

THE AMITY TRIDENT

LXXV-No.7

Amity Regional High School

Woodbridge, CT 06525

April 9, 2020

COVID-19 Changes Life at Amity



Amity Regional High School is closed until further notice as the world combats the COVID-19 pandemic. On most weekdays, the parking lot is typically packed and the school is full of students. However, on April 6th, the parking lot was virtually empty and the school was silent. Only essential personnel are allowed in the school while teachers and staff engage in distance learning.

Photo by Evan Hollander '20

School Remains Closed Until Further Notice

by Abby Ball '22

At the beginning of March, most people at Amity Regional High School did not anticipate that COVID-19 would affect their lives or Amity directly. But when the first case sprung up in Connecticut on March 8th in Wilton, the situation changed drastically.

Cases continued to spread and on Thursday, March 11, the Jewish Community Center in Woodbridge closed due to speculation of a member there being in contact with someone who had the coronavirus. Shortly after, Ezra Academy, a private Jewish school in Woodbridge, closed as well.

Later that night, Bethany, Orange, Woodbridge and Amity Schools announced they would be closing until further notice starting Friday, March 13. This decision was made based on other school closings and for the safety and health of students and faculty.

Anna Mahon, Amity's principal,

said, "The superintendent worked closely with the two local health departments (QVHD and Orange Health Dept) during the week of March 9. She took direction from those two agencies about when to close school."

On March 16th, Governor Ned Lamont ordered all public schools closed. The closure was initially scheduled to go until March 31st, but the governor later extended it to April 20th.

However, in a radio interview, Lamont said that schools may not reopen this school year.

On March 18, students were emailed an introduction to distance learning that included a schedule and information concerning Amity's new expectations and grading and attendance policies. Offsite learning started five days later on March 23, 2020.

Students and faculty needed to quickly adapt to distance learning. Students are required to participate and complete work assigned to them by teachers over Unified Classroom or any other platforms.

Similarly, many teachers schedule online meetings with students using programs like Zoom.

Although this new learning system is temporary, it is still a lot for students and teachers to get accustomed to.

Dr. Byars acknowledged this, saying, "We realize this is a learning process and everyone needs to believe that 1) everyone is trying their best and hardest – whether it is students, families, or staff; 2) this won't be perfect during our first or second or even third weeks, but 3) we will get better at off-site learning as time goes on."

It is still unknown whether Amity will reopen for the end of the school year. Recent projections from the Connecticut Department of Public Health show that coronavirus cases will likely peak in early to mid-May in New Haven County.

However, students and faculty at Amity are hoping that cases will decrease so that the school can reopen for students.

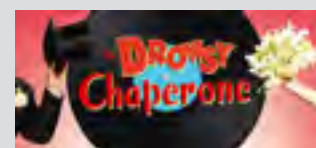
IN THIS
ISSUE



Pets
Opinions, 5



Administrators Q&A
Features, 6



Musical
Arts, 9



Spring Sports
Sports, 10

School Calendar Changes

by Jacob Silbert '21

The recent spread of COVID-19 has caused schools across the country to temporarily close. Following suit, on March 12th, Amity canceled on-site learning indefinitely. While the community has been forced to handle these extraordinary circumstances one day at a time, some important future dates and events have shifted to better maintain the safety of the Amity district.

One of the first and biggest schedule changes revolved around the 180-day requirement for Connecticut schools. On Thursday, March 12th, Governor Ned Lamont waived this requirement, seeing it as more potentially hazardous than beneficial to Connecticut students. Lamont announced that the school year must end by June 30, regardless of whether or not schools complete 180 days.

A caveat to this plan is how schools work around their April break. Many schools have already canceled over a week's worth of school days, which begs the question of how long their April breaks will be. New York State announced that all of its school's must cancel their April vacations and continue remote instruction.

While this was met with disappointment by many teachers and parents, state

officials said it was necessary to provide programming for students while they stay home. As for Connecticut, April break will continue for students. Amity's break will run from April 10th through April 17th, though much of it may be spent at home.

"I was really excited to do some college visits over break, but the quarantine is going to make school visits much harder," said Nick Matalote '21.

For seniors, graduation is currently scheduled to run as planned. With its June 10th date being distant, it is difficult to say whether or not the ceremony will be affected.

Jerome DeMoro '20 said, "Not having graduation or other senior-only events would be the greatest disappointment the other seniors and I have experienced in high school so far. Waiting for four years has been nerve-racking, but hearing the events, especially graduation, being possibly canceled because of a virus is heartbreaking."

Fortunately, until the graduation date grows closer, Amity looks forward to giving seniors the whole-hearted sendoff they were expecting.

Junior and Senior Prom are in a similar situation. Scheduled for May 8th and May 22nd respectively, they are currently unaffected. Depending on the state of the virus outbreak, it may be in

the community's best interest to cancel or postpone such social events.

"We are trying to stay as positive as we can and we are hoping to find out more details soon!" said Aliya Dworkin '21 and Jenna Zamkov '21, two of the Junior Prom committee chairs. As with graduation, more time and information will help the school make the right decision for its students.

The high school administration and faculty have taken significant strides to work with these adverse circumstances.

"While making the shift to distance learning has been incredibly challenging, I have felt so supported by my colleagues and the administration and so impressed with the flexibility and independence of my students," said English teacher Julie Chevan. "I hope that students realize that most of their teachers are really trying to do right by them and that we are all doing our best to make this work. We need to be patient and kind with one another."

Students have already completed two weeks of distance learning, and some normalcy has returned to Amity's academic routine.

However, if everyone continues to play their part by social distancing and maintaining healthy habits, the recovery process will only accelerate and the school calendar will hopefully begin to solidify.

Facility Undergoes Complete Cleaning

by Audrey Marin '22

Amid the school's closing due to COVID-19, the Amity Regional High School building was fully cleaned and sanitized in association with the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Quinipiack Valley Health District's recommendations for potentially infected surfaces.

All areas of the school were entirely disinfected. This cleaning process started just prior to the schools closing, with the disinfecting of the lunchroom during an extended transition period in between lunch waves.

Additionally, all ledges and sills were thoroughly vacuumed. The disinfectant used was Hillyard Re-Juv-Nal. This product was approved by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as an appropriate and efficient disinfectant for hard surfaces that could have come in contact with COVID-19.

The cleaning of surfaces that students and faculty came in contact with when school was in session has been completed. The current cleaning is in correspondence with people that are entering the building after the closing of the school.

Jim Saisa, Director of Facilities at Amity High School, said, "All people that enter the building must enter through the

front entrance and be checked in by security. They state what classroom or office they are reporting to, and after departing, those areas and associated restrooms are cleaned and disinfected daily."

This procedure is followed for teachers that need to retrieve materials and employees that are necessary to keep the school running. Evidently, measures have been taken to maintain the high standard of sanitation provided by the initial disinfection as well as protect faculty that still enter the school.

Measures have been taken to prevent any contact of essential employees with one another. Principal Anna Mahon said, "We have adjusted work schedules for essential workers (those employees who still have to report to keep the school running) to mitigate sharing of rooms; no one is sharing a workspace."

Many students felt comfort in knowing that the building is being disinfected. Nicole Grosso '22 stated, "The cleaning of the school is important to minimize the concerns of students and faculty, should the building reopen."

Although the reopening of the school has no relation to how well the school building is disinfected, Saisa said, "Rest assured, the buildings at Amity have (and are daily) cleaned and disinfected to the highest standards."

Teachers Adapt

by Hyunjin Kim '21

Starting on March 13th, Amity Regional High School and the two Amity Middle Schools shut down due to the outbreak of COVID-19. Since the closures, the school administration has been working diligently to make off-site learning a success.

Online learning started on March 23rd after the school administrators spent a week to sort out the school curriculum and online learning schedule.

The distance learning plan highlights that students need an average of three to six hours of learning activities in each subject per week. Attendance is taken by online engagement of the assigned work.

The schedule, created by the administration, allots specific times for each subject when teachers may reach out to students and flex times for students to ask for extra help from teachers.

With the start of a new method of education, teachers and students have had to adapt. Some teachers, such as science teacher Derek Wilson, have accepted the new teaching paradigm. Wilson said, "We have to alter our lesson and utilize more varied technology for virtual activities that take place of the

traditional activities. This has been a challenging experience for all of us and we are in this together."

Similarly English teacher Christina Allen said, "Before the move to distance learning, junior English teachers were busy preparing for the Essential Question Symposium, something that will now be modified by each teacher to best suit his/her classes' needs."

Students expressed mixed opinions on distance learning and how changes in their teachers' lesson plans have affected them.

Ethan Lavi '21 said, "It's a lot of work, and it's annoying to have to check many different places every day. On the positive, you get to have school from the comfort of your own home."

Mason Zhang '21 said, "I like how the teachers are very much open to adjusting their teaching schedules and how it is easier to access a teacher in Zoom to ask questions. However, there isn't the same mindset or mood that you get in a classroom environment."

Overall, everyone has adapted to the situation to make off-site learning possible. Teachers are familiarizing themselves with the possible online tools such as Zoom and Google Hangouts to meet up with their students in their tightly packed schedule.

