

THE CORRESPONDENT BY DISPATCH

VOLUME 52, ISSUE 5. JOHN HERSEY HIGH SCHOOL, MAY 13, 2020

As Illinois Schools Close Through End of Year, Educators and Students Reflect on Changes

BY AMELIA ZOLLNER

On April 17, Gov. J.B. Pritzker announced the closure of all Illinois schools through the end of the academic year, sending educators and students into a series of historic changes that have come to define a year of uncertainty. While adapting to these changes, District 214 educators and students have taken time to reflect on the changes that the ongoing pandemic has brought as well as upcoming changes that may go into effect as students return to school during the next academic year.

As the end of the year approaches, nearly every aspect of school has been altered in some way. Two of the biggest changes that have taken place were the cancellation and possible rescheduling of both prom and graduation, leaving many students, especially seniors, upset about the ending of their year. "[Having an in-person graduation] is more gratifying and feels more like an accomplishment," senior Yanicka Kastner said.

"I can't comprehend that I'll most likely graduate on a screen and not be able to celebrate in person with my class," senior Katie Wendorf agreed. "We should be able to celebrate."

Although many students have been disappointed by this loss, District 214 is doing the best it can to ensure that students feel somewhat honored while still adhering to social distancing guidelines. "We can only hope to make it the best it can be. It's still going to only be a video, but we hope it's a butt-kicking video and that it's the best we can do for our kids," Principal Gordon Sisson stated.

Another essential aspect of the end of an academic year is the facilitation of AP tests. AP tests, which have traditionally been given in person, transitioned to an online platform to allow students to comply with stay-at-home orders by testing at home. "I was concerned testing would be delayed for months or cancelled altogether," English teacher Britt Connell noted. "While testing at home isn't ideal, I think College Board moved quickly to implement this system and to appropriately alter exams."

Similarly to the College Board's decision to relocate AP tests to an online platform,

all schoolwork is now based online as well, with classes taking place through video calls made via the application Zoom.

To ensure that all Illinois students have equal opportunities while dealing with vary-



A sign outside of Hersey reminds students that they are not alone during the current pandemic.

PHOTO BY AMELIA ZOLLNER

ing circumstances at home, Pritzker mandated that any work done during remote learning cannot negatively impact students' grades. District 214 has taken this to heart by doing its best to ensure that all students feel that they have time to focus on other things, such as caring for younger siblings or maintaining a job, as this pandemic has brought on a period of emotional and economic instability.

"My goal for all of this was to not add burden and stress and weight to students and their families or teachers and their families," District 214 Superintendent David Schuler stated. "If you just lost a family member to COVID-19, I don't care if you fill out four worksheets. I want you to spend time thinking about that family member and the joy they brought to your life."

Many students have positively reacted to these changes. "I think [the district's current grading policy] significantly decreases the stress level placed on students and has positively impacted my mental health a lot," junior Sam Corley noted.

Despite these positives, however, remote learning has also introduced a fair share of challenges. "We realize some material nor-

mally covered during freshman year will need to be taught during sophomore year, for example," Connell noted. "There are also concerns about students who have not participated in enrichment, which means they will not have engaged in school work since the middle of March. We are working as a department to mitigate the effects."

As District 214 educators plan for the return to school at some point during next academic year, administrators have been considering a variety of options to ensure that students' return to school is as safe as possible. "Maybe we would have a situation where, based on the governor's edict, we would only be able to have students one day a week; maybe freshman would come in on a Monday," Sisson speculated. "Maybe we would have teachers rotate. Maybe we would stagger bells so that we never have more than 50 kids in the hallways at a time."

Noting that many students have enjoyed the move to remote learning, some administrators have considered that online classes in some form might be beneficial even after the pandemic has subsided. "This is an opportunity for us to reinvent education to meet the needs of our current students, and, if you think about it, our education system was set up in the 1800s," Schuler said. "I'm not sure that every kid needs to be in school five days a week for eight hours every day; I don't think that's necessarily how your generation learns, and, with social media and technology, [education] can be a lot more effective with a blended model."

