit hard to manage when to do each of my assignments. However, now that it has been a while, I have gotten used to it and it feels a lot more normal doing online school. Additionally, I have been able to manage completing all my assignments better. Of course, although I have adapted, I still really hope we go to school in the fall. I would not want to have to do school online for much longer than the rest of the year, especially since in the fall I will be entering a new grade with new teachers and classes, and I feel like it's vital to meet teachers and classmates in person rather than having to introduce myself to the class completely remotely.

I think one of the reasons I have been able to do well online is because I was with my teachers for a majority of the year in person, and they taught me skills to use for their classes and assignments that I can apply to online assignments as well. If I were to have to be online in the fall, I feel like it would be a lot harder to understand what each of my classes was about and it could be hard to learn new content without the teacher being in person to help. Not only am I hoping the fall will be normal, but I hope that some of the summer will be too. I have not been able to see my friends in person in a long time, and when summer comes I am going to want to see them even more. The weather will be nice and I will have no school/other things to do.

***May 26, 2020 - Owen McNamara***

Over the last few weeks the weather has gotten better. I think that this has given this current situation a bit of hope for the future. I have been playing a lot of golf lately. It is really safe and you never come in contact with any other people. It is amazing to walk around. For a couple of hours you can forget the global pandemic. I am hoping that school will return to a new normal. I am sick of online learning and I truly miss school. With that, I hope that fall sports do happen. I personally play golf and that could be feasible. I understand that other sports may not be possible but golf definitely would be.

***May 26, 2020 - Francie Mullen***

My family went to the deCordova Museum for my parents' anniversary. It’s an outdoor sculpture park that we’ve been to a few times before, but they sometimes change the sculptures shown. They made everyone wear masks who were there and only let a certain number of people in. It was really nice to get out of the house. A lot of the sculptures were really interesting as well. One of the sculptures was a large piece of wood that was painted to look like the trunk of a tree. We couldn’t tell whether or not it was real until we were up close to it.

Later that day my grandmother came over to have dinner with us. We ate outside and we ordered out and sat across the patio from each other. She brought a plant that she was keeping in her house and asked if I wanted to take care of it because it was getting too big to stay inside. Since summer is going to be here soon and because school is there I said I would take care of it. Hopefully it will keep me busy during quarantine.

***May 26, 2020 - Trinity Vo***

I think things have been slowly getting better, I’ve seen a lot of people beginning to hang out again. It makes me nervous because I know that the virus is still out and everywhere, but since the weather is nice and small businesses reopened, people think that it is over. I’ve even seen people have sleepovers which I find ridiculous. I want to hang out with my friends but I know it isn’t right but it feels unfair that everyone is still hanging out.

***May 26, 2020 - Benjamin Pfeifer***

For my journal today I’m going to be talking about some of the good things that quarantine has led to. I feel like there has been so much negative energy surrounding what is going on right now, but on the flipside I think I have improved certain aspects of my life a lot. First, my eating habits have improved a lot. Usually, I would base my meals off of my schedule and how much time I had. For example, in the morning before school I would quickly get a granola bar, pop two waffles in the toasters, or heat up a frozen egg sandwich. But now, I can take more time to make something healthy and something I will enjoy. Also, I used to have to rush to eat lunch during school, and some days dinner and lunch would kind of be one meal. For example, if I had work after school and then rehearsal after work, I would stop at Dedham House of Pizza or Cafe Bagel like 10 minutes before my shift started, scarf down half of whatever I got, and then finish it after work. This worked for those days but obviously isn’t an ideal eating plan. Overall I have a lot more time to think about what I am eating and have better habits with it. I also have gotten into a good workout routine, which I definitely did not have time for during the school year. I literally struggled trying to find a way to go to the gym during school. There just wasn’t a way for me to fit it in with school, rehearsals, and work. But now, I have more time to do that and have been working out everyday. Overall, I think in my routines there has been improvement due to quarantine.

***May 26, 2020 - Anonymous Student***

How's it going Journal! It is almost June! Can you believe it? It feels like the school year never happened as we have been out of school for almost 3 months now. I’m starting to forget what it was like to be a highschool sophomore which is wild. I desperately hope we can return to school by September and that fall sports don’t face the same fate as spring sports.

