



INTRODUCTION

Students began this project in August 2022 by reflecting on their own experiences, feelings, and questions they had about the pandemic. Next, students conducted primary and secondary source research using Library of Congress TPS document analysis strategies of the Library of Congress' growing archive documenting the pandemic. In September 2022, students wrote a historical analysis essay about the origins of the pandemic and what they learned about this time of uncertainty by citing evidence from primary sources in the archive. From October 2022 through March 2023, students worked in groups to find and analyze the historical significance of specific artifacts that documented diverse experiences of community members during the pandemic. These artifacts and reflections are highlighted in this exhibit and companion book. Students also designed the logo, exhibit, book covers, and event invitations.

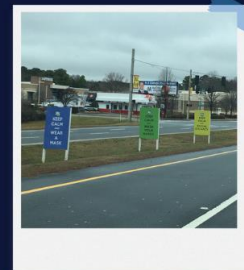
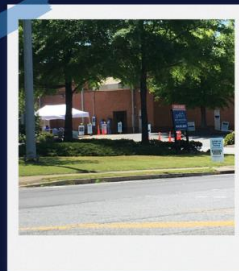
The COVID-19 pandemic is a modern-day crisis that every person around the world lived through, yet experienced in vastly different ways. This project aims at inspiring citizens, particularly students, in local history research by documenting the living history of the COVID-19 pandemic as civic engagement and community service. Our goal in preserving the experiences, voices, and narratives of people during this pandemic is to inform future generations on how to persevere through uncertain and challenging events. We hope you enjoy this experience!



Thirty high school students who are enrolled in the Student Leadership Johns Creek program conducted primary and secondary source research about the impact of the pandemic on their local community of Johns Creek, Georgia. This exhibit highlights the students' research from the Library of Congress' growing archive about the pandemic, and original artifacts including photographs, texts, videos, and oral history interviews.



Documenting the human experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic is crucial to preserving the history of this extraordinary time that we live. Although the coronavirus impacted people across the world (same storm), everyone experienced this pandemic differently (different boats).



STUDENT REFLECTIONS ON THE PANDEMIC



PASSPORT THROUGH THE PANDEMIC

INNOVATION ACADEMY

Innovation Academy students were responsible for Photos, Artwork, Comics. The students compiled all the primary research from their families, friends, instructors and even the City of Johns Creek.

The student-researchers from Innovation Academy:

- Sana Fatima
- Rebecca Gottlieb
- Nyneishia Janarthanan
- Chloe Lee
- Aabha Muley
- Tanmaya Muvva
- Lakshana Ramanan
- Aditi Satghare *
- Anaya Tadepalli

*designed book cover (front & back) as well as logo

VIRTUAL SCHOOL
When school went fully virtual, it was crucial that young children understood how to use technology properly. Being in 2nd grade and seeing all teachers online was not the way to enjoy elementary school.
Photo credit: Lakshana Ramanan

VACCINES
The COVID-19 vaccine shot was approved for children in June 2020. This picture shows a girl getting her second shot.
Photo credit: Aditi Satghare

MASKS
Masks don't have to be plain and drab! During the pandemic, some companies made a profit from fabric masks that were reusable and washable and in fantastic colors and patterns (such as this one). Masks were a crucial player in keeping people safe when they were outside and in the company of others.
Photo credit: John's Creek Arts Center

LOCAL ARTWORK
BY: SUSAN CALDERON

COMICS
This was probably an actual event that occurred. No masks, no talking. People took that very seriously during the pandemic, and some even made memes and comics about it. This is one of them expressing their views on the masks.
Photo Credit: Rebecca Gottlieb

TRAVEL
On a flight to India in October 2020, the flight was completely empty with face masks and shields required. This was very unusual as most international flights during this time were fully booked with no open seats.
Photo credit: Sana Fatima

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES
Two siblings wanted to continue learning Taekwondo during Covid. This picture shows them posing in celebration of passing their belt tests in the summer of 2020.
Photo credit: Aabha Muley

HOLIDAY SEASON
Ho ho ho! 'Tis the season for ol' Saint Nick to come to everyone's houses, but with COVID-19 on the loose, he was stuck inside during the season. The team of firefighters knew that many kids would not be happy with this outcome, so they decided to drive around in a Santa costume to cheer the kids up. And it worked!
Photo Credit: City of Johns Creek

ZOOM CALLS
This is a family having a Zoom call to get together. This is important because some family members were more susceptible to the disease than others, so to be safe, families went on Zoom calls or other video platforms to keep everyone safe.
Photo Credit: Aabha Muley

ARTWORK
During virtual school in 8th grade, this artist made a drawing that depicts a futuristic city where plants have taken over to symbolize her uncertainty about what bizarre things she thought the future may hold at the time of COVID.
Photo Credit: Anaya Tadepalli

OUTDOORS
Hanging out with friends during the pandemic at an outdoor picnic. This shows how normal activities were still continued with regulations.
Photo credit: Chloe Lee

EMPTY SHELVES
Stores were empty in the beginning of the pandemic when people were scared and started hoarding essentials like toilet paper and water bottles.
Photo Credit: John's Creek Historical Society