Exams Postponed or Cancelled

by Melita Collins '21

In response to the rapid spread of the coronavirus, the College Board has taken measures to accommodate students with new policies on AP exams and with cancellations of the SAT. Along with the College Board's new test policies, Amity Regional High School has canceled multiple SAT testing dates.

Recently, the College Board has released a statement on the status of the AP Exams. The exams usually contain content from the entire school year and typically last between 1.5 and 3 hours. Each exam will now be 45 minutes long and will only consist of one or two free-response questions.

Typically, most AP Exams contained both multiple choice and free-response sections. These exams will take place between May 11 and May 22, with make-up exams being held for each subject during the first week of June. Along with testing dates being changed, classes that require a portfolio submission, such as the AP Capstone program, must submit portfolios on May 26 with no additional

exam date.

Students such as William Zhang '21 expressed support for the new changes to the AP exam format. Zhang stated, "I think that the new format of the exams makes sense since students and teachers don't get to have the same education that they would get in a classroom."

Brigitte Gagnon '21 also voiced her positive views on the changes in the format of the AP exams. She said, "I think it's going to be interesting. I'm glad they are shortened but nervous about how they will go [at home]."

However, many students remain apprehensive about the new AP exam format and express opposition to the College Board's decision.

Eesha Acharya '21 said, "I cannot agree with the new AP exam [format]. They took a three-hour test and made it into a 45-minute exam. It doesn't make sense. I am afraid that colleges will not take it seriously and will not properly use it for consideration."

On a similar note, the College Board has canceled multiple SAT testing dates, including the March SAT. All Amity juniors were scheduled to take the March SAT during school, but this will no longer

be possible. In an article in the Washington Post, David Coleman, the College Board's chief executive said, "We'll be flexible in making the SAT available in school and out of school as soon as the public health situation allows."

As a result of testing cancellations, some colleges and universities have been changing their admission standards to accommodate these changes. For example, the University of California branches have become test-optional for those entering college in the fall of 2021.

When asked about these changes, Philip London '21 commented, "I actually think the test cancellations and changes can be good things. Some major colleges are committing to being test-optional this year as a trial run which is a step in the right direction when trying to move away from standardized testing."

With the rapidly changing climate surrounding the spread of COVID-19, there have been major changes to test formats and dates.

Many schools are still finalizing their plans for the school year, and accommodations are being made to support students and families at this time.

Amity Should Move to Pass/Fail During Distance Learning

by Evan Hollander '20

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, Amity has had to implement distance learning, as have many schools across the country. However, the outbreak has developed so quickly that the administration did not have sufficient time to prepare. As a result, teachers have taken to various platforms for teaching and assessing student work, which can make adapting to distance learning very difficult and confusing.

For example, I can count at least six platforms being used at the same time amongst my classes (Unified Classroom, Google Classroom, FlipGrid, Google Drive, email, and, of course, Zoom). In fact, many of my teachers are using several of these platforms at the same time. Students have to juggle an assignment being announced on one website, accessed on another, and submitted on a third site. This is not working.

Moreover, students have varying access to and experience with these digital platforms, meaning that students are figuring out distance learning at different speeds. I tend to adapt to digital resources quickly, but I know through having helped friends that not everybody is adapting to

distance learning equally. Distance learning would be difficult enough if it were not being implemented during a pandemic. This is a very stressful time for everybody. Isolation is especially hard for high school students. Less than four weeks ago, we saw our friends at school daily. Now, we don't know the next time we'll see them again in person.

As the coronavirus continues to infect more people, members of the Amity community already have friends and family who have contracted the disease. Personally, I have already lost a relative who had contracted COVID-19. As the number of infected individuals continues to rise, the healthcare system will reach capacity, and more people will die. While we all want to be able to focus on our academics, right now, students are preoccupied with the health of their loved ones.

The administration is making a valiant effort to help us. Let us not forget that this outbreak went from a non-issue to shutting down the state in just over a week. Mrs. Mahon has reached out to me, after having seen my petition, to discuss what the student body wants. The administration does care and does want to help. No matter how they re-

form distance learning, however, there are factors outside of their control.

No matter what they do, teachers will continue to use multiple online platforms. No matter what they do, we still won't see our friends every day at school. No matter what they do, we will still worry about loved ones and grieve over those we will lose.

A pass/fail option is what we need. Some students, despite the hardships of distance learning, will still perform extremely well and deserve to have their high marks reflected on their transcripts.

Many others will continue to struggle, and they should not be penalized because they are used to in-person classes, they miss their friends, or because their family member is sick.

Learning is important but grades aren't. Students do want to learn. Let students adapt to distance learning at their own pace. Give students a pass/fail option to ensure that we can focus on our families, our mental health, and our education, but not the grade on our transcript.

If you agree, feel free to show the administration that you do not think distance learning is working by signing the petition at www.change.org/PassFailAmity.

THE TRIDENT

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STAY WELL, AMITY!



Pets Are Helping Their Owners

by Alison Bowler '22

Quarantine and social distancing suck. There's absolutely no way around that, and this change in lifestyle is difficult for anyone to adapt to. But there's one large part of America's family structure that is benefiting tremendously off of this remote way of life - pets.

The dogs who rejoice every time you walk through the door will have more walks; the cats who slink by and nod to acknowledge your presence will get more scratches; even the gold-

fish that blissfully blow bubbles will receive a few more food flakes than usual. Their people have returned home, and they are fortunate to not know why they are suddenly able to spend so much time with them, but happy nonetheless.

It's easy to get saddened by all the negatives that this quarantine has brought to light. But with overwhelming news and cynical projections clouding your inbox and news stations, here's an optimistic outlook: this is the happiest your pets have ever been.

Think about being home with your pets for the weekend and how much love they give you. Multiply that by one hundred, and you get a glimpse of how happy they are to be home with you during these uncertain times.

A pet's owner is their best friend, and when they're together, it seems like unhappiness is an afterthought. A pet's blissful ignorance means constant happiness and affection, and that's an unavoidable uptick of remote living. When every-

Continued on page 4

Coronavirus Proves Effective Leadership Prevents Governmental Failures

by Weiss Yuan '21 and Nikhil Mali '21

The coronavirus pandemic has taken over the world. In times of crisis like these, we look to our leadership and our government for help. Our Constitution formed a government that was intended to “establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessing of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity”. This is not the first time that we will face such a crisis and this will surely not be the last. America has faced disasters before, and often America comes out strong and leads the effort throughout the world to protect other countries.

The worst crises that we face are sometimes the ones that not many people talk about, as the damage was mitigated or outright avoided. One example is the Y2K Bug. When a new century approached, America realized the problem of how computers

weren't made to last until the 2000s. As such, programs didn't have years higher than 99. This was a serious problem for banking information and government records as they would be corrupted in the process. However, the Clinton White House worked with FEMA and addressed the issue with a three-step approach to the issue: outreach and advocacy, monitoring and assessment, and contingency planning and regulation. In the end, the preparation worked, and as the year 2000 came and went, there were no large-scale issues with any technological failures.

Even with unpredictable crises, we depended on leaders like President John Kennedy to get America through the Cuban Missile Crisis and President Jimmy Carter to bring home Americans from the Iran Hostage Crisis. In the end, American leadership prevailed and we as a country survived.

This time is quite different. America was warned about a possible pandemic that could wipe out millions. In fact, President

Trump was briefed by national security advisors on such a possibility when he was inaugurated and again when this outbreak was first discovered last year. In times like these, we look toward our government, but this time they failed us.

America now has more cases than any other country in the world and America is now dependent on countries like China to help us fight this crisis, a far contrast compared to our history of American preparedness and assistance in crises decades before. Instead, our government should have been more prepared by ensuring plans were in place.

Ultimately, if anything good comes out of this coronavirus crisis, it'll be this: there will be more respect for leaders who step up as shown around this nation with local and state leaders. Americans will realize that hyper-partisan Washington has become paralyzed in times that we need it to do its job and when America depends on our government.

COVID-19 and the Importance of Mental Health

by Ian Glassman '21

If you're like me, you may find yourself struggling mentally these days, and that is nothing to be ashamed about. The abrupt transition from the rapid pace of school to a whole week of nothingness is not the smoothest, to put it mildly.

For the past seven days, I've found myself stuck between being in bed until noon and binge-playing Nintendo Switch games like *Animal Crossing: New Horizons* and *The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild*—which, if you know anything about me, is right up my game-obsessed alley.

As much as *New Horizons* is the perfect retreat—such that I've been playing it half past midnight—the routine that I fell in, or rather lack thereof, made me feel excessively deflated.

Earlier this year, my AP literature class discussed Maslow's hierarchy of needs. In his paper “A Theory of Human Motivation,” published in 1943, Maslow theorized that people require basic physiologi-

cal needs, such as food, water, and shelter, before they can attain psychological needs, including esteem and relationships, which, on a broader scale, allows for some self-actualization.

My flimsy schedule led me to collapse in on myself to the point where I felt like all I could do is sleep. The extreme barrier of getting out of bed led me to skip meals for the sake of keeping my eyes shut. Even when standing up, I started to feel weak and sluggish.