On another note, the weather has been so nice as summer sneaks up on us. I have been spending a lot more time outside taking my dog on walks, going on bike rides with friends, and more. For Memorial Day, I went to my cousins house for the weekend. They have a pool, so being quarantined with them was as close as I could get to a tropical oasis. While in New Hampshire, I also drove for the first time. Though I don’t have a permit, and know absolutely nothing about the rules of the road, do not fear. I stayed within the expanse of an empty Methodist church parking lot. When my older brother first learned to drive, he was a little trigger happy with the gas and brake. A few minutes in the car with him when he first got behind the wheel led to my self diagnosed case of whiplash. With the roles reversed, I realize now the gas and brake are a lot more sensitive than I imagined, and I almost plowed into a light pole. Other than that small incident, I did pretty good. I even used my blinkers which can not be said of many drivers. My twin brother also drove for his first time, and another sibling rivalry comenses. Who will be the better driver? Hopefully I will get my license first, as we are going to have to share a car.

I have also continued to read a lot while keeping up with the online school work. So far this year I have read 23 books! In addition, I am still listening to country music. I feel summer is the season of country music, so my current obsession was perfectly timed.

My favorite singer is Ariana Grande (to clarify, I am aware she is not a country singer). She recently came out with two new songs. One with Justin Bieber called “Stuck with U” and another with Lady Gaga, “Rain On Me”. I love both of her new songs, and highly recommend them. The vocals are just out of this world.

Unfortunately there is no new uplifting corona related news to report. This pandemic has proved our president is unstable, and extraordinarily ignorant. I fear he believes he is a character in his own show, “The Apprentice”, where he can fire the employees of the executive branch on the basis of petty disagreements when his beliefs are almost always based on false information or utter nonsense. As well as using Twitter to attack congressman Conor Lamb, a Marine Corps veteran, on Memorial Day, our president has also invested his time in an anti-mask campaign. Though I could care less if he himself contracts Covid-19 due to his vain attempts to not wear a mask, he is putting his employees and everyone he comes into contact with at risk. January 2021 could not come soon enough.

***May 26, 2020 - Liam Kayyal***

Recently I have been doing many of the same things, though I am anxiously waiting for the state to reopen. Although many people seem to be going out due to the progression and reopening in other states, Massachusetts has still not seen a steady decline in confirmed cases or deaths, meaning it might even see an increase in these areas. Though we are in phase one of reopening, I believe it is only to boost the economy, as the coronavirus does not seem to be slowing down and is still affecting many people. When the state does reopen I will hopefully be able to go back to work and see my friends without having to worry so much about distancing or getting sick. Meanwhile, I will most likely continue to stay home and do my homework, play video games, and go out to walk and enjoy the great weather that we have been having. It is already almost June which is hard to believe, as it feels like it was March a few weeks ago. Ultimately, I hope things are as normal as possible some time in the near future, though a legitimate steady decrease in coronavirus cases seems doubtful at the moment.

***May 26, 2020 - Brendan Stamm***

I am beginning to get very bored at home. I was really hoping that gyms, fields, and hockey rinks would open so I could start getting out. Now, with the governor's plan, many places won’t open up until late June, or even July, which is crazy. I feel like they’re being a little bit over-cautious, but I understand why. I understand that opening too quickly will cause another wave, but I think they’re dragging it out a little too long. I think they could have started phase 1 of the plan at the beginning (or early) May. Also, I think other small businesses need to be opened very soon, because some might not be able to survive being closed this long. There is really no reason a sporting goods store, or a clothing store should be closed. They’re no different than grocery stores, except for what they sell. Those other stores should be allowed to open, as long as everyone wears masks, everything is sanitized, etc.

***May 26, 2020 - Troy Thornton***

I haven’t been getting that much homework lately, so that’s good. Only 4 more weeks left of school, and I feel like it’s going to go by fast. In my spare time, I’ve been spending more time with friends, like talking to them over videogames or meeting up at endicott. I’m trying to be a better person, by talking to my friends more and caring for them. The government is slowly opening up more places, so that’s exciting. Hopefully I’ll be able to actually hang out with my friends soon. One thing I miss is buying stuff from Ebay. Because of the virus, Ebay doesn’t seem like a trustworthy place to buy stuff. But lately, I’ve been thinking of buying stuff again, and I’ll just wipe everything down once I get the package. But overall, I’m doing fine.

