

MARCH, APRIL, MAY

QUARANTINED

Following directives and precautions from the CDC and Tarrant County Health Department, on March 13, 2020, Keller ISD announced that students would be taking an extended spring break to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus

story by serena shabout, edited by kathy beers

The beginning of 2020 offered fresh starts and new opportunities. However, from the first day, a series of unfortunate events seem to work to take that away. The coronavirus, COVID-19, originated in Wuhan, China in late 2019 but as of March 2020, it is now a global pandemic spread across 166 countries with over 200,000 cases reported and nearly 9,000 deaths. After making its way into the United States, the virus has caused nationwide concern and led to the suspension of all sports from professional down to little league. It has led state governments to call for the halt of gatherings of 250 or more people, then quickly modified that number to 50. Americans were asked to use "social distancing" as schools, restaurants, and non-essential businesses closed its doors, asking everyone to stay home. "At first I didn't think it was as serious, but now it's kind of scary," Arianna Thrayavanh (11) said. "My reaction was what any student's would be, happy to not have to go to school, then we all realized how bored we are and how much we missed our friends."

The announcement of school closure until April 3, was daunting news for students and staff members. In an announcement on March 16, Governor Greg Abbott agreed to petitions from Keller ISD Superintendent, Rick Westfall, as well as other teachers and administrators from across Texas to waive the State

of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) for the 2019-2020 school year. However, College Board is still expecting to pave a way for AP tests leaving teachers and students scrambling to learn the information needed.

"I've worked all year for the AP tests and while online may be offered, it's something I feel like will just mess me up if I do," Kallyn Patterson (11) said. "I don't want mine or anyone else's hard work to go to waste and I feel it's a very real possibility."

Additionally, Keller ISD and Sodexo have partnered together in order to provide free lunches for students in need. Located across 11 campuses, they fed 976 kids the first day, 1792 the second, and 2336 the third day with their lunch drive through services. As of March 19, they have begun adding a breakfast meal as well.

As the excitement of the usually senior spring activities approaches, seniors are getting nervous.

"I'm going to be fine if prom gets canceled, as long as I still get to hang out with my friends because that's all I really wanted to do," Jason Becht (12) said. "But I don't even know if that will be able to happen now."

Although it's still nine weeks away, even graduation seems to be at risk at colleges begin announcing their plans to have virtual graduations or push theirs to the end of summer.

"What is really unfortunate about us being quarantined and forced to be home, is that fact that we might not even get a chance to graduate with our friends," Kenzie Cook (12) said. "Four years of all of us being together and now the biggest days of our lives are being taken away from us. It hurts to know that I moved back here senior year expecting to graduate with my best friends, and now I can't even leave my house to say 'hi' to them."

During these unprecedented times, much is unknown about the future. However, this unsettling situation has unified not just the senior class, but the world as people work to combat an unseen enemy and save lives.

28 Jaimie Schubert (12) made her prom dress selection after a month of looking, and posts a picture to the senior class Instagram page. By sharing a photo, girls hoped others would not duplicate their dress. Prom is scheduled for May 16th and the theme is Enchanted Forrest. photo provided by jaimie shubert.



17 Posing for a picture, Brynn Ure (12) gets her senior portraits taken by Ainsley Lawhorne (12). Seniors get pictures done to commemorate how far they've come, and to celebrate their graduation. photo by keagyn ure

The Sky Dancers took a trip to Los Angeles, California to dance in a Crowd Pleasers competition. They won outstanding dance technique and judges awards. While there they took some time to relax at the beach and make memories at Disneyland. photo provided by brinley tate



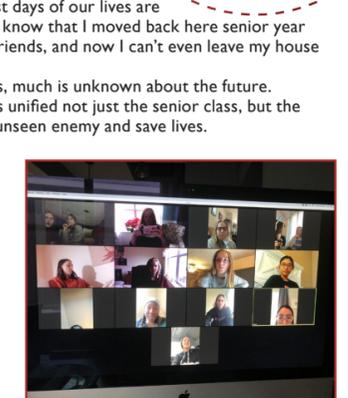
16 Keller ISD students got a two week extension to their spring break due to COVID-19. Zoe Taylor (10) used this time to sort her hand sanitizers in an attempt to stay healthy. "I've had some of these hand sanitizers for over two years, and people always told me I was crazy for having so many, well who's laughing now?" Taylor said. photo by ashley foster

Canceled JV winterguard members Megan Johnson (9) and Gisselle Isais (9) compete in Houston. Before the school closings began, national and state high school events began to announce their postponements and cancellations including Special Olympics, UIL academic and sports meets, journalism conventions, winterguard, and drumline competitions. Heartbroken students hoped school would return long enough to compete or perform just once more. photo by erin johnson



Sold Out During the first few days of announcements concerning "social distancing," stores quickly ran out of essentials including milk, cleaning supplies, and bottled water. But the most sought after item quickly became toilet paper. Baffled by the run on the product, social media jokes began immediately and some restaurants even included a free roll with orders. In the days that followed, restaurants were ordered to close dining rooms and stores would begin restricting hours, and offering "senior citizen and immunocompromised" hours and delivery. photo by lauren graham

The New Normal The week following the school closing, yearbook staff members tune in to an online meeting to discuss plans to finish the yearbook on time while away from campus. Although it usually would have required a subscription, the virtual meeting service "Zoom" lifted restrictions to allow schools to use the site. Other technology services offered help to students during the nationwide shut-down including virtual libraries, internet providers, and software companies. photo by kathy beers



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