Going to school does not disclude the previous, but it is something people have to do, for societal reasons, I guess. If I struggled to supply myself with the fundamental demands, there was no way I could ever feel motivated or accomplished.

So, while in bed, I devised a schedule that forced myself to go for a walk, arrange plans to call with friends, get my homework done, and tap into my creativities—and, when appropriate, continue my *Animal Crossing* endeavors.

But, not to confuse anyone, this plan is only for the sake of benefitting myself,

not for anyone else; sure, society says to be a non-stop machine chugging out content that will better the world every second of your life.

Frankly, that notion is garbage; one can only truly find peace when the work they complete betters themselves (bonus points for benefiting others). Selflessness is admirable, but there is no reason that it has to replace mental health.

Being stuck at home is not the most ideal situation, and this ironically-titled “coronacation” has reminded many of us how mental health is in flux. It has also reminded us we need to be taking small actions to tend to our own well-being.

This is the time to pick up that passion you have always wanted to divulge in, or to learn about that topic that has always intrigued you, or to set goals and work day by day to achieve them. While it appears this virus poses as a hindrance to mental health, it is actually the gateway to self-care, introspection, and productivity.

That being said, stay safe, stay healthy, and stay curious.

Pets Are Helping Their Owners

Continued from page 3

things gets to be too much, your pet is there to check in. Going on a walk, watching a movie, or interruption on a Zoom call are some of the highlights of this.

In a time where everything seems bad, as always, pets can be a huge help. Forever a solid companion, they're the first

and last thing to brighten your day, a welcomed distraction from coronavirus news.

The next time you're feeling stressed or sad about the uncertainties posed by this virus, I urge you to look at your pet and remember that they're having the best time of their life, and that's something to look forward to

every day.

And if you're petless, a simple call to a friend or a quick search online of a funny video can also do the trick.

Try not to get overwhelmed by all the negatives of this pandemic. Your pet wouldn't want that.



Alison Bowler's dog, Charlie, has been helping their family during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Photo by Alison Bowler '22.

How to Make the Most Out of Your “Corona-cation”

by Megan Wu '22 and Adithi Wijesekera '22

As we adjust to this new reality, students may struggle with ways to keep themselves occupied. While it is critical to focus on schoolwork while you are at home, it is also important to use this time as a way to explore new hobbies, spend time with family, or dive into a new book. The following activities are great ways to fill your time over your “corona-cation.”

Firstly, creating a schedule is vital for productivity and success during this time. When students were in school, the daily schedule was set; there was no need to personally plan out which assignments to do or when to switch to a different subject. Although students have been provided with a basic plan to follow for the day, it is important to map out your classes and set a time frame for each one. This way, you will be able to finish all your schoolwork in a timely manner, leaving the rest of the day to be enjoyed.

Socially isolating in our houses can be boring and you may be running out of things to do. This is the perfect opportunity to start a new TV show. As of March 2020, the streaming platform Netflix’s most popular series include The Haunting of Hill House, All American, On My Block, Breaking Bad, and Stranger Things. So, grab your family (or watch alone), some snacks, and binge these series. Another way to spend your evenings is hosting a movie night for your family! Grab the warmest blankets, pillows, and popcorn. Whether you choose a horror film, comedy, or an action movie, your movie night will be a success. Platforms such as Netflix, Amazon Prime, and Hulu all contain excellent films.

During the school year, students are preoccupied with school, homework, and extracurriculars, not leaving much time to spend with family. After your classes are over each day and you have efficiently completed work, take some time out of the day to be with your loved ones.

A great way to relax and reconvene is to bring out a board game, sit down at a table, make teams, grab snacks, and set up the game. Regardless of the game selection, you will definitely create fun memories and have a great experience. Another popular pastime during this break is taking family walks! It can be very soothing to stretch out your legs as you stroll through the neighborhood with your loved ones.

Since many of us are self-quarantined and most likely cooped up inside all day, getting that daily dose of vitamin D is critical! Just because we should be isolating ourselves from other people does not mean we have to do it from our bedrooms.

Everyday, try to go outside and take a breath of fresh air; trust us, it will definitely help ease all the stress caused from missing your friends, adapting to a new normal, and anything else involved with this crazy time. Take a walk with your family, play badminton, volleyball, basketball, draw on the driveway with chalk...the possibilities are endless! After you get your daily dose of Vitamin D, you will realize how much more fulfilling and refreshing these activities are compared to watching Netflix for five straight hours.

Stress from the regular school year may result in falling behind on daily household chores. Take this time off to reorganize your rooms by cleaning out your closet and making “Keep” and “Donate” piles. Afterwards, your closet will be larger, less cluttered, and you will have made donations to those in need.

Though many students rely on their parents or guardians to complete chores such as laundry or loading dishes into the dishwasher, we suggest taking this time to learn such basic life skills!

Cooking a meal for your family can be an exciting task which will impress your parents. Every night, cook meals from different cuisines or have competitions to determine whose dish is superior. Moreover, your parents will be pleasantly surprised if they arrived home to find that dinner has already been prepared!

Since spring sports are postponed and many of us are socially distanced from friends, it is very likely that you have more free time than usual on your hands. Instead of spending that time in your room eating chips while scrolling through your phone, use this time to learn new skills or try out different hobbies.

If you’re helpless in the kitchen, ask your parents if you can help make dinner. If cooking is not your forte, try baking (your family will be delighted for an excuse to eat desserts). Furthermore, these next few weeks are a perfect time to test out new hobbies. Some suggestions we have are painting, starting a bullet journal, photography, or learning a new language. There are so many different activities out there, so try out as many as you can, and maybe you’ll discover a passion for one!

Adapting to this new normal may not be easy, but hopefully it will become a little more effortless if you apply some of these suggestions to your daily routine. It will be rewarding to look back at this time and see how much you’ve accomplished.

Adapting to Change Amidst the Coronavirus Crisis

by Allison Su '21

Ever since the Amity school district closed due to COVID-19, most of the Amity community has been at home, only going outside for shopping or exercise.

Extracurricular activities, including the spring musical and spring sports, have been postponed or cancelled. Despite this quick turn of events, many faculty and students have found meaningful ways to spend this extra time at home. For students, administration, and teachers alike, Spartans have made the most of more familial and personal time.

Being at home means being with family: an optimistic outlook amidst the coronavirus crisis. Catherine Piscitelli, Amity Science Research Program teacher, commented, “I have spent a lot of time outside playing basketball with my sons and taking walks as a family.” Not only can Spartans take advantage of valuable family time, but they can also enjoy the outdoors.

The Amity community may be close to family, but social distancing means being physically far from friends and co-workers. This does not stop Maggie Liu '22 from FaceTiming her friends or Josh Feuerstein '21 from remaining connected with others.

Feurstein described how he would cope with the next few weeks, stating, “I plan to continue using my free time to connect with friends, both from Amity and around the world.”

While Spartans did what they could to virtually connect with others, they also took some time for themselves. Liu noted, “I have spent the one-week ‘corona break’ sleeping, reading, drawing, and playing instruments. During the break, I finally got

the time to start playing the piano, flute, and piccolo again. [In the future], I would probably try to learn how to draw digitally.”

While some students have spent time exploring art, others have explored science.

Feuerstein stated, “I’ve finally had time to catch up with non-school related endeavors—I was even able to learn an entirely new programming language. The lack of structure has allowed me to take advantage of things that have always been at my disposal, yet school and school related activities have kept me from having the time to explore them.” With this

projected to last for at least a month more, the time away from on-site high school certainly will not last forever.

Though Piscitelli is worried about protecting her family, she remains optimistic. She noted, “Our state has responded quickly and scientists have been working around the clock to find cures and remedies to help those that have already been exposed.”

Feuerstein shares this optimistic view; however, he is still disappointed about cancellations, stating, “Personally, I feel that as long as everyone’s doing their part in social distancing, there’s not too much to worry about with COVID-19. Of course I’m worried,

but as long as I’m doing all I can I’m kind of at ease. As for my outlook on these next few months of distance learning, I feel like it’s all we can do. It’s sad to miss important social parts of junior year like

prom, but it’s better that everyone stays

healthy and alive.”

Although news about extended distance learning or prom has not yet been confirmed, students are still worried about the possibility of missing opportunities.

Everyone is affected by this virus, whether it is directly or indirectly, and the future is full of many uncertainties.

The message that keeps going around, including in the morning announcements, is that “we’re all in this together.” The Amity community has a varying perspective on the time off, but in the end, this is a battle that all of us are going through.