***May 26, 2020 - Avery O’Connor***

I am feeling good during this. I have a system for getting my school work, but it is starting to get harder because now with warm weather all I want to do is tan and swim. Some days I forgot that I even had homework until late at night because I was so busy during the day just having fun with my family outside. I am happy that the weather is getting warmer because it gives me so many more things to do and now that there is a decrease I am allowed to go over my grandparents and visit.

***May 27, 2020 - Landon Silver***

So this week I decided to get my first job, and I am working at Chick Fil-A. Most of my friends work there, 10 of them at the moment, so I decided getting a job there might be fun. I plan to save up as much money as I can for as long as I can, occasionally taking out 20 dollars here and there. I start Thursday and am not sure if I am excited or not. Also I have found out that online school is not for me and I need to go back to real school. Most of the time I decide I’ll do my schoolwork another day because there really is no penalty for doing it late, and now I have a pileup of work I need to do.

***June 1 , 2020 - Trinity Vo***

I am excited for summer and hopefully things can go back to normal. I am also completely shocked how some of my classmates or people I know in the school are reacting to the BLM movement. People are posting about how we should be peacefully protesting however this is only making their ignorance more apparent. Peaceful protesting has not worked in many situations, so why would it work now? There are also people acting like nothing is going on, continuing to post beach pictures, selfies, etc. it hurts to see that there are so many people in Dedham who are ignoring this issue. Additionally on Instagram, people have turned this movement into CHAIN MAIL, ignorance. Tagging 5 people and saying “tag 5 more people who will not break the chain” does absolutely nothing. In fact, it degrades the purpose of the movement, thinking it is equal to a fun tag you friend chain.

***June 1, 2020 - Brendan Stamm***

This past week the weather has been very nice so I have spent a lot more time outside. At this point it almost feels like summer, but with more summer work. I hope the plan for reopening stays on track because I’m dying to get out of the house, hang out with friends, go to a restaurant, etc. I also feel like the governor is being a little but too cautious with the reopening plan, but it’s better to be safe than sorry. As much as I want this whole thing to be over, I think it’s smart to take our time with reopening, but I wish everything started opening again. I’m also curious to see what happens in the fall with schools opening, and everything starting to get back to normal. There is supposed to be a second surge in the fall, so who knows if we will be out of school for part of next year too. I really hope the second surge isn’t as bad, so sports, school, and shops can stay open.

***June 1, 2020 - Owen McNamara***

This country is in turmoil with states reopening that I personally do not believe should. Also, with the death of George Floyd in Minnesota last week. The protests have been in countless cities and many celebrities have joined the protests like the Celtics forward Jaylen Brown. He drove 15 hours to protest in Atlanta. These protests are deserved and just in every aspect. However, the looting should stop. I am getting frustrated seeing people on social media not social distance any longer. People are not acting responsible and if they continue to do this people will still contract the virus and places will lose faster than they opened. They have already shut down one beach in the state and they will not be scared to shut down more beaches. Overall this country is at its lowest point and some people will make it worse if they act stupid.

***June 1, 2020 - Anonymous Student***

Lately, I’ve been pretty flustered with the news about George Floyd. I’ve been constantly posting on my social media about black lives matter and trying to make people understand the gravity of the situation. I honestly think that there is going to be a race war and I couldn’t be more supportive of it. Black people are constantly facing racism and this country still has the mindset that “they see no color” or that racism ended in the 60s. No ma’am. I think the people that have a mindset like that don’t realize they’re privileged and aren’t educating themselves on it. Either that or they're just blatantly ignorant. Everytime I go on social media I get angrier so I’ve been trying to take breaks from it. On the good news, summer is basically here! I’ve been having lots of cookouts with my family since we have a big backyard so we might as well put it to use. Since the restrictions are lowering I might be able to hang out with one of my friends but my mom is still ehh about it, so I’m gonna have to do more convincing.

***June 1, 2020 - Francie Mullen***

I can’t wait for summer to be here. I’ve had a lot of school work, especially since I have projects that got assigned this week. Also during summer, hopefully I will be able to do something new. Maybe if we’re lucky things will open up again and we can go to the beach or to an arcade or something like that. Or maybe at least see friends.

There’s also been a lot of upsetting news recently, and it’s been hard to stay informed about what’s happening without feeling terrible. That’s just with trying to stay up to date with what’s happening in America and generally world wide, but in my French class one of the weekly assignments is to read French news. I’ve been trying to find news articles for the assignments that are a little more positive or at least neutral, but it feels almost impossible to find an article like that.