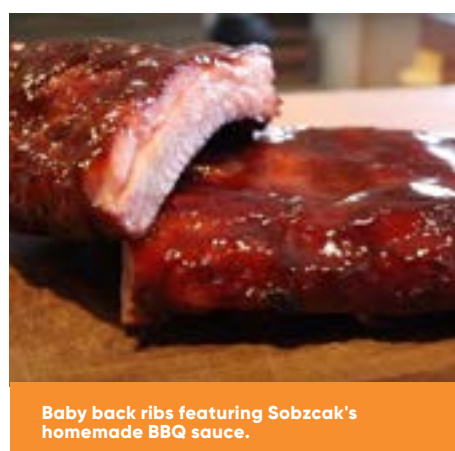
No matter what changes might take place in the coming months and even years, District 214 educators want to remind students to remain as positive as possible through the anxiety that this pandemic has caused. "Everybody believes in you and understands the hardships that you've experienced in this situation, and we'll do everything possible to make you as complete and as whole as we're able to," Sisson reminded students. Don't persevere about what you can't control; make what you can control and what you can do as positive as you can."

Cooking With Sobz: Ribs

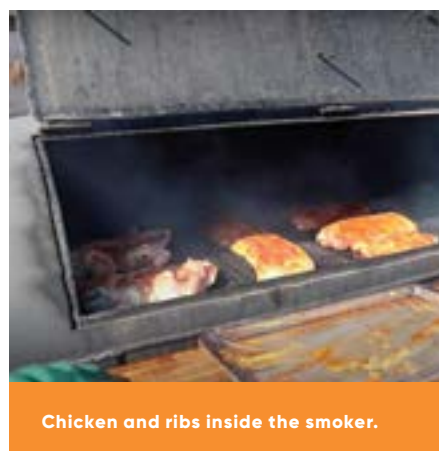
BY SAM SOBCZAK

Although many restaurants are closed during quarantine, quality meals can still be achieved at home. Cooking during this time can be a fun hobby and a great way to serve your family. In this episode of Cooking with Sobz, Sam Sobczak prepares baby back ribs and shows off his homemade barbecue sauce.

For May's Cooking With Sobz,
CLICK HERE
Video by Sam Sobczak



Baby back ribs featuring Sobczak's homemade BBQ sauce.



Chicken and ribs inside the smoker.



Sobczak removes the finished ribs from the smoker.

PHOTOS BY SAM SOBCZAK

Shows to Binge During Quarantine

All American (2018–present)

BY JIA SKRUDLAND

The CW's *All American* wasn't popular when it aired live. However, with the ongoing stay-at-home orders, it found its way to the Top 10 in the US list on Netflix. In the show, Spencer James is a football prodigy who grew up in Crenshaw, a neighborhood in South Los Angeles, and gets recruited to play for Beverly Hills High. The story goes through Spencer's transition from two completely different sides of Los Angeles County: South L.A. and Beverly Hills. The sports-drama show is inspired by retired NFL player Spencer Paysinger. What makes the show relatable to so many people is that it goes through real-life problems, such as discrimination, drugs, violence, and self-acceptance, whereas many dramas often exaggerate certain concepts or ideas. Spencer Paysinger is a co-producer, which allows the story to unfold with his first-hand experience. Even though football plays an important role in the show, it doesn't revolve just around the sport, which is nice for those who like drama television shows but have no interest in sports. I would definitely give *All American* a 10/10 because it was captivating and I wanted to see where each character's storyline would end up because there are twists and turns that you don't see coming.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CW



PHOTO COURTESY OF NETFLIX

Tiger King (2020)