Drawing Created Over Break by Maggie Liu '22
Photo courtesy of Maggie Liu '22

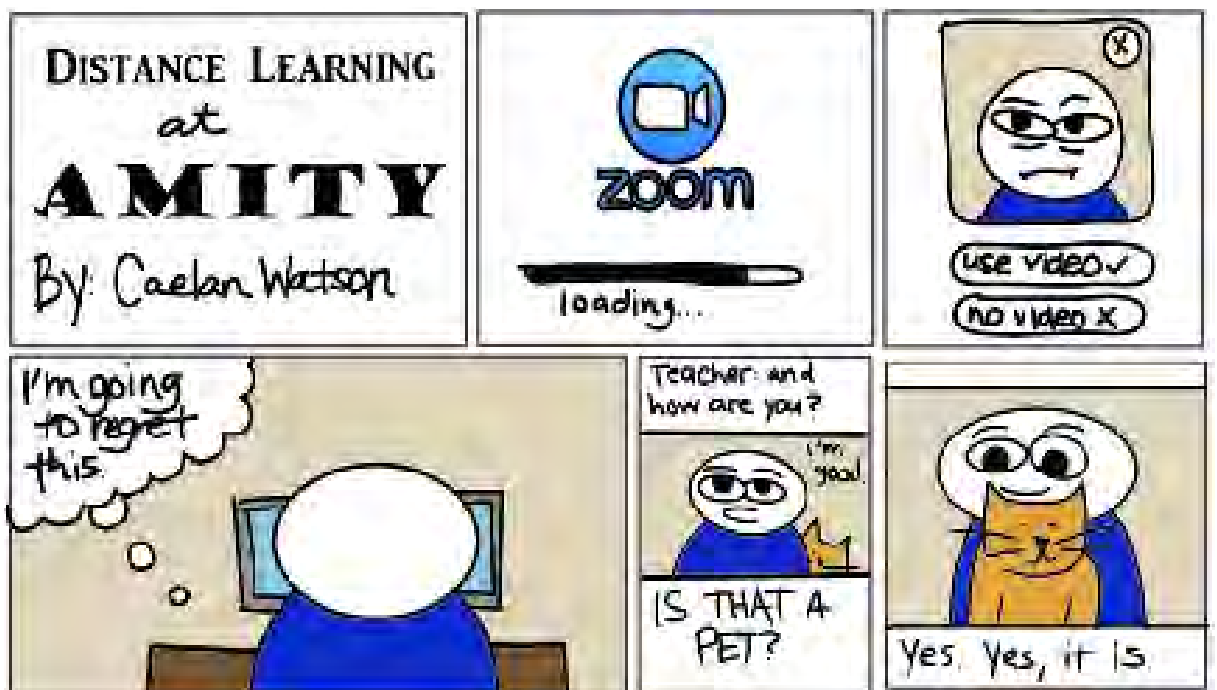
extra time, he took the opportunity to learn relevant material outside of the school curriculum while also learning more about his own interests in computer science.

Whether for classroom assignments or house chores, Spartans have also used the break to catch up on and move ahead with work. Piscitelli said, “I was able to catch up on grading and get some house projects done. I organized my dry and canned goods down in my basement, [and] I had to throw out a box of fruit crisps that was four years old!”

This time can be used for a variety of activities, and although it is

Distance Learning at Amity

by Caelan Watson '20



Q&A with Amity Administration: The Coronavirus Crisis

by Megan Wu '22 and Adithi Wijsekera '22

The Coronavirus Crisis has incited a myriad of changes to the Amity community. Given these unprecedented circumstances, many may feel overwhelmed and distressed.

In an effort to provide greater transparency and answer any pressing questions students, teachers, and the community may have, *The Trident* conducted a Q&A with Amity Administrators, including Principal Anna Mahon, Associate Principals Miguel Pickering and Monica Kreuzer, and Director of Counseling Jill LaPlante.

Assistant Principal Frank Barretta was unable to be present during this Q&A.

How did the administration arrive at the decision to close the school on March 12th?

Mrs. Mahon: The superintendent had been working more closely with the local health departments. They have been taking direction from them throughout the week. It got to the point where they said, "Okay you've got to close." It was pretty immediate. I got a notification at 4:15 on Thursday. The superintendent took the direction from the two local health departments, Quinipiac Valley Health and Orange Health Department and they said you should close now.

When will students be able to return to the high school for on-site learning?

Mrs. Mahon: As you probably know, the Governor last night announced that students will not return to school until at least April 20th [The earliest day as of publication is April 30]. I can tell you that everyone here, whether we're here physically or emotionally, would love for that to be the date. We'll just have to wait and see, but we all really miss having kids here. Hopefully as soon as possible.

Beyond closing the district schools, how has Amity taken steps to prevent the spread of COV-ID 19?

Mrs. Kreuzer: Starting from the Thursday that we closed school, there was an immediate visitor check in. So anyone going into the school had to answer a three-question survey. They had to go through a screening process, especially for teachers and maintenance people. Last Thursday and Friday, Mrs. Mahon made a schedule for teachers to come in, so there weren't as many people going in. The custodians today are cleaning out all the air ducts on student street.

Mrs. Mahon: In general, there's major overhaul cleaning. My office has been the cleanest since we've built this wing!

Mr. Pickering: There's also a rotating schedule for staff that have to go into the building so they're not in the same place at the same time, and then their areas get cleaned

Mrs. Kreuzer: [Staff] are also not sharing desks. They have their own workspace.

What are your main concerns regarding the rest of the school year?

Mrs. Mahon: My main concern is that I'm not gonna see my kids again! I can't even believe it. The most important thing is that we remain safe and healthy and not contributing in any way, shape, or form to people getting sick or staying

sick or creating more spikes. It's pretty incredible that we have the capacity to run a distance learning off site learning. The fact that we have a community and we're able to come together to make this off site learning plan in literally 48 hours and have it up and running in three days is pretty amazing. So while I have concerns, I'm also really proud of the work that's getting done, both on the teachers' side and then the flexibility with the students and how supportive the kids are being up there. I know there's still anxiety and concern, so my hope is that we're going to be back by after April break.

Will the current grading system work with distance learning? Given the unique nature of distance learning, should Amity go on a preliminary pass/fail system?

Mrs. Kreuzer: I think you can still go about doing things the same way. We had this type of Zoom meeting with teachers who are concerned. I think they just need to come up with new ways to produce grades: it's still possible, I don't think it needs to be the pass fail.

Mrs. Mahon: I agree with Mrs. Kreuzer. I think this is a huge learning opportunity and offers both our kids and our teachers a chance to really reflect on what grades mean. Grades really shouldn't be just about compliance. A grade should be reflective of skills and demonstration of capacity and so there's no reason you shouldn't be able to do that, whether it is in a different format or not. I know a pass-fail sounds like a quick fix. However, everybody is in the same boat, so it's still an equal playing field. Going to a pass-fail would bring a myriad of issues, including not being compliant with the NCAA, so nobody's grades from this year would meet the clearing house for the NCAA. We couldn't do a pass/fail system for just a quarter. We need to think of a more creative solution. However, with that said, I do think we need to reconsider our final exams, and I have no problem with that. That will also be a policy change or a policy amendment for this year for our Board of Education.

How will Amity's hourly workers be affected?

Mrs. Mahon: They are all currently being paid their full salaries. Custodians are working all the time, they've shifted their hours a little bit (I think, I didn't go up to check, they reinstalled the bathroom stalls in the boy's bathroom in the Math wing). The custodial staff is working really hard. Security has been here to oversee access to the building and to give out the devices as needed, and to also oversee the meal delivery, prep, and distribution. Assistants and the nurses are necessary to keep the school running, so essential staff are still needed in an effort to keep people still earning a paycheck. We are really looking to and trying to keep everyone employed so that they can all earn a check through this situation.

Amity has a very unique and successful special education program. How has that program specifically evolved to this situation through virtual learning, where virtual learning might be more challenging?

Mrs. LaPlante: Our Director of

People Services, Mr. Brant, is working at the state level to try to figure out how all of the services can be delivered to special education students. I know he has been working with each of the special education teachers who are reaching out to the students and families they work with to see how they can help support their students who are learning virtually.

Mrs. Mahon: Each special education teacher is working individually with each of their students. Each teacher is reaching out, whether that be through email or a phone call or through a platform like this, a Google Hangout or something like this, checking in and instituting an individual learning plan for each of those children. It has been a challenge, for sure, because it's something that you have to make sure you are meeting the needs both educationally and legally of the students.

How did the school ensure that every student had access to online learning?

Mrs. Mahon: So, as you know, our school is in a little bit of a different situation than the middle schools. There, everyone pretty much has a device but not everyone here does. We're in pretty good shape with this, but what we did was administer that survey before everyone left on Thursday morning. We had 95% of students take the survey, and we contacted the kids who needed devices and wifi, so we provided Chromebooks and WiFi hotspots. Then we individually called the 5% that didn't respond, and while most of them had a device, we wanted to make sure. Currently, we're going through and trying to get people, who initially said they had access to a device, but now have an entire family using devices at home and not enough for everyone to use, a Chromebook.

Do you believe that online learning is going to be successful for both teachers and students?

Mrs. Mahon: I do believe it's going to be successful, but it's not going to be the same as if we were here [in school]. I think there are a couple things that we're really going to learn from this experience. One of the things the faculty have worked on is increasing student agency, which is where students really take ownership of their own learning. The kids are going to learn some independence and some agency, and the teachers are going to learn to trust their kids, and that they don't have to provide everything.

What advice do you have for students to make online learning successful?