***June 1, 2020 - Madeline Aucoin***

This week has been really sad, scary, and crazy. It doesn’t feel real. I think that the protest and Black Lives Matter movement is really important but it is just really surreal to see familiar streets and areas of Boston being completely destroyed in these riots and protests. The importance behind it and most of the motivation is reasonable and I understand that but I think it is also really scary and wrong that some people are using it as an excuse to raid and break into homes and businesses. I don’t disagree with the movement at all but it's really scary to watch it all go down. I honestly forgot about Coronavirus and quarantine because of all this and it feels like we are in an alternate reality. I really hope change is made and everything goes back to normal soon.

***June 1, 2020 - Vivien Boudette***

It’s weird to think that there are only 3 weeks of school left. I feel like this whole online learning experience has gone by extremely quickly, but at the same time, I also feel like it has been dragging on very slowly. I think it feels quick when I think about how my workload has decreased from when I was actually in school, and I have been able to choose when to do my work. However, it has also felt slow because of all the stuff that has been going on in the world everyday, as it feels like it's never going to end, and we have been in quarantine for so long I am starting to get sick of it. Overall, I am pretty happy that school will be ending, but I am also sad that I never really got to say goodbye to any of my teachers, seniors, or even see my friends before summer. Nevertheless, I am just going to push through these last 3 weeks and try to have an enjoyable summer considering the circumstances.

***June 1, 2020 - Liam Kayyal***

Over the past few weeks I have continued to do much of the same things: do my homework, play video games with my friends, and go outside to enjoy the weather. It doesn't feel like school is almost over, and for me it feels as if we are still where we left off in March. Contrarily though, it is actually already June, and I can’t wait for summer despite the idea that we may not be able to enjoy the summer this year like we have in the past. The coronavirus is still thriving in many parts of the country and may not be gone for a while, though some people are seemingly forgetting about the outbreak and are going outside to protest the police after the death of George Floyd.

Although peaceful protests are nice, I personally cannot see much justification in burning down the very cities that we live in and destroying stores, especially those that are small and are not parts of large corporations. Not to say that I think burning corporate stores is justified, as this is still the destruction of hundreds of thousands of dollars of products and property which belongs to corporations with no affiliation with the police nor the local governments. Unfortunately, I don’t think the rioting and looting will stop, and some people who do not believe in these protests are still taking advantage of an innocent man’s death to loot stores.

Ultimately, I have been doing well and can’t wait to go back to work and enjoy the summer through the coronavirus outbreak, and people around the country are rioting and harming police officers in hopes of justice against police brutality.

***June 2, 2020 - Anonymous Student***

Hello Journal! I don’t even know how to start this. So much has happened in the world since last week. Exactly, one week from today George Floyd, an unarmed black man, was murdered at the hands of a police officer in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Since then the nation has erupted into protest, some turning violent with Target raids, burning of police cars, and looting. The former officer who was video taped with his knee on Floyd's neck, ultimately leading to his death, was charged with third-degree murder and manslaughter. But, protesters say the charge isn't harsh enough, and are demanding charges for the two other officers seen in the video.

In addition, as I remarked in previous entries, our president is ignorant and has no filter. One of the many duties of the president is to act as a peacemaker and appease the American people. Donald Trump seems to be doing quite the opposite by threatening to deploy the United States Military on protesters. Our president also called violent protests “domestic acts of terror” which law enforcement would "dominate the streets” to stop. In addition, for a photo op and to hold a Bible outside St. John's Episcopal Church, a house of worship used by many American Presidents, PEACEFUL protestors were dispersed around the White House using rubber bullets, tear gas, and flash bangs. Trump also threatened to invoke the Insurrection Act dating back to 1807 to ensure violent protests end, declaring he would deploy “thousands and thousands of heavily armed soldiers, military personnel and law enforcement officers” to bring order.

There is so much wrong with all this, where to begin. First of all, what a waste of time and taxpayer dollars to attack peaceful protestors for a photoshoot. Utterly unacceptable. I do not understand any logical train of thought that could have crossed the President’s mind for him to think something like that is ok. Also, did he ever think why the Insurrection Act hasn’t been used in over 200 years? Maybe because attacking Americans with our own military just isn't a good idea. Also his use of violent rhetoric on twitter when addressing the current situation sweeping the nation has only fueled protestors. I believe the horrific death of George Floyd as well as many black Americans before him have sparked a new movement against hatred and racism which will hopefully bring the long awaited peace and justice to the United States.