QUARANTINE
When visiting other countries during COVID-19, people were stamped and required to quarantine for 14 days after reaching home in order to maintain the spread of the virus in the community.
Photo Credit: Tanmaya Muvva

COMMUNITY
In this picture, a sign stating, "THIS PARK FACILITY IS CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE" is seen. This is especially important as this park could have served as a safe place for citizens of Johns Creek, especially children.
Photos Credit city of Johns Creek

FRIENDS
This selfie was taken during the pandemic when social distancing was heavily mandated with proper masks and sanitation efforts.
Photo credit: Chloe Lee

CULTURE
During the annual Hindu holiday of Holi, masks had to be worn at this neighborhood celebration party. The colorful powder that is thrown, as seen, accumulated on the masks.
Photo Credit: Nyneishia Janarthanan

COMMUNITY
This picture depicts the strength of the military in Johns Creek as they continued to work to keep our community safe despite the uncertainty of COVID-19.
Photo Credit: Betty Heigl

COMMUNITY
This picture exemplifies how people managed to keep the joy of holidays going by thinking of innovative ways to continue traditions while keeping caution. A man is seen playing his guitar during Halloween and giving candy through a tube.
Photo Credit: Betty Heigl

COMMUNITY
Members of Johns Creek associated with Taiwan Can Help, are seen here helping the community by providing medical resources.
Photo Credit: City of Johns Creek



SAME STORM, DIFFERENT BOATS

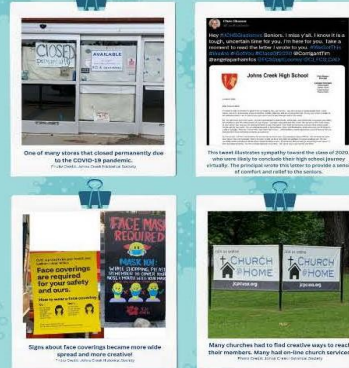
DOCUMENTING THE LIVING HISTORY OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



THE PANDEMIC ON PAPER

JOHNS CREEK HIGH SCHOOL

- 1 - Signs were put up in front of the Emory Johns Creek hospital giving gratitude to all of the first responders and their work (featured in JCHerald)
- 2 - In-person faculty meetings became impossible this screenshot was tweeted by principal of Johns Creek High School.
- 3 - CVS began offering free vaccinations and accepted walk-in appointments throughout their pharmacies.

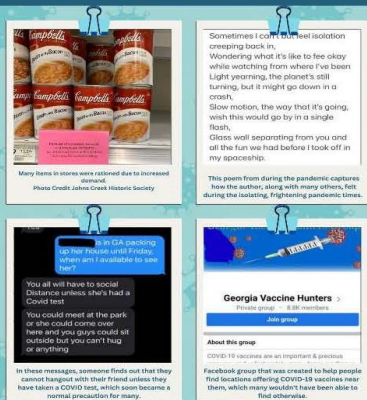


Johns Creek High School students were responsible for Documents, Signs, Newspaper articles, short stories, poems, etc.

The students compiled all the primary research from their families, friends, instructors, and other sources including the Johns Creek Historical Society.

The student-researchers from Johns Creek High School:

Olivia Bernard
 Maggie Dowd
 Reagan Forkey
 Yoseop Han
 Heather Hutmacher
 Grace McGehee
 McKeith McIlhinney



1. This is a paper sign posted on the entrance to Johns Creek High School. This sign shows how Fulton County decided to completely close public schools following the outbreak of COVID.
2. This short story emphasizes the loneliness of daily life during the quarantine period. This short story was featured in the Johns Creek High School student magazine.
3. This image presents a timeline of events and actions taken by Atlanta Mayor Bottoms in the weeks leading up to the pandemic.



STRONGER TOGETHER NORTHVIEW HIGH SCHOOL

Northview High School students were responsible for Audio Visual documentation. This included YouTube, video from friends, TikTok, etc. They had the challenge of exhibiting these in a 2-dimensional design – thus they used a Link Tree – see QR code in the middle of exhibit. The students compiled all the primary research from their families, friends, instructors, and other sources.

The student-researchers from Northview High School:

- Katie Bernard
- Hasini Bollampalli
- Neha Gurram
- Riya Havanur
- Irene Huang
- Rohan Mistry
- Yatihy Sahoo

BIRTHDAY 'DRIVE THROUGH': As celebrations turned up a little merry did birthday "drive through" to celebrate their big days. Through this, friends were able to embark on the birthday fun by driving to each other's houses to safely celebrate birthdays with the proper PPE. *Credit: Neha Gurram*

HONORING OUR FIRST RESPONDERS: In April 2020, the United States did a "Drive Through" to honor healthcare workers. This video is from Hammond Park in Sandy Springs for the Rymer at Northside Hospital. *Credit: Katherine Perrotta*

