At the start of the spring semester, the world learned that a pneumonia-like virus, called Coronavirus and later renamed COVID-19, with no treatment or cure, had infected many people in China. The cases spread quickly, with the CDC ultimately declaring the Coronavirus a pandemic. And then the world began to shut down. All Houston and Austin-area schools were closed for extended periods of time, large public events were canceled or postponed, teachers prepared to deliver instruction online, and people all over the US were encouraged to “self quarantine.” The Cubs learned to use the words quarantine, social distancing and sense of community in all new ways.

“The coronavirus, which surfaced in a Chinese seafood and poultry market, has spread to more than 70 countries, sickening tens of thousands of people in a matter of weeks. The World Health Organization has declared the situation a global health emergency.”
- New York Times, Mar. 12, 2020

RESPONDING TO CORONAVIRUS NEEDS

The BISD Leadership Team and the Child Nutrition Team quickly took action. Top priority was deciding what to do as the Coronavirus continued to spread. District officials quickly closed all schools through April 3. The district provided breakfast and lunch meals for all students, served at Alton Elementary and each BHS school; Photo courtesy of BISD

A TIME OF Social Distancing

“In Spain everyone was wearing face masks, but it was cool to experience their culture they didn’t know what salt and pepper were, despite being in a literal pandemic.”
-Katherine Johnson

Editor’s Note: Katherine and several other BHS Cubs were on the AP History Club Tour in Europe when President Trump announced that travel into the US would be banned, except for immediate family members of US residents. The Cubs had to cut their tour short, but they all got home just fine, led by Social Studies teacher Jason Barlow.

“With my extra free time I’ve been spending more time with my family. I’ve learned to appreciate these little moments that we share, more, due to this virus.”
-Makayla Fisher

“With my free time away from school I’ve been catching up with my TV shows on Netflix and babysitting my little niece.”
-Beccia Bradford

“Pretty much I’m trying to learn to use my time wisely. I have been trying to get into a routine of working out, cleaning, reading. I want to draw or paint, overall I’m doing things I wouldn’t normally do. I’m usually too busy.”
-Jevrie Aguilar

“During the break from school I’ve been working extra hours at my job, due to the extra time off we’ve gotten.”
-Antonio Ramirez

The tiny little microbe that (temporarily) shut down the world

Big changes:

-Gov. Greg Abbott announced that STAAR testing requirements were waived for the 2019-2020 school year
-AP testing dates were extended for College Board exams
-Schools across the US followed BISD’s lead and transitioned to online learning
-The city of Brenham required restaurants to serve food only via drive-through or delivery
-Austin City Limits Music Festival canceled
-Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo shut down just a few days after it had begun
-NCAA March Madness Basketball Championships canceled
-NBA Basketball Season suspended
-MLB Baseball Spring Training canceled, season delayed 2 weeks
-NHL Hockey Season suspended
-UFC Fight Night canceled
-CU Open Golf Tournament canceled
-NASCAR events continued, but without fans
-Major League US Soccer season postponed
-NFL Football Season canceled
-March 10 Olympic Trials canceled; events for 2020 Olympics postponed
-Jimmie Johnson Landolt on TV without live studio audience for the first time ever
-Local universities extended spring break; changing all remaining semester classes to online learning only

Note: The information presented on these pages was accurate at the time of the Brenhamite yearbook’s final press deadline, Mar. 23, 2020. Decisions were being made almost daily at that time by President Trump, Congress, the Texas Education Agency, Superintendent Walter Jackson and BISD leadership.

Look at Us Now 2020