BY TINA KRASNIQI

Tiger King is the show you've been looking for. It has everything: comedy, drama, scares, murder, romance, and tigers. *Tiger King* is about how tigers are going extinct, and it is illegal to keep tigers and big cats as pets. Carol Baskin, one of the main characters, goes through a journey trying to put an end to the kinds of exploitations that Joe Exotic and other private zoo keepers engage in. She was also accused of feeding her ex-husband to her big cats, which makes *Tiger King* that much more interesting. There are so many layers, twists, and turns to this show. I would rate *Tiger King* an 8/10 for all of its entertainment.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NETFLIX



PHOTO COURTESY OF NBC

BoJack Horseman (2014–2020)

BY MAX GARCIA

BoJack Horseman aired on Netflix on Aug. 22, 2014, and recently ended on Jan. 31, 2020. With 6 seasons and 77 episodes, *BoJack Horseman* has proven to be one of the greatest shows of the past decade. With its amazing storytelling, pacing, and simple art style, it makes a talking humanoid horse the most human character ever created. The voice actors make the characters so real that viewers feel rewarded after watching their journeys. When a cartoon is made for an older audience, people think it's because of the humor; this is not the case for *Bojack Horseman*. *Bojack* uses its age rating to the fullest and, while having some age-restricted humor, most of the age restriction is used for its very real storylines that deal with topics of addiction and mental health. That's what makes this show so great; it makes viewers understand a different side of reality. It gives the viewer a reality check, telling them that everything doesn't go their way. Watch *Bojack Horseman* if you want a show that has a good story and an amazing cast.

Animal Crossing: New Horizons' Deserted Island Getaway Package Provides a Perfectly-Timed Escape From the Pandemic

BY AMELIA ZOLLNER

On March 20, as I stood in line to pick up my copy of *Animal Crossing: New Horizons* on its release day, Gov. J.B. Pritzker issued a stay-at-home order for the entirety of Illinois to prevent the spread of COVID-19. I didn't know it then, but, as the stay-at-home order would continue to be extended, I, along with millions of other people, would find myself taking refuge in *Animal Crossing: New Horizons'* perfectly-timed deserted island getaway during the current pandemic. For those who haven't played, *Animal Crossing* is a game series that began in 2001. In each iteration of the game, players find themselves as the only human living in a town composed of animals. In addition to improving certain aspects that occasionally made the old titles somewhat irritating and impersonal to play as well as providing absolutely stunning graphics, *New Horizons* takes this traditional framework of an *Animal Crossing* game and adds countless new features that make the game impressively enjoyable. In *New Horizons*, players find themselves starting off on a deserted island through the game's resident capitalist Tom Nook, who sets the player and a few animal villagers up with a deserted island getaway package. From there, players work to build up the island by crafting items from DIY recipes, another new feature in the series. And, after the game's main sto-

ryline is completed, players receive the option to terraform, allowing for full customization of their islands. There's no set objective, but players can work to build friendships with the animals, beautify their towns, and expand their houses among countless other goals. As strange as it may seem, *New Horizons* has helped people retain a sense of normalcy. Due to the ongoing stay-at-home orders, people are living in a constant state of uncertainty and boredom, and the fact that *New Horizons* runs in real time gives players something to look forward to each and every day, whether it's catching new fish and bugs at the start of every month, checking the shops every day to see what new furniture and clothing items are in stock, or participating in seasonal events to celebrate various holidays. *New Horizons* is also delightfully calming. Whenever I'm worried about the current state of the COVID-19 crisis, I'll spend some time fishing, watering my flowers, or decorating my island. It's a great way to get my mind off of things. But, above all else, *New Horizons* has helped foster a sense of community in a time when it's difficult to connect with others. I love scrolling through Twitter and seeing people's creative house designs, debates over which villagers are the best, and, occasionally, the odd video of someone abusing their least favorite villager by hitting them with a net meant for catch-



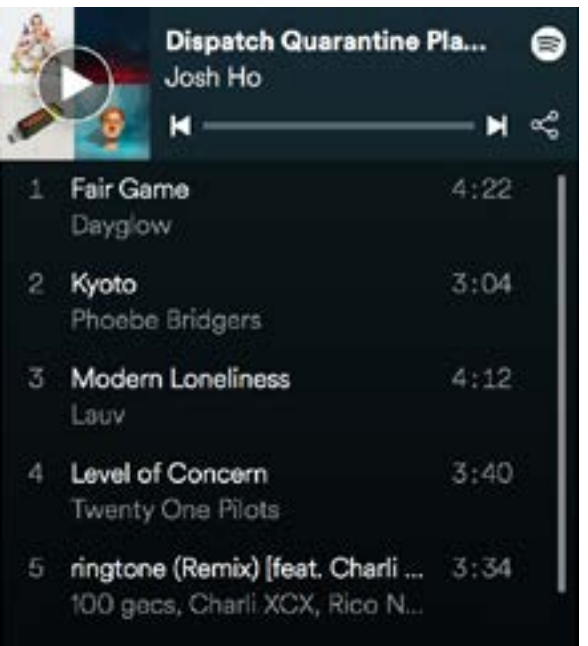
Junior Amelia Zollner (right) and her friends wear matching hats while meeting up via *New Horizons*.

PHOTO BY AMELIA ZOLLNER

ing bugs. I've seen people arrange virtual birthday parties, graduations, and weddings. Just a few days ago, my friend celebrated her birthday. Although we couldn't be together, I was able to send her a virtual birthday card. It's the little things like that that make *New Horizons* feel especially special during this unusual time of disconnection. Amid the ongoing pandemic, *Animal Crossing: New Horizons* has proven to be one of the world's favorite distractions. Whether players appreciate it for its real-time events, its calming graphics, or the connections that it has fostered, it's impossible to deny that it's a perfectly-timed escape from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Staff Picks

Quarantine is the perfect time to discover new music or revisit some favorite tunes. To see what the staff of the Dispatch has been listening to recently, click below!



The Streaming Wars

BY JOSH HO

With the multitude of streaming services available, it can be quite daunting to pick movies to watch. Although these streaming services are similar in many ways, they also feature selections very specific to their service. Netflix offers top-tier originals from respected directors, while Amazon Prime possesses a massive catalog of indie dramas. Hulu features outstanding foreign films while Disney+ delivers unparalleled family content. The following video highlights some classics and hidden gems on these services. Check these movies out if you have the time!



To see Josh's video, [CLICK HERE!](#)

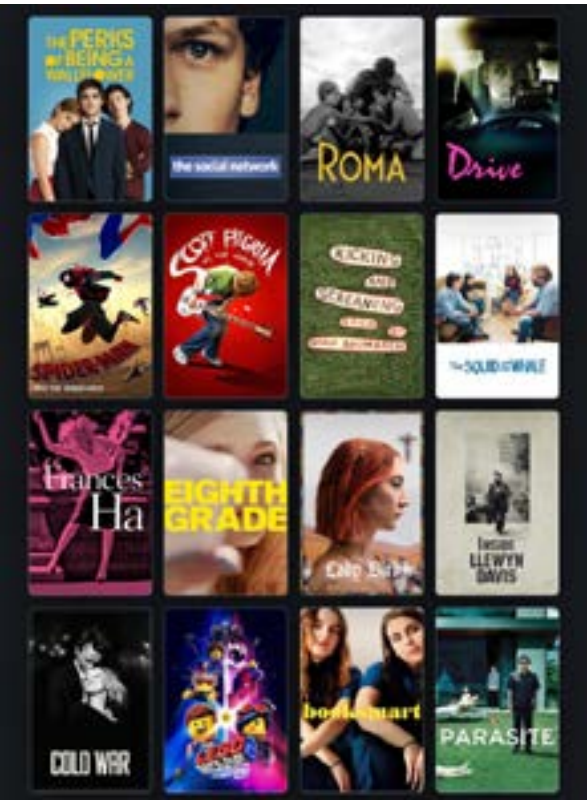


PHOTO BY JOSH HO

Community Sticks Together While
Practicing Social Distancing

BY JESSIE CARLQUIST

During tough times, the community comes together and does everything it can to support everyone. The situation involving COVID-19 has been devastating to many, but the community is rallying together without physically being together to make this easier for some.

On March 30, teachers and staff at Olive Mary Stitt Elementary School made sure to lift their students' spirits by parading their cars through the Olive community so their students could wave and see them again.

Families stood outside and watched while practicing social distancing as their principal and teachers drove by with signs and messages on their cars. For example, one read, "We can't wait to see you again."

Additionally, the frozen yogurt shop Berry Yo has brought joy to many District 25 teachers by offering them free frozen yogurt. 400 cups of frozen yogurt were distributed during their 2-hour event. Superintendent Lori Bein partnered with Berry Yo to thank teachers who are working hard to teach and interact with their students virtually.

Every other day, it seems there are more cars parading through the streets wishing their friends and family a happy birthday. Hersey Senior Emma Hager received a visit just like this on her special day. Senior Claire Stollfuss and friends parked near Emma's house and, while keeping a safe distance,



Seniors Emma Hager, Jessie Carlquist, and Jordan Carlquist pose in Hager's front yard while staying six feet apart.

PHOTO BCOURTESY OFTRACY HAGER



A group of friends celebrates senior Emma Hager's birthday via a Zoom call.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHLOE SENA

District 214 Aids Families, Hospitals

BY TEODORA ZHAKLINOVA

It is a very hard time for everybody, but District 214 has been working hard to help those in need. District 214 Superintendent David Schuler sent out an email on April 18 to inform students and parents about the Illinois governor's decision to cancel in-person classes and to explain how the district has been actively supporting our community.

The district has been helping first responders and hospitals by donating masks, gloves and gowns to Northwest Community Healthcare. According to Schuler's email, the district was able to donate "340 N95 masks, 800 non-N95 masks, 1,014 hospital masks, 380 gowns, more than 2,000 boxes of gloves and 16 cases of soap."

Another way the district is trying to contribute is by helping the development of a vaccine. "Our technology department is utilizing our server infrastructure with a distributive computing program called Folding@Home that is run by Stanford University's biology research department. We are able to use our idle technology resources and have repurposed a server at each of the buildings to help with this project to better understand the COVID-19 virus and develop a vaccine," Schuler explained in the email.

The district has also opened an emergency fund to support families that are struggling to meet ends during this hard time. "The District 214 Education Foundation has raised nearly \$60,000 through the #214Cares fundraising campaign to assist students and families who may need additional support," Schuler said. "Anybody can donate to the fund and support the community."



An employee packages boxes of PPE and other healthcare equipment that will be sent off to Northwest Community Hospital.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DISTRICT 214

District 214 and Harper College are also producing face shields made out of plastic using 3D printers. Students and teachers have also been sewing and distributing face masks to help those who need them. "... a number of our fashion and culinary students and teachers are sewing and distributing face masks," Schuler said.

Many students' families have also found ways to help the community and those in need. "I have been supporting the community by donating toiletries and food gift cards to RTMS to give to families in need," senior Abby Tracz said. "My family also donated several masks to our neighbor who is a healthcare worker. She greatly appreciated them because she said they were running low at her work and they would help her stay safe and not bring anything home to her family! Finally, I have read books on video to young kids who may not have people to connect with right now, I really hope my readings remind them they have someone who cares about them and is there for them." She has found different ways to help those in need during her free time and has encouraged more people to do the same since we are all in this together.

During this extremely difficult time, our district and fellow students have found ways to once again support the community. Not only are they helping those in need, but they are bringing some light into this dark time and are encouraging people to stay safe, and our health workers to keep fighting this virus. They are showing that our community is strong and will come out of this even better.



Healthcare workers at Health Technology Resources pose with face shields that District 214 created using 3D printers.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DISTRICT 214

OPINIONS

Ignoring Social Distancing Guidelines Shows Selfishness

BY AMELIA ZOLLNER



A few weeks ago, District 214 announced that a student had passed away due to a suspected case of the coronavirus and that another student was in the intensive care unit for the same reason. That same day, I scrolled through Snapchat and Instagram only to see students blatantly ignoring the state's social distancing guidelines, putting themselves and the community at risk of contracting the coronavirus just to spend a few mediocre hours with friends.

Although it can seem tempting to break the state's stay-at-home order to see friends during this seemingly endless period, it's irresponsible and shows a lack of concern for the lives of others.

Social distancing works. It's not just a suggestion; the stay-at-home orders currently enacted around the country are backed by months of research. According to a recent study published in the Washington Post, cities, such as San Francisco, that enacted stay-at-home orders earlier have seen notably smaller rates in coronavirus cases than cities like New York where stay-at-home orders were put into effect later.

Without everybody's compliance, however, these stay-at-home orders don't work the way they're supposed to. Every time people go out to see their friends or step into someone else's house, they're risking spreading the virus. Even if both parties feel healthy, according to the CDC, there have been many reported instances of the coronavirus being transmitted asymptotically.



A sign at Cuba Marsh, a local forest preserve, encourages people to practice social distancing while walking on paths.

As someone who knows and lives with people who are at risk for complications from the coronavirus, I'm worried every time I see people leaving their houses. Whenever someone breaks social distancing guidelines to see their friends, they are actively telling people who are at risk for the coronavirus that their lives don't matter. It's selfish not only because it risks the lives of people who are at risk, but also because it extends the length of the pandemic.

Admittedly, I miss my friends and public events like concerts. It's hard stepping away from almost every aspect of what life was like just two months ago. But it's essential for the safety of our community.

Instead of selfishly endangering the lives of others, find a new hobby. Go on a family bike ride. Find a pen pal. Learn how to cook. Start watching a new TV show. Drive to a local forest preserve and go on a hike. Invest a few hours (or more!) into a

new video game. Paint your walls. Dye or cut a few inches off of your hair. If you're desperate, go say hi to your friends; just stay outside and at least six feet apart. It's not that hard. You have the rest of your lives after this ends to see them; you can wait a few more weeks.



Picnic tables at a local forest preserve lie taped off and stacked in an effort to encourage social distancing.

PHOTO BY AMELIA ZOLLNER

PHOTO BY AMELIA ZOLLNER

Remote Learning Creates Confusion

BY JENNY AN



As COVID-19 forces schools to begin to shut down and carry out remote/e-learning, many schools are using Zoom, a video communications app, to hold classes. District 214 currently holds

two Zoom classes each day from any time between 9-11 AM and 1-3 PM from Monday to Thursday. Although these classes are a good alternative during this unprecedented time, the classes most definitely do not measure up to the actual in-class experience.

Zoom classes are more lenient in the aspect that they are held online but they, in return, can cause more harm than good. When students do not attend their classes, there are little to no consequences. This allows students to think that it is okay to skip their classes or oversleep. In reality,

students are missing the new material that they are going to be expected to know for the future.

Teachers have also been assigning online homework in relation to the material being taught. But some teachers are assigning too many assignments, lessening the likelihood of students actually completing all of them.

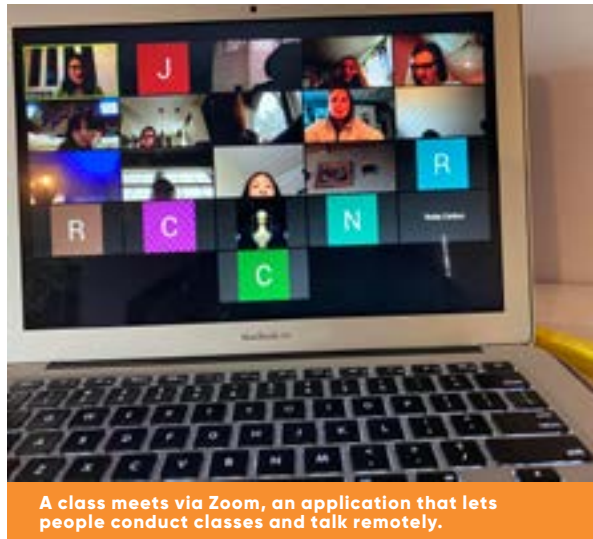
Because students are having to face a pandemic for the first time, a bigger workload is difficult to complete and more stress-inducing.

Being in a classroom environment is familiar and comfortable for both students and teachers because there is a set routine.

Teachers know what their students can and cannot handle and there are rules in place, but with Zoom, everything becomes foggy because it is such a new experience.

For us to finally return to this sense of normalcy and to stay safe requires the

community to take extra precautions by practicing social distancing.



A class meets via Zoom, an application that lets people conduct classes and talk remotely.

PHOTO BY JIA SKRUDLAND

SPORTS

Huskies Speak Out About Cancellation of 2020 Olympics

BY CONNOR DURKIN AND MAX HANSON

The Olympics, a unique phenomenon, brings people together to support their countries no matter their race or gender. Every two years, alternating between summer and winter, the entire world takes part in a tradition that dates all the way back to 776 B.C. in Athens, Greece. People cherish these times to support their favorite athletes. However, after four years of waiting for the next Summer Games, we won't be watching the Olympics anytime soon. The 2020 Tokyo Olympics were supposed to premiere on July 24. However, the committees have decided to postpone the Games to an undecided date.

Talking to our fellow Hersey Huskies, we wanted to hear their takes on this unprecedented virus and the unfortunate cancellation of the Olympics. Senior Sammy Hengstler fully agreed with the cancellation, saying, "The Summer Olympics were canceled due to the fear of putting the athletes in danger due to the coronavirus. They also wanted to protect all fans and residents of Tokyo."

Junior Johnny Murray also agreed with this sentiment. However, he thinks we will be waiting a lot longer than anticipated. He said, "I don't think they will be held this summer if they get back on. It would be too short of a time period to reschedule and plan everything. It's uncertain what the virus situation will look like at that time."

The committee leader Thomas Batch has come out and said the Games would most likely commence in 2021 and has reaffirmed that the games will indeed happen. Even with a year of downtime, many people are still concerned about the health risks the



PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA

massive crowds will bring.

This raises the question of what new policies will be enforced, not just in the Olympics but in other sports leagues around the world. The vast majority of spring and summer sports have been postponed as well. The big questions are: how will we remember this terrifying time and will we honor people when the games return?

Sophomore Patrick Rocks believes so, saying, "I believe they will find a right way to honor everyone who fought against the coronavirus because it was a pandemic that affected the whole world." The Olympics and sports in general will undoubtedly be missed, and everyone will be itching for their return.

ATHLETES OF THE MONTH

BY MICHAEL SOMARY

Our Huskies competing in spring sports are devastated by the cancellation of spring sports. The class of 2020 is particularly devastated because the athletes will not be able to compete in their last season as a high school athlete. Despite these challenging circumstances, our Huskies have been able to keep positive attitudes. Many of the teams have been creative in the way they continue to bond. Some teams have continued bonding by making TikTok videos. The distance track runners even started a video challenge to challenge other spring sports teams.

The athletes miss seeing their teammates day in and day out. Senior volleyball setter Tyler Haas said, "We try to stay in contact to keep that brotherhood there. We know these relationships will last longer than just the season."

Senior runner Josh Methner said, "I just miss having the human interaction with all my guys."

For many athletes, this is the first season they won't play their sport in over a decade. "To have this break is definitely very different for me," senior McKenna Kopeny said.

Despite the unfortunate reality, our spring athletes have managed to stay positive and continue to bond as a team even if they won't play in another game together as a full team.



The boys volleyball team unites in a huddle before playing against Glenbrook North at the regional championship.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BOYS VOLLEYBALL

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR ATHLETES

VIDEO BY BLAKE VON DER LIPPE

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