Mrs. Mahon: The first thing is you really have to plan, plan a schedule, you have to conceive what you have to get done, how to get it done, and what works best for you. The second thing is to be flexible, because what you think is going to work, may not work. For example, a teacher may throw something at you at the middle of the week and it might throw off your whole plan for the week but you just have to adjust and adapt. The third thing is to ask a lot of questions. Ask questions to your peers and your teachers; this is not a prohibited learning experience, so get online, call up a friend, figure out how to work on hard problems together.

BOW Families Respond to COVID-19 Pandemic

by Nikhil Mali '21

During the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, families in Bethany, Orange, and Woodbridge have been taking varying precautions to keep themselves healthy.

Some families have been taking stricter precautions in an effort to stay safe. Jonathan Wang '21 said, "My parents wear face masks when they go downstairs and clean the whole house every other hour. I'm also not allowed to leave the house. At all. Ever."

While this is definitely a way to stay safe, most families are taking a more moderate approach to the situation. Claudia Lihar '21 explained, "My parents aren't reacting much. They just want me to stay on top of my work and stay safe. I still go out for daily runs but generally try to avoid contact with people."

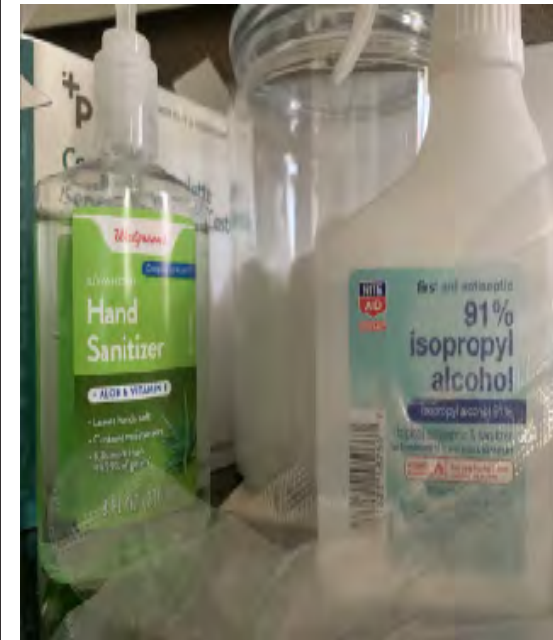
As online learning begins, students are realizing that they have plenty of free time to spend with siblings and pets. Benjamin Bae '22 said, "Sam and I are GAMIN'. We also walk [my dog], and I still run." As boredom takes over, Ben and Sam aren't the only one's starting to go outside.

On her runs, Lihar says, "I see a lot of families spending time outside, children playing on their lawns, and couples going out for walks with their dogs, so it's nice to see people enjoying the outdoors instead of being cooped up inside all day."

In the BOW community, families have plenty of space to go outside, unlike those who live in more urban areas. People are taking the chance to get a breath of fresh air while still practicing social distancing.

However, some parents are still allowing visitors, like those of Olivia Frankiewicz '22. She noted, "My mom is still letting my piano teacher come to my house."

On the other hand, her family remains skeptical. She said, "[He] is a bit more wary and doesn't really want us going out. He doesn't want to order things from restaurants." However, both of her parents agree that



Cleaning supplies including hand sanitizer and gloves

Photo courtesy of Natalie Wang '21

she should be practicing social distancing as opposed to physically hanging out with her friends.

Every family must find its own balance of daily activity amidst this crisis, but there is a clear need to buy essential items like food. Families have to be careful when shopping for what they need.

Del Lee '22 said, "My mom is very concerned about leaving the house to buy food."

As long as proper precautions, like proper hygiene and social distancing, are taken, leaving the house is not too much of a problem. Additionally, some families consider online shopping to avoid having to go out.

Families are clearly trying to stay safe, but as spring begins, most are taking advantage of the opportunity to finally get some fresh air. It's important for everyone to play their part in slowing the spread, so stay clean, stay safe, and go outside!

Quarantine from the Perspective of Amity Alumni

by Melita Collins '21

Since the beginning of March, many schools have been taking precautionary measures to deal with the spread of COVID-19 in the United States. For example, the Amity Regional School District has been closed since March 13, 2020, but what does COVID-19 mean for college students in the community?

Julia Potter '19, a freshman at George Washington University, has a lot to say about her experience at home. In fact, she is quite disappointed about her school's closure. Within her first semester of college, Potter found a close group of friends and solidified her study tasks to effectively tackle classes. The second semester is when she would have seen herself and her peers strive higher. Potter said, "Now that school has been cancelled, I feel like something has been stripped away from me."

Potter is currently double majoring in Political Science and Psychology for her pre-law courses. With the added downtime at home, Potter disclosed that she still has a pretty heavy workload, but she spends her downtime working out and going on runs. To deal with boredom, she recommends developing hobbies.

Similar to Potter, Marcelle Gagnon '19 was also shocked to find out that her university, Xavier, will also be cancelled until the following school year. Gagnon is currently a freshman at Xavier majoring in Biology with a minor in French.

When asked about her school's closure, Gagnon answered, "I felt like I didn't have time to adequately say bye to my friends who live far away or actually enjoy my classes to their fullest. I really liked some of my teachers and I wish I could've said a proper goodbye too. Online learning isn't exactly ideal, but my professors have been very understanding, which is extremely helpful."

During her time at home, Gagnon says that she has many assignments to complete, but during her downtime, she makes sure to have fun by painting and baking. Gagnon would also like to learn how to embroider clothing during her time off.

Over at Wesleyan University, Kelsey Morgan '18 has also been sent home until the following school year. Currently, Morgan is a sophomore who is planning to study architecture through the Studio Art major, while also minoring in Design and Engineering and Art History. Since her school's closure, Morgan has been carrying out her classes via Zoom.

Morgan said, "Not surprisingly, I have found that the degree to which this method affects the curriculum of the course is dependent on what kind of course it is. For example, this new system is somewhat compatible with my Contemporary Art, French, and Coding courses, though undoubtedly not as fulfilling."

To deal with boredom, Morgan has been keeping herself busy by picking up new hobbies with her sister. So far, they have taken up chess, yoga, and photography.

Harris Andersen '18, is also one of the many Amity alumni whose college year has been impacted by

his university closing down due to COVID-19.

Andersen is currently a sophomore studying Orchestral Conducting at the Ithaca College's School of Music. He is a passionate student of music who recently won his school's Concerto Competition, in which the winner has the opportunity to play as a soloist in a concert accompanied by a full orchestra. Before the school closure, Andersen had plans for an orchestra that he had organized with about fifty friends to perform Beethoven's Fifth Symphony in April.

Andersen stated that this concert "took immense preparation, not only studying the score, but conferring with event coordinators to plan numerous rehearsals in open rooms, sign out individual parts, etc. Both these major events obviously have been canceled, as well as concerts to commemorate the 250th anniversary of Beethoven and solo piano and violin recitals of my own."

As evidenced by the numerous cancelled recitals and concerts, Andersen's experience has been greatly impacted by COVID-19. Originally, he had plans to travel to London to study music along with two other pianists at his studio. For the next year, they intended to spend an "exciting few months studying with many of the world's leading piano luminaries in addition to concert engagements as far away as Greece." Sadly, due to the current circumstances, his college canceled all study abroad programs for the entirety of the upcoming school year.

Although Andersen is disappointed about his school's closure, he still remains optimistic. During his downtime, he continues to practice his instrument. When asked about his experience at home, Andersen stated, "in some ways I'm grateful to have this downtime, and I'm using it to better my Italian and German and read on the art of effective communication."

Amity's college undergraduates have found themselves in similar situations, but what does the coronavirus crisis mean for college graduates pursuing a higher education? Sricharan Kadimi '15 graduated from university last year. He majored in Chemical Engineering and is currently studying medicine at the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. Kadimi stated that he is not impacted nearly as much as undergraduate students may be. However, as a first year medical student no longer in school, he does not get much interaction with patients anymore. For instance, medical students cannot have clinical duties right now, so he calls the patients that he follows in the clinic.

To fight boredom, Kadimi uses his free time to study for medical school. Although a good majority of his day is spent on academics, he does not shy away from a quick break every now and then. On his breaks, Kadimi can often be spotted running or biking with the appropriate precautions. Kadimi has also been using his free time to try new recipes and keep up with the news.

The quarantine experience has been unique for current Amity students and alumni. With this unprecedented event, it is important to keep yourself fulfilled. Every student tackles these precautions differently, but learning and daily activities must still go on.

How to Choose a College Amidst COVID-19

by Sydney Reiner '20

Deciding where you are going to spend the next four years of your life is not an easy task, even without the implications of a global pandemic. With colleges around the country cancelling their accepted students' days and prohibiting college visits due to the outbreak of COVID-19, choosing a college can seem impossible. Physically stepping on the campus of a prospective school is a crucial part of the college process. Visiting a school allows students to experience the culture and environment of a school, offering a glimpse into future life there.

Olivia Gross '20, upon visiting her future school says, "It was the most beautiful place I had ever seen and the students were so welcoming and eager to talk to me...I felt like I fit in so fast."

For many, visiting a school can be the deciding factor. Rhea Dey '20 said, "It was the smiling faces of all the students, and my immediate feeling of belonging." Consequently, the inability to observe your personal immediate reaction to a college can make you feel lost.