COVID IN THE MEDIA: The pandemic was the most talked about event in 2020, not just with citizens, but with the media. There would be wide media coverage ranging from COVID case numbers to the influence on our economy. This piece covers the United States' fiscal scale during COVID-19, with an economist at Johns Hopkins's College of Economics. *Credit: Student Leadership Johns Creek*

COVID ON CAMPAIGNING: During the 2020 election cycle many candidates were tasked with streamlining their platforms, but doing it without spreading the virus. In Johns Creek's mayoral election the candidates participated in debates with masks in order to follow CDC guidelines. *Credit: Student Leadership Johns Creek*

HANDMADE POSTERS: Northview students' handmade posters that were put around the school were prior to be wary when it comes to the school's safety. Its purpose is to stop the spread of COVID and other illnesses around the school after the two years we've already had facing a pandemic. *Credit: Northview High School*

TIK TOK VIDEOS: At this time, Gen Z found themselves to be being, but the emerging app called Tik Tok proved to be something that unified people around the globe in an enthusiastic way. Many around the world engaged in trendy dances, recipes, and memes that became the only sense of interconnectivity between different groups of people during COVID-19. *Credit: Riya Saraff*

VIRTUAL PROM: Northview High School's 2020 graduation was held virtually, and many couples found ways to spend time together. Specifically, Prom Queen Samantha Ito and her boyfriend Beau Lark were able to dress up together and rock the night away. Looking back today, many of these seniors have moved on from high school, but still may reflect on the unpredictable times that the COVID-19 pandemic brought. *Credit: Northview High School*

MAYOR BODKER: Mayor Michael E. Bodker's address to the City of Johns Creek exemplifies the intensity of the impact of COVID-19 on local politics. The address being delivered from the Mayor's house also shows how normalcy had to be sacrificed and accounted for in different ways. *Photo Credit: City of Johns Creek*

MEDIA & COMMUNITY: This newspaper from The Atlanta Journal-Constitution headlines information on the pandemic and sharing other experiences during the pandemic. It was important to be aware of what was going on locally or nationally. Whether it was knowing where to get a vaccine, what the mask policy was, or if that person in your community were healthy. *Credit: A.J.C.*

SOCIAL DISTANCING: These signs were a common sight during the middle of the pandemic, especially in crowded public places such as schools and grocery stores. It alerted people to finally start returning to a sense of normalcy, while still ensuring your safety and the people around you. *Credit: Fulton County*

ADAPTATIONS: This piece shows how close contact activities such as youth soccer were restricted by safety concerns and new government regulations. OCEC Director Craig Cummings remarks Stage 1 in the Return to Play, detailing and reflecting on the actions taken to maintain safe play and to inspire other youth sports clubs to do the same. *Credit: Northview High School*

WITH RESEARCH: The members in Student Leadership Johns Creek produced a documentary film during the pandemic. The students were tasked with creating interesting documentaries while also trying to keep themselves and others around them safe in many videos the students are seen wearing masks and other PPE. *Credit: Student Leadership Johns Creek*

MEDIA & COMMUNITY: Northview High School's graduation through graduation pictured in the video above is a historic moment for graduation for graduating seniors. Cheering in the video is parent Ellen Lark who was able to bring friends together safely while also celebrating the seniors that had worked hard. *Photo Credit: Ellen Lark*

ONLINE LEARNING: Virtual classrooms across the nation were silenced except for a few. This video, filmed at Northview High School, can be seen during her classes at home. This video shows some of the concerns from students that had in their virtual classrooms. *Credit: Katie Bernard*

ADAPTATIONS: The pandemic was the most talked about event in 2020, not just with citizens, but with the media. There would be wide media coverage ranging from COVID case numbers to the influence on our economy. This piece covers the United States' fiscal state during COVID-19, with an economist at Johns Hopkins's College of Economics. *Credit: Student Leadership Johns Creek*

VIRTUAL LEADERSHIP: Student Leadership went completely virtual beginning in March 2020. This included a virtual dance team game event in Lithuania. The students worked as teams to escape the rooms that were necessary. This program definitely proved, yet was still able to provide valuable leadership skills. *Credit: Student Leadership Johns Creek*

SAME STORM, DIFFERENT BOATS
DOCUMENTING THE LIVING HISTORY OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

GOVERNOR

BRIAN KEMP

The Governor of the State of Georgia, Brian Kemp, gave us an up-close understanding of his perception of how he executed his plan of action against the pandemic.



UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES
MEMBER

LUCY MCBATH

"From the moment we learned of confirmed cases in Fulton County, I knew this virus was going to demand a serious response from every level of government."



Our Secretary of State Ambassador team did oral history interviews With key members of our state and city. These interviews are more fully available in the accompanying book.

The student-researchers from Secretary of State Ambassadors:
Shruthi Balachander *

Brady Carnesale

Neha Gurram

Alisha Kohli

Varsha Nirmal

Tiffany Obasohan

Lakshana Ramanan

Aria Smith

Nicholas Stone

* Did all the graphic slide designs for the traveling exhibit

TALKING IT OUT

SECRETARY OF STATE AMBASSADORS

JUDICIAL OFFICIALS

DISTRICT ATTORNEY FANI WