

A WORLD SHUT DOWN

Many of us used to joke how we would love if the school shut down. But, when it happened, it was less than ideal and had a major impact on all students for various reasons. Students missed seeing their teachers and friends as well as the structure of school they were accustomed to that was ripped away from them during the pandemic.

MONARCH HIGH SCHOOL
"Creating Bright Futures, One Student at a Time"



A GHOST CAMPUS On March 18, 2020 at 12:00 p.m., a normally bustling lunch period, the campus lay deserted. The school was shut down starting March 13 in order to limit students' exposure to each other in an attempt to slow the spread of COVID-19. This greatly affected many students. "They had to cancel school, which was my way of getting away when things weren't going so great," Linzee Hibbard (11) said.

page by ellie guanella and anna wexler, photo by anna wexler

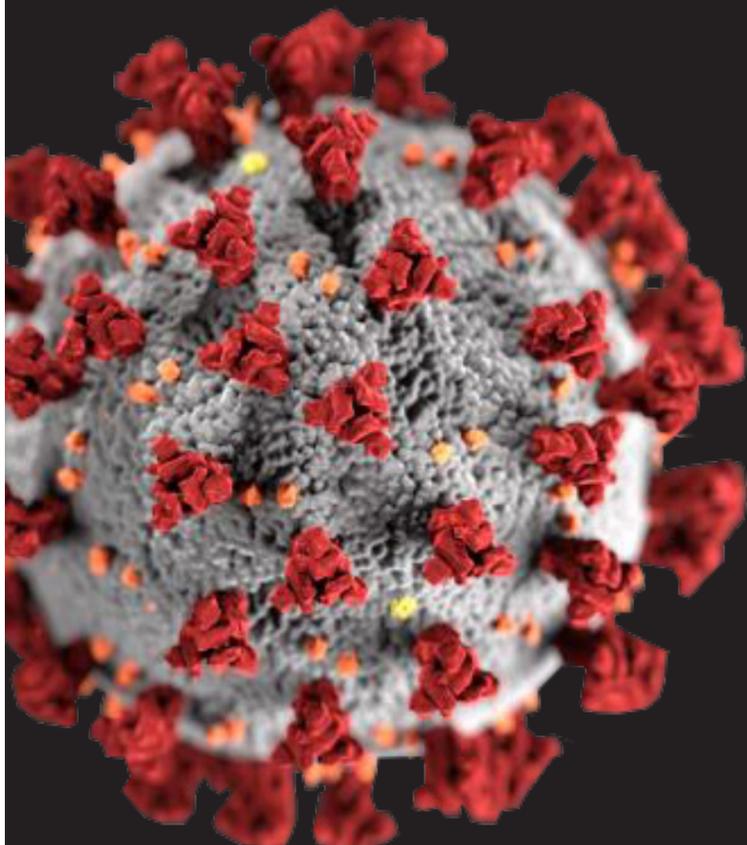
PANDEMIC

Pandemic. You knew the word, but until 2020, it may have held little meaning to you. But suddenly, it held great significance to all of us. The Coronavirus, also known as COVID-19, shook Boulder, Colorado, the nation, and our world in the spring of 2020. And here is everything you need to remember about it.

page by anna wexler and ellie guanella

STATISTICS ON COVID-19: Data at a glance: what the numbers looked like across the globe on April 11, 2020

statistics from world health organization and boulder county public health



1,614,951 CONFIRMED CASES WORLDWIDE

99,887 DEATHS WORLDWIDE

213 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES, TERRITORIES, OR LOCATIONS WITH VIRUS

248 CONFIRMED CASES AND 7 DEATHS IN BOULDER COUNTY

please note that this data was reported as of April 11 and does not reflect any future reports

Throughout the pandemic, existence was very different, and it was obvious in all parts of everyday life. Many people were afraid to venture far out from their homes, as social distancing- the idea of minimizing contact with others- became a required practice as a way to prevent the spread of the disease. Stores saw an increased demand for all goods as shoppers took to the stores to stock up on food in fear of quarantine. Toilet paper was next to impossible to find as it was the number one good- next to soap, wipes, and hand sanitizers- to fly off the shelves.

WHAT IS COVID-19?

COVID-19 was a new strand in the family of Coronaviruses. It was first discovered in 2019, and by April 2020, scientists had proposed a number of different animal origins, but had not settled on a final answer.

Common symptoms had great range, including cough, fever, respiratory infection, and difficulty breathing, which in more dangerous cases led to pneumonia and kidney failure, and sometimes death.

One of the major issues that revolved around

“ I was at Costco... ten minutes before they opened and there was a line that almost went around the side of the building. The toilet paper was sold out in about five minutes and it felt like a busy Saturday afternoon when it was 10 a.m. on a Friday which was wild... ”

-YULIM KIM (12)

the disease was how easily it was spread. It was recommended to wash hands often, not touch one's face, and keep people at a distance.

Many measures were introduced to attempt to slow the spread of diseases. Citizens were urged to follow these tips: wear masks when going outside, stay 6 feet apart from others, wash hands for the entire ABC's, Happy Birthday song, or 20 seconds; cover coughs or sneezes; and don't go out if sick.

UNFINISHED

School closures due to Covid-19 cause stress and uncertainty for students page by ellie guanella and anna wexler

The pandemic impacted all parts of life, but students were especially upset about the cancellations that occurred in response to the Coronavirus. CHSAA suspended all spring sports until at least April 18, eliminating (and likely canceling) more than half of the spring season. BVSD cancelled all after school activities, including clubs and music, as well as trips out of the country and to other states. This put a major damper on students' spring, taking away memories and activities students had looked forward to all year. Sports teams and the music department lost fun and exciting spring break trips they had been anticipating all year.

Students were very passionate and upset regarding their losses. The impact of the Coronavirus was deeply felt throughout the school and every grade level. It was an adjustment for everyone, but for seniors it meant the loss of beloved

and anticipated traditions and rites of passage: The Spoon Game, senior prom, graduation, the gauntlet, senior BBQ, and grad parties. With the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, these cherished senior activities were all in danger of being postponed and probably cancelled when the pandemic hit, school closures began, and activities began to get cancelled.

The CDC recommendation of eight weeks of social distancing made these activities a big if. Seniors were devastated at the potential loss of the traditions they had looked forward to participating in for four years. Seniors were forced to adapt to a new senior dream with the outbreak of COVID-19, whether they wanted to or not.

A TIMELINE OF CLOSURES

Tracking the dates of closures throughout BVSD

Thursday, March 12, 1:00 p.m.: CHSAA postpones all spring sports until April 17	Thursday, March 12, 7:30 p.m.: BVSD closes school through March 29	Wednesday, March 18, 9:00 pm: BVSD extends school closure through April 17	Friday, March 27, 5:00 p.m.: BVSD cancels all proms across the district	Monday, March 30, 8:30 a.m.: BVSD begins online learning for students across the district	Tuesday, March 31, 6:00 p.m.: BVSD postpones graduation until summer	Wednesday, April 1, 6:00 p.m.: BVSD extends school closures through April 30 per governor's order	Friday, April 3, 7:30 p.m.: BVSD announces that traditional learning will likely not resume for the remainder of the year but does not confirm
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NEW NORMAL

A spring semester senior adjusts to an unexpected twist on 2020

Quarantine, COVID 19, school closure, and cancellations had a large effect on all members of the community, but especially the 2020 seniors. Traditions and memories they had been looking forward to for all of high school were suddenly a distant dream. Gwendolyn McGarry (12) felt this sentiment deeply.

"If I'm being completely honest, I've definitely shed a few tears about losing my senior year. At first, I was really sad about losing the big things, like my Disney trip, prom, and graduation, and while I'm still bummed that I won't have those cool seniors experiences, the things that make me the saddest now are the little things," McGarry said.

McGarry was sad to not have the prom, graduation, and senior gauntlet she had always imagined, but she got to spend time with her family she would not have had otherwise.

"I painted my younger brother's cast, which was a good bonding moment for us," McGarry said.

She also kept to a schedule to assure she felt some sense of normalcy.

"I've been working out every day, which has been really beneficial; it makes the days pass much quicker, and it gives me more energy to complete various online assignments and personal projects," McGarry said.

Pictured: Gwendolyn McGarry's (12) home learning space, cooking creations, and the art she created on her brother's arm cast.
photos donated by gwendolyn mcgarry

COOKING UP A STORM

MohiMix looked to help students fill free time at home

During this unprecedented time, many students were stressed, sad, and confused. But they also didn't know what to do with their newfound abundance of free time. MOHI Mix and Madison Sain (12) looked to help students with this very issue by creating "quarantine challenges". This was simply a daily activity, anything from a drawing contest to a quick recipe video, that worked to give students fun activities to partake in. Sain, who was an avid cook, made recipe videos that were published on MOHI Mix's Instagram.

"I think that the quarantine challenges that MOHI Mix has been doing are really important during a time like this. Many families are not able to get takeout or food from restaurants a lot and many kids don't know what to do with their time. These videos and challenges show people some easy recipes and things to do with your time. I know that for me in particular, cooking is an outlet and helps me destress and I hope by showing students at Monarch easy recipes, I can help them in this tough time," Sain said.



photo by kerl yost



photo by kerl yost

EMPTY SHELVES Aisles at the local Safeway sit nearly bare. As the virus continued to spread across Colorado and the world, grocery stores everywhere felt the impact in a big way. People stocked up on non-perishable items and essentials like canned food, rice, potatoes, and frozen items. For many people, it took days to find the items that were looking for and grocery store workers were on the job around the clock in an attempt to keep the shelves stocked.

“Running has been a really good way for me to manage stress. It helps a lot during this time of uncertainty to be able to have something that I can control. Also just being able to get outside and enjoy the sun helps a lot, too.”

-Arianna Le (11)

“I'm thinking about when I can see my friends next, what I can do when quarantine is over, how I can make the best of this, and how this is going to affect things in the future.”

-Callum Conaghan (9)