"While some schools have been very accommodating and have pushed back their decision dates to June 1st, the schools that haven't have created added stress for me because I must make the decision of where I am spending the next four or more years of my life based on a picture and a letter from someone I don't even know" explains Jayson Hutchinson '20.

Although COVID-19 may have altered this process and made it a bit more difficult, you will still be able to discover which college is best for you. Here are some tips to make these extenuating circumstances a little less daunting.

One of the best ways to gain information about the college process is talking to your counselor! They are trained experts at helping students navigate difficult decisions and roadblocks, and

this circumstance is no different. Their personal connection to you, combined with their acquired knowledge of colleges, makes them the perfect person to reach out to. Shoot them an email, or ask to set up a time to video chat. They can help relieve some of the stress of this crazy, unprecedented time, and help plan your next step to discovering your future dream school.

Attend virtual accepted students' days or go on virtual tours! Colleges understand the difficulty of this situation, and are employing virtual opportunities to exhibit an authentic representation of their schools, right in your home! Most schools have created virtual accepted students' days, allowing the student to experience a day on their campus, without leaving their pajamas. Students can click around campus and tour the school, talk with professors, see the dorms, engage in student panels, and experience most of the activities that would appear in a normal accepted students' day. Touring the school is vital, and while virtually doing so may not be ideal, it sure is a step in the right direction on the path to choosing a college!

Many colleges offer the opportunity to contact a current student at their school, to discuss any issues or questions you may have. Talking to a student who first-hand experiences life at your prospective school can be extremely beneficial, as it gives you a sincere perspective of the college's strengths, imperfections, and tips. Communicating directly with a student offers a genuine glimpse into your future at a school, providing invaluable information.

In our current climate, this process can seem immobilizing and terrifying. But these steps can help guide you in the right direction, and offer a start. Remember, you do not have to do this alone: turn to parents, siblings, friends, counselors, or whoever else can assist with this life decision. Wherever you decide to go, ultimately it isn't about the campus, or the tour, but how you spend your time during those four years that matters. And COVID-19 can't stop you from doing that.

Understanding the Pathology of Coronavirus

by Mason Zhang '21

Recently, nearly everything the media has covered has been centered around COVID-19. However, there has been little coverage about the actual pathology of the virus.

The virus has been especially fatal to the older demographic. Evidence suggests that COVID-19 has a higher mortality rate for older populations because of weakened respiratory systems. Though many infected populations have been concentrated within these older populations, younger adults have also been diagnosed in Intensive Care Units (ICUs) with coronavirus. They have a greater risk of getting severe symptoms due to vaping, smoking, or inhaling other types of substances. However, it should be noted that symptoms are very variable, and there is no clear scientific consensus yet.

Some people experience mild symptoms like a common flu, but for those with weaker respiratory systems, this virus can have a fatal effect on the lungs. In 24 hours alone, fluid can potentially submerge all areas of the lungs. When the immune system tries to combat the respiratory virus, mucus gets clogged inside the lungs, making it difficult to breathe. COVID-19 incites a rapid immune response that cripples weaker, unhealthy lungs, resulting in patient asphyxiation. Thankfully, many hospitals, at least in Connecticut, have ECMOs, respiratory machines that can pump and

oxygenate a patient's blood externally, to sustain patients' lives.

Although all of this may seem frightening, substantial progress is being made. In New Haven alone, the Yale New Haven Hospital has cleared out three extra hospital floors in the North Pavilion in preparation for coronavirus patients, and they are stocking up on intensive care beds and ventilators.

Dr. Jonathan Siner, Medical Director of the Medical Intensive Care Unit at Yale-New Haven Hospital, said in a meeting with Yale's Pulmonary

Critical Care and Sleep Medicine Researchers that they are "working overtime" to make sure that there are enough ventilators and other medical supplies.

Additionally, Dr. Charles S Dela Cruz, MD, PhD has outlined some preparatory actions in meetings, such as "Expansion of ICU, Staffing Models, Visitor Limitations, [and] Infection Control." He also featured several possible treatments for affected patients, like "anti-virals, immunomodulators [which stimulate immune response], [and] convalescent serum [which is a serum obtained from one who has recovered from the disease]."

This extensive range of possible solutions and the plethora of preparations facilitated at Yale Hospitals are very promising.

Tremendous precautions are being taken, such as self-isolation and social distancing, to slow the spread of the coronavirus. Such actions can help save the millions of lives which will be irreparably harmed if the pandemic is not controlled and adequately addressed. As evidenced by the doctors in the New Haven community, those on the front lines of this crisis are working hard to protect everyone. The Amity community should also do its part through social distancing.



Lung scan of COVID-19 patient
Photo courtesy of Dr. Donghong Zhang

Schools in Connecticut Adapt to Distance Learning

by Ella Marin '20

COVID-19, more commonly known as Coronavirus, has undoubtedly taken a huge toll on the education of classrooms across the United States. With over 124,000 US schools closed and 55 million students affected, the Coronavirus has caused education to come to a grinding halt as schools struggle to regroup. While many colleges have moved online, high schools struggle with how to administer an unprecedented distance learning experience. In Connecticut, there are a variety of different plans being tested as each school tries to find what is most fitting for their students.

At Amity Regional High School in Woodbridge, CT, school was cancelled on Thursday, March 12th until further notice. Amity has since moved to a distance learning program that began on March 23rd. Although each teacher is supposed to be using Unified Classroom, in reality, each teacher is using his or her desired platform of choice, whether that be Google Classroom, Turnitin, or simply Gmail.

Rhea Dey '20 says, "I find it very difficult to check many different platforms everyday. I think each teacher should use the same website because it is stressful and confusing. I worry that I might miss an assignment."

Dey isn't the only one to express these concerns. Schools continue to struggle to balance the desires of each teacher with the convenience of the students.

While Farmington High School also began online learning on March 23rd, the majority of their work is done through the Google Suite, whether it be using Google Meets to talk with their peers or submitting assignments through Google Classroom.

Farmington student Alexa Scott '20 said, "Online schooling is just okay. I'm glad that I still have the chance to interact with my teachers and peers, and to keep learning, but it is very tough to have the same attention and attitude that I do in school. It's more difficult to get answers to questions and really understand the material."

"I think it will work well in terms of general projects and assignments, but I don't see it reflecting well when it comes to testing and grades, and real comprehension that you get face to face," she added.

Simulating a fair testing experience is a continual challenge of many high schools. Cheating is a far greater factor than ever before because not only do students have access to the internet and all of their peers, but they are also no longer under the watch of a teacher.

At The Morgan School in Clinton, CT, online school started on Wednesday, March 25th with a 9-2 school day on Google Classroom.

Morgan School student Olivia Swan '20 said, "I like the way the school designed it, for the most part. However, there are some kinks we need to work out such as not being able to open videos without downloading them. But I'm still missing the face-to-face learning. I enjoyed being surrounded by students who could help me as much as the teacher did."

Technology problems are also a constant struggle for many high schools as students and teachers all use different types of equipment. Each day, students adjust more and more to using their technology and to completing assignments in the desired format.

At the Fairchild Wheeler Magnet High School in Bridgeport, CT, students have been relying on Microsoft Teams for their online learning. Teachers post online assignments to complete. In the future, they will likely start virtual classes if the teachers wish to.

Cici Lopes '20 said, "I think that online school is definitely an adjustment, and almost busy work. It is hard to say that I am truly understanding what I am doing for assignments, instead I'm just finishing for a completion grade. It's frustrating to just get assignments with no clarification or explanation to new information."

"I feel as if teachers should try to make more of an effort to either record or have a virtual classroom since students have different learning styles in which they understand material given. Even though this is not ideal, I miss the daily routine of going to school everyday and being around teachers," Lopes added.

Many students have expressed that the level of cooperation from their teachers has been inconsistent. Some teachers struggle to understand the technology themselves, while others record full lessons to post everyday.

With every new day of distance learning, teachers and students become more comfortable working under these new circumstances. Schools across Connecticut continue to experiment with what works best for their student body.

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A Message from

THE AMITY TRIDENT

by Ryan Anastasio '20, Ella Marin '20, and Sophia Wang '20

Amidst the unprecedented time of the Coronavirus pandemic, hope and all sense of normality are seemingly lost. In the Amity community, students, parents, and teachers have adapted to the circumstances, whether that be through distance learning curriculum or tireless sanitation efforts to reduce viral spread.

We, as editors of *The Trident*, have been inspired by the values of Amity which have risen to these undoubtedly difficult times. Given the unique nature of current events, both within our community and globally, we recognized the importance of news coverage.

The Trident has long striven for journalistic integrity and fair representation of communities. Now, more than ever, such values are crucial to making informed decisions. When the future seems uncertain, media is often the first source we turn to for both information and more importantly, optimism.

This issue of *The Trident* is centered around the Coronavirus Pandemic and specifically, how the Amity community has responded and what the future for faculty and students may hold. Despite the challenges of publishing an issue digitally, we have been able to successfully navigate the process of writing, editing, and designing thanks to the hard work of writers and editors, who have taken on these obstacles without hesitation.