***June 8, 2020 - Owen McNamara***

The last week has been crazy. So many things have happened and Covid-19 has taken a back seat. So many things have been happening like graduation and protests across the country. I have noticed that a lot of people have stopped social distancing. My family has had dinner with my cousins on our front lawn like 20 feet apart. We have done this around one time a week and it is very safe. Everyone brings their own dinner. It is a fun way to be safe but spend time with family. I have noticed that people are hanging out with their friends like it is normal. I live with my grandmother in the summer and I can’t rksk giving her the virus. I have been playing socially distant golf almost every single day. It is a great way to exercise and be outside while doing so.

***June 8, 2020 - David Liberatore***

End of the year already? With or without quarantine, the second half of a school year always seems to fly by, at least once you’re at the end. I’m gonna be a junior in a few months. There’s positives and negatives there.

On the one hand, junior year always seems to have something exciting in store, whether talking to someone who’s already had their junior year or simply watching any high school movie. On the other hand, that means worrying about college, extra pressure (from myself more than anyone else) to get a job at some point, SATs, and overall, a general sense of increased responsibility from the year before.

Of course, this is all assuming school starts back up in September, which we can’t even rely on anymore. The realization is sinking in that, including the one starting next week, I only have three summer vacations left. And one of them’s already been eaten up by coronavirus! At the end of every school year since probably eighth grade, I get the same feelings of being both somewhat anxious and somewhat excited for what the future will hold, but now, as I rocket toward upperclassman status, the anxious bit is bigger than previous years. But that stuff is all in the future, and right now, the future is especially uncertain, so I should probably focus more on the past and the present.

***June 8, 2020 - Vivien Boudette***

This school year started out pretty normal: I took the bus every morning, arrived at school, went to all my classes, went to lunch and talked with friends, went home, did homework, relaxed, went to sleep, woke up and repeated this schedule every week Monday through Friday. That was until March when Coronavirus hit and we have had to move to online learning instead.

Now my schedule is much more open-ended and not as concrete as it was before. I work on homework every day, but it is a lot easier to get distracted to do other things like watch TV, go outside, etc. When I first started the school year, I would have never predicted this situation to happen at all; I thought everything was going to be normal. It would be another year of high school, one step closer to graduation.

Even when the Coronavirus was first spotted in December in China, I remember worrying about what it could do if it reached the rest of the world, but I saw that as something that was impossible. In February and the weeks before school was announced dismissed for the first time, I still didn't really think about coronavirus that much, or see how bad it could get. Little did I know it would change the rest of my year and lead to devastation in our country. Now that school is going to be out for the summer, it still is not going to be normal.

I will probably see my friends and go places, but I won’t be able to do that so freely, as I have been able to do in the past. I will still have to think about Coronavirus, how it could affect me and, etc. Even when summer is over, I don't even know if school in the fall will be normal. We may have to continue to follow Coronavirus precaution, if the pandemic is still going on, meaning we may have to continue online, or classrooms may have to have spread out desks and limited numbers of students. Nevertheless, school is probably going to continue to look very different going forward.

Right now in the world there are so many things going on. There are now protests going on about police brutality and the death of George Flloyd. Around us, the world is changing, all throughout a pandemic. It feels very surreal to be living in a world with all this stuff going on, and it is weird to know I am living through a very historic time, that will definitely be recited in future textbooks.

***June 8, 2020 - Francie Mullen***

I can’t wait for summer. I’m not alone in feeling that way in my family because whenever it is brought up my mom says that the end of the school year can’t come soon enough. My brother and sister also say they’re ready for summer. There’s been a lot of school work and I haven’t had time to do much else than homework. Also hopefully with the summer things will have gotten better.

I’ve been putting together a small birthday gift for my friend. I’m trying to get some of her favorite candy together, but there’s not a lot of options on junk food or candy in stores and my parents are the ones who go to the store. I’m also planning to give her a small plant as a “quarantine buddy”. The plant I want to give her is a small flat cactus that right now is only about as big as the palm of my hand, but it can get much bigger. The plant is part of a bigger plant that is just about 10 inches tall. It is in a small ceramic pot that has purple and blue glaze on it. My mom said that we can drop it off at her house on her birthday and I’m looking forward to doing so. Maybe we can have a picnic in her yard if we sit far away enough.

***June 8, 2020 - Katherine Soucie***

This is crazy. I can’t believe that this is the last week of school. On one hand, I feel like we were just in school, but I also can't really remember school that much. Each day feels long, but every week feels short. Our above ground pool got put in on Thursday and today the electrician is here to hook up the filter. It is supposed to be nice all week so we should be able to swim! I feel like next year is going to be very difficult. Not only is it junior year, commonly known as the hardest year of high school, but it is going to be the year after this pandemic. I feel like I am not going to be prepared for next year, meaning not as prepared as I should be. I don’t know, I feel like I am not going to know everything that I need to know for next year’s classes. This is if next school year happens at all. It is kind of crazy to think that this would last until next year, but then again nobody thought any of this would happen.

I don’t know what is going to happen next year, but it wouldn’t surprise me if we are going to be sitting in class next year with masks on. On another note, I hope I can go to the beach soon. The reopening process is starting again and today marked the second phase. I am not entirely sure what was opened today, but I think the DMV and driving schools opened. So hopefully, I can start my driving hours soon and eventually get my license.

***June 8, 2020 - Trinity Vo***

It's hard to believe that sophomore year is pretty much over now, I feel like it went by extremely fast but slow at the same time. Things seem like it's finally going back to normal although it's hard to say that when something new has begun to uprise, the BLM movement should have been approved a long time ago but it is a good thing we are working towards equality now. However during this time it is strange to see some classmates real colors show, they believe that since this situation doesn’t directly affect them, it does not matter, and this is just showing their privilege.

***June 8, 2020 - Liam Kayyal***

Although I am not surprised that it is already the end of the school year, it certainly does not feel like it to me. This has probably been one of the oddest years I have lived through, as the coronavirus pandemic had essentially shut down the whole country for around three months. The country is now slowly reopening, though I do not think everything will be normal again for a while, especially considering the large groups of people protesting around the country. The weather is also improving significantly and I have been enjoying the fairly consistent 80+ degree days. I hope to go back to work soon so I will have something to do, and it seems that sports are also slowly resuming. On another note, this school year has been good and I am happy that I took this course. I think that I learned a lot in APUSH as well as in Government and Politics, which ended up being much more interesting than I had anticipated.

***June 9, 2020 - Anonymous Student***

Hello Journal! As this is my last entry, I wanted to talk about my week, as well as reflect on this year as a whole. Last week my older brother became a legal adult, God help us, as well as a high school graduate. The drive through ceremony as well as the following parade and concert was so nice. During a time of great loss, it was so thoughtful for the town to come together to celebrate the accomplishments of the class of 2020 by making signs and lining the sidewalks to cheer on our seniors. If I dare say it, the corona inspired graduation was better than a formal graduation where everyone bakes in the sun for hours while sitting shoulder to shoulder on scorching hot bleachers.

Also on Saturday, I received a long awaited amazon package which was also the heaviest package I have ever received. Any guesses? Well if you guessed a 15 ft hammock, then you would be correct. After getting my dad to haul the 200 lb box to the backyard, I got to assembling. In no time, I was relaxing on a new hammock which is very structurally sound might I add. Today, I visited my cousins.

We watched a new Netflix series called The Circle. Just more reality TV trying to pass for a “social experiment” in an attempt to give the show some meaning. But, of course I am going to keep watching.

On another note, the Black Lives Matter movement continues in the United States with protests after the death of George Floyd. Presidential candidate Joe Biden met with the grieving Floyd family today in Houston. In addition, violence has gone down since last week’s crazy riots and store looting though the push to end racism in America has not died down. Anti-racist protests have led to calls to defund or outright abolish police departments across the country. Our president of “law and order” has only succeeded at making things infinitely worse per usual, but I won’t get into it.

To reflect, I actually can not believe my sophomore year has come to an end. I would never have imagined back in September that my last three months of 10th grade would be spent in quarantine while a deadly virus swept the world, and simultaneously turned it upside down. Through its craziness, this has been the best year of my life. Although the most academically challenging year so far, with my first two AP classes, it was also the most rewarding. At the beginning of the school year, I questioned why on earth I decided to take the classes I did while also trying to juggle sports, a social life and just life in general. Though I struggled at some points, with some determination, a lot of Gatorade at 8 a.m., and the best friends I could ever ask for, I was always able to come to school everyday, and try my best even after a late night. In addition, this was the best season for me athletically as I was on the starting line on the field hockey team. I have made some of the best memories this year, and can not wait to see what the next two have in store.