Remote conferencing platforms like Zoom have enabled seamless virtual collaboration, whether that be sharing featured subjects or co-writing Op-Eds! Beyond virtual meetings, for these past few months, we have become well-acquainted to *The Trident* office housed in-school, where we have created spreads in times ranging from our 7:30 morning study halls to our 8:00 late-night design sessions.

Thanks to thoughtful preparation by the Technology Department, we were able to take software packages home and bring our state-of-the-art design studio to the comforts of the kitchen table.

We could not have published this digital issue without the support from the Amity community, which has been as strong as always, even under strained circumstances.

Whether you are involved with theater, sports, or art, we have all been impacted, and we have all had to think creatively on how to move forward during this unprecedented time. We hope that by reading this issue, you will be reminded of the strength of the Amity community.

Thank you to everyone who made this issue possible. We are very proud to have produced a permanent account of this historic time for future generations of Amity students to look back upon.

With gratitude,
The Trident



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For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/COVID19

Debut of *The Drowsy Chaperone* Delayed

by Sydney Cohen '21

Ever since Covid-19 made its way to Connecticut in early March, the Amity community experienced the towns of Woodbridge, Orange, and Bethany slowly begin to shut down. After Principal Mahon cancelled all after school activities the week of March 9th, it was no surprise that a school cancellation was coming. Starting Friday, March 13th, the Amity school system and all of its after-school activities were put on pause. Unfortunately, opening night for *The Drowsy Chaperone*, the long-awaited spring musical, was no exception.



The Drowsy Chaperone Cover Photo from Olivia Gross

a significant threat to public health. With Governor Lamont's recent announcement that Connecticut schools must remain closed until April 20th, the musical is on hold.

Despite this discouraging news, the cast has managed to remain positive about their future performance. Junior and cast member Grace Blanchard states, "Although this was not desired, I think our performances will be electric once we are finally back on stage. Speaking on behalf of the cast, I know that we all can't wait to work with each other again!"

This close-knit cast is making the best out of their time at home, despite challenging circumstances. To keep hopeful attitudes and hold on to their progress, ACT



Starting in January, ACT has been working tirelessly to prepare for the musical, which was scheduled to open on March 27th. They practiced 5 days a week for several hours at a time in order to learn the script, songs, and choreography required to perform at their best. Despite their extensive practicing and time dedication, the cast was shocked when the spread of Covid-19 forced ACT to reschedule the show.

Junior cast member Nick Mataloe said, "Some of us were upset to see something we had worked so hard for get delayed, but all we could do was keep practicing to be ready when the time to perform eventually comes."

Many members shared Mataloe's disappointment, but they all continued to practice for their new opening night, which was scheduled for April 24th.

Now that Covid-19 has reached more and more Connecticut communities nearby, it has become clear that any public gathering, even in late April, poses

has been holding weekly online rehearsals via zoom and facebook.

Head of the Musical's Costume Crew, Julie Chevon, explains "We're all holding on to the hope that somehow the show will go on. Costume Crew has met on Zoom just to keep our spirits up and I know that the cast has done some virtual rehearsals. Several of us on Costume Crew have brought home some costumes to complete at home and a few of us have even put our sewing skills to use, making masks to donate to health workers."

Like many others in the community, ACT has found ways to keep up their regular meetings and practice routines while also remaining socially distanced. Most importantly, they have found ways to keep positive mindsets and keep in touch with each other.

More updates on the performance schedule will be released over the next few months, so keep checking for news on the long-awaited debut of *The Drowsy Chaperone*!

The Lights Go Out on Broadway

by Evan Gorelick '21

Amidst escalation of the national COVID-19 pandemic, Broadway, one of America's enduring symbols of resilience, has shut its doors for the first time in over a decade.

Broadway, initially scheduled to reopen on April 12, is now unlikely to reopen until late May or June.

sort of cultural mainstay that has always persisted. Although it can't be here to help us right now, it'll be back to mend communities across the globe as soon as it becomes safe to do so."

At Amity, *The Drowsy Chaperone's* opening night, originally set at March 27, remains undetermined.

As of March 27, 2020, America has become the global leader in confirmed COVID-19 cases, with

sharp incline in cases, New York has taken much more significant measures, including a March 20 ban on in-person work attendance for all employees of non-essential businesses with threat of "civil penalties" for businesses that do not abide by this order.

As part of his "New York on Pause" initiative, Cuomo urged New Yorkers to avoid taking public transportation unless absolutely necessary and remain six feet from



An Empty Times Square during the Coronavirus Pandemic Photo from businessinsider.com

Although Broadway has closed for labor strikes and other global crises in the past, this marks the first time Broadway will shut down for public health reasons; even the 1918 H1N1 outbreak, which affected about a third of the world's population, left Broadway unfazed.

Ryan Kennedy '21, an active member of the Amity Creative Theater program, comments that "theater has always been a fantastic way to bring people together during times of hardship; it's the

New York emerging as the clear North American epicenter.

With over 50,000 confirmed cases to date, New York leads all other states by at least a factor of 6, with New Jersey coming in a not-so-close second with over 7,000 cases.

The closure was part of a broader order issued by New York Governor Andrew Cuomo on March 12 that effectively banned all large public gatherings across the state.

Since then, mirroring the

all other people when in public.

At this point, potential economic repercussions remain unclear. Just this past season, Broadway grossed \$1.8 billion and drew almost 15 million patrons from the U.S. and beyond. Of course, these concerns are only a microcosm of global economic uncertainty.

Although the community likely has not yet seen the worst of the coronavirus, we must always remember that the show will go on.

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Spring Sports Are Delayed Indefinitely

by Ben Martin '21

Right now, the sports scene is completely non-existent. The NBA's season is suspended, the opening date of the MLB's is pushed back by at least six weeks, and the NCAA's mens and womens March Madness tournaments are cancelled. Just like the professional sports scene, high school sports have been heavily impacted.

On March 18, CIAC director Glen Lungarini said, "At this point the CIAC is indefinitely suspending the start of spring sports." Although this does not necessarily mean cancelation yet, it does mean that athletes are losing precious time they could be spending on the fields or courts with their teammates.

Most athletes feel very upset about this whole situation. When baseball captain Will Rotko '20 was asked how he feels about the possibility of his season being cancelled, he said, "I feel completely blindsided. I would have never imagined that our lives would come to this."

Rotko is one of the many seniors across the nation who are worried about losing their final season in their respective sport.

Girls Lacrosse captain Payton Papa '20 agrees with Rotko saying that "it's so unfortunate how us seniors are now going to miss all the fun events that were going to occur."

Many seniors had big aspira-

and Papa has been playing lacrosse for nine years and now they may not have a chance to end it off right.

Although this situation affects seniors' final season, it affects the juniors as well. Junior year is the main year that colleges look at when they are deciding upon who to recruit. By not having a season this year, many juniors will have a harder time getting an athletic scholarship.

Boys lacrosse Michael Carrangelo '21 was asked how he feels about losing the season. He said, "I find the situation very upsetting, unfortunate, and super stressful."

Although the juniors may lose this important season, they do have the opportunity to get it back. This process is called reclassifying. Carrangelo defines reclassifying as, "when a family decides to hold their child back to get an extra year of school which can allow you another year of your respected sport and allows another year to get test scores and grades up."

In order to reclassify, the student would have to transfer to a different school. Tennis captain Brett Gloria '21 stated that he will not reclass, and girls golf captain Caroline Cadelina '21 agreed with him.

When Gloria was asked if he thinks he will have a big year this year, he stated, "Every year I've been having better and better results... and this year my goal is to win a state title."

Girls golf captain Caroline Cadelina had big aspirations for

COVID-19 Affects the NFL During Their Offseason

by Larry Lambiase '21

Many sports have been cancelled or postponed due to the coronavirus, also referred to as COVID-19. Ever since Utah Jazz Center Rudy Godbert was confirmed with the virus, the whole NBA season was postponed. Soon after, the NHL and MLB seasons got postponed. Because the NFL is currently in the middle of its offseason, many people have ignored how this virus has affected football. During the NFL offseason, free agents and

deadline to Monday, March 16th at 11:59PM. The term "franchise tag" means to keep a player on their current team for an extra year. Otherwise, if they can't work out a deal, then that player is officially a free agent, meaning that the player is an open option for other teams.

In a typical offseason, players would normally travel to other teams, check out their facilities, workout for the coaches, and would make a reasonable decision of why they would want to sign with a new team.

Since everyone has to practice social distancing due to COVID-19,

parties. The draft was originally scheduled to be on April 23-25 and will still be held on that day.

Raymond Lu '20 explains, "The NFL is making everything for the draft virtual; teams are doing virtual interviews with players, and the actual draft is going to be done remotely. It isn't ideal, but I think it will work out just fine."

Eve Green '20 said, "It must be difficult for the draft prospects who have been waiting for this milestone in their career. I'm sure they understand why scouting has been affected and that the draft



New Orleans Saints coach Sean Payton tested positive for Coronavirus
Photo from ESPN

coaches sign contracts with new teams or extensions to stay on their current teams. All of this can change this offseason because of the coronavirus, however.