***June 10, 2020 - Rileigh Kelley***

So far, 2020 has literally just felt like a *Series of Unfortunate Events* book playing out in real time. Bad stuff just keeps coming, and the bad stuff just keeps getting more and more absurd. First a pandemic, then killer bees, then riots, and everytime someone says “Man this couldn’t get any worse,” it somehow does. On the bright side however, summer is coming up, and I will officially have 100% free time, and with this time, I plan to watch all the shows I’ve been putting off, and the games I *swore* was gonna finish.

***June 11, 2020 - Zachary Keaney***

I’m so sad that this is our last week of school! Never before have I ever missed school for any reason, not once since my first day of preschool. Ever since quarantine, the whole world stopped turning and it seems like it won't start turning for a long time. I really hope things will become more normal in the near future and I hope school next year will be very similar if not the same as before coronavirus. I will definitely come to visit my teachers from this year, as we never really had a chance to say goodbye. I remember sitting in my last period, Chemistry, the last day of in-person school, just wanting to go home and looking forward to the next day being Friday. Nowhere in my mind did I think that was the last time I’d be in that building until long into the future.

***June 11, 2020 - Benjamin Pfeifer***

For this journal I am going to be talking about what I’ve done the past week. One of the biggest things that happened this past weekend was graduation. My brother is a senior this year, so we were all looking forward to it. They did a really nice job on setting everything up and making things special. It was super cool to see all the teachers lined up along the side of the building, showing their support. Although it was not a traditional graduation, I think it was very special and definitely memorable. A few hours after the graduation everyone met in a big parking lot near the square to hear Drew Baldridge sing. He sang two songs, both of which were really good. After that, we drove all through the town. There were so many people along the route of this post graduation parade. Dedham loves a good parade and they definitely got their fix-in with this one.

***June 11, 2020 - Troy Thornton***

This has been such an amazing year for me. Not only did I learn a lot academically, but I also learned a lot about myself. I’m gonna miss Sophomore year, even though I hated the homework I got. I’ve made a lot of good memories during that year. I’m hoping I can make more, especially with this coronavirus pandemic going on.

I’m doing fine right now. These next two weeks are gonna be busy and annoying, but other than that, it’s gonna be fine. I do miss my friends though. I’ve hung out with them a couple of times and had a fun time, but it’s not the same as before. I miss hugging my friends and being able to physically connect with them, in a friendly manner. It’s interesting to think that it takes a pandemic for you to finally learn more about yourself.

Even though I’m more of an indoors, introverted person, I find myself wanting to leave the house a little bit more now. The pollen in the air doesn’t help though. I’m very sensitive to the pollen, so going outside isn’t the best for me. I don’t want to get itchy, red eyes.

I can’t wait for the school year to finally be over. I also can’t wait for the coronavirus to be over. I definitely liked Sophomore year better than my Freshman year. There were a lot more classes in Sophomore year that I liked more than Freshman year. U.S. History was one of them.

***June 11, 2020 - Landon Silver***

We have been doing online school for quite some time now and this is going to make going back to school next year, assuming we do in fact start in September, feel strange. I hope we are able to play fall sports, but that may not be able to happen considering Covid-19 is still here and is supposed to have a worse second wave in the fall. I think everyone at this point is tired of staying inside, wearing masks, and hopefully everything can go back to normal soon. Also being outside of school for so long makes you realize school is actually kind of fun, you get to see your friends every day and the work really is not that bad. It is sad we have to say goodbye through the computer, but we have to stay safe.

***June 14, 2020 - Zara Shabazz***

With remote learning coming to an end I feel so proud and relieved. Learning from home could be harder for some classes than others. For example, learning Algebra 2 at home was extremely difficult because some of the topics could get really rigorous. I took advantage of the resources like Khan Academy, and video notes to help me. So to be done with all that feels really good. I have learned a lot not just academically but personally from this quarantine. With everything going on in our country and around the world right now, history seems really important. We are living in a time that won’t be forgotten in history. We have also realized now that history really does continue to repeat itself. The future is unpredictable but hopefully better.