For starters, only one person so far associated with the NFL was confirmed positive with the coronavirus. On March 19, New Orleans Saints head coach Sean Payton told some reporters that he was confirmed with the virus, and planned to work from home. Soon after Payton announced this, the NFL ordered all staff and team members to work from home so they could avoid getting the virus. No one else has been in contact with Payton since, or has received the virus, either.

Despite being in the midst of a pandemic, the free agency process has continued. Due to CBA negotiations, it was decided that the NFL would move the franchise tag

video chats or calls are the only way to communicate with owners and coaches. This is going to significantly inconvenience teams because it will limit the amount of information available to them when making their decision.

Lastly, physicals are key to owners and coaches, since they show the players' health, which is vital to making their decision. Because of the virus, however, many physicals have been put on hold. However, deals with players and coaches can still be made.

The NFL Draft and the events surrounding it won't be the same either. For starters, there will be no fans in attendance of the draft.

This is being done because of the CDC's recommendations, which states that they advise against any gatherings of at least 50 people at an event, which is also why the 49ers and Buccaneers cancelled their draft

may likely be postponed but it still must be upsetting to them. This isn't what anyone envisioned just a few months ago."

There are other events, like pre-draft visits and pro days. Scouts and coaches come to these events so they can decide what player to draft based off of their skill. But because everyone in the nation is being ordered to stay home, travel for scouts, coaches and players is limited.

The annual league meeting, where every NFL owner was supposed to meet with each other to discuss the past and future season, has been cancelled as well.

Although the NFL is in their offseason, the Coronavirus is still affecting the NFL in a big way. What happens in the offseason impacts the future for every team, so the cancelations and postponements that are occurring are a very big deal.



CIAC Executive Director Glen Lungarini
Photo from WTNH News 8

tions for their final season.

One of those was Rotko, when he said, "I had really high expectations for myself this year. I wanted to make All-SCC and All-State. I think I had the ability to do so... I think that we had the guys where we could have competed with any team... I think we could have been near to undefeated."

Like Rotko, Papa also had big expectations stating, "I had the biggest hopes for this season... with us going to states and having an amazing season overall."

One more thing the seniors are losing is a chance to write an ending to the sports stories they started in their early childhoods. Rotko has been playing baseball for 15 years

this season as well declaring that, "We are defending SCC champs two years in a row. We are hoping with some new freshmen that seem to be pretty good we can keep that title."

Finally Carrangelo agreed with them too saying, "I finally adapted to the varsity speed I trained all off season to get stronger, faster and all around better as a player. Also this year college coaches can talk to me. And with all that being taken away it hurts."

Although there are so many high school athletes all over Connecticut that have worked tirelessly in preparation for their season, there is an increasingly likely chance that the CIAC spring sports season will be canceled.

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NBA Suffers a Lost Season

by Sena Ho '23

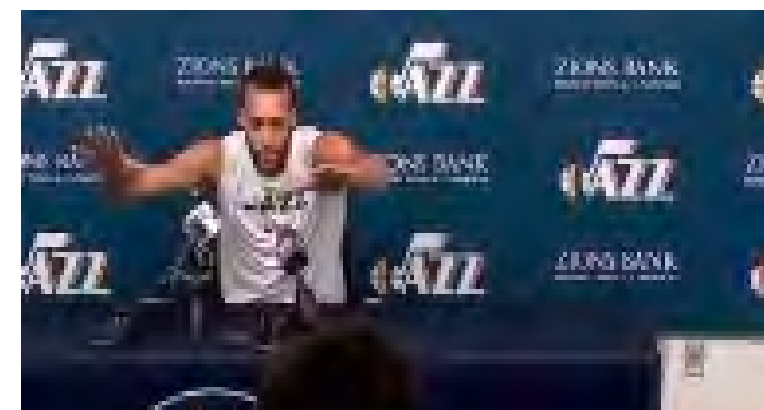
On March 11, 2020, the NBA made its official statement to suspend the season until further notice after revealing news about one of their basketball players contracting the COVID-19 virus. All-star center Rudy Gobert from the Utah Jazz tested positive for the virus after his Wednesday game against the Oklahoma City Thunder. There is currently speculation surrounding how Gobert contracted the virus due to a video clip of Gobert before he tested positive. Two days prior to his test results, he was asked for his opinion on the issue. Interviewers noted that he not only mocked the virus, but he also made sure that he touched every media microphone in the room to prove his point. Following the interview, he was said to have joked around in the locker room by touching both the players and their belongings.

Currently, thirteen additional players in the NBA have

Boston Celtics, and Detroit Pistons were advised to undergo fourteen days of self-quarantine since they were the most recent teams to have played against the Jazz prior to the suspension.

Other major events and leagues have also decided to follow suit. This includes the NCAA March Madness tournaments, MLB season, MLS games, NHL, and even the Boston Marathon. What is even more concerning is that the Coronavirus also has the potential to push the 2020 NBA draft back, giving a slow start to the beginning of the following season.

In times of crisis, many people tune into sports to relieve stress and to connect with others. It acts as a social pillar that keeps us all together. During self-quarantine people can not continue to ignore the world around us, and the cancelation of events such as the NBA makes isolation more painful to bear. As long as everyone adheres to social distancing, we can flatten the curve and hope this time will pass in the safest way possible.



Rudy Gobert touching all the microphones after an interview as a way of mocking the Coronavirus
Photo from ESPN

tested positive for the Coronavirus since the Gobert incident: Donovan Mitchell, a fellow Utah Jazz player; Cristian Woods from the Detroit Pistons; Kevin Durrant from the Brooklyn Nets; Marcus Smart from the Boston Celtics; and nine other disclosed players. Teams such as the Cleveland Cavaliers, New York Knicks, Toronto Raptors, Oklahoma City Thunder, Philadelphia 76ers,

Jaxon Roseman '23, commented on this issue. He felt that, "it was a great decision due to the outbreak of the virus," and, "If the NBA hadn't suspended the league then large amounts of people would have gotten affected." Instead of worrying about the future of the league from this point forward, he showed concerns for the safety of both the players and the fans.

Olympics Postponed for the First Time Ever

by David Sugarmann '20

The first Olympic Games were held in 1896 in Athens, Greece. Since then, the Olympics have been held every four years. Despite the many international conflicts that our world has faced, the Olympics have been a time where all countries can put their differences aside and just enjoy friendly, yet competitive, athletic events.

However, due to the COVID-19

and their preparations for what we expect to be very successful Olympic Games."

However, as the Coronavirus became exponentially more widespread, it became much more difficult for these athletes to continue their training. This was primarily due to the fact that many practice and training facilities around the world have been closed out of precaution.

Even as recent as March 17, the IOC showed reluctance

ponement was inevitable.

On the 24th, the Tokyo 2020 organizing committee said, "[T]he IOC president and the Prime Minister of Japan have concluded that the Games ... must be rescheduled to a date beyond 2020."

Interestingly, however, the event will still be referred to as the "2020 Olympics."

Hopefully the Coronavirus will not cause the Olympic Games to be canceled all together, since it is one of the world's greatest



IOC president Thomas Bach
Photo from Internewscast

outbreak, the Olympics have been postponed until the summer of 2021. This is especially significant considering that it is the first time ever that the Olympics have been postponed.

This decision was not an easy one, however. Before making the postponement official, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) made it clear that their preference was to have the Olympics as scheduled.

On February 28, IOC president Thomas Bach stated that "the preparations ... are continuing with a view to having successful Olympic Games this summer in Tokyo and to reassure the athletes and to encourage them to go ahead full steam with regard to their training

traditions.

Victor You '20 agrees with the IOC's decision to postpone the games.

He said, "The postponement puts athletes in an uncertain position in terms of training and so forth, but given the circumstances it was the right decision."

Raymond Lu '20 shares this sentiment. He said, "I think it's really unfortunate and disappointing that they're pushing them back, but obviously it's necessary. I'm excited to see what all the athletes can do after an extra year of training."

Obviously, these circumstances are far from ideal, but good health and safety has to always be the number one priority.

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**Trident Editors:
Keeping Amity Informed**

Amid any significant crisis, journalists are one of many groups considered "essential workers" as they keep the public informed and communicate the truth to those who seek it. Amity's student journalists are no different. For the past month, they have been gathering facts, conducting interviews, and writing stories – all from home and all while juggling distance learning and their own personal concerns about COVID-19.

Though the April edition of the *Trident* has traditionally included the satirical *Strident* section, this month's edition is completely devoted to the Amity community's response and reaction to the pandemic. These students understand the unprecedented nature of this situation and know the importance of covering it.

I commend the editors and writers of the *Trident* for their exceptional work under exceptional circumstances.

Mrs. Emily Clark
Faculty Adviser

We Got This!

COVID-19 through Photos of the Community by Evan Hollander '20



A photo of a packed parking lot in front of Costco. Grocery stores have been seeing record amounts of sales and customers and people stock up on food and essential products.

A photo of a notice outside of Macy's explaining the new protocol during COVID-19. Many stores are posting similar messages.



A photo of an empty parking lot in a plaza in Orange. Typically, this area is busy with shoppers and restaurant goers.

A photo of Macy's empty parking lot. This store is always full of people at this time of year going prom dress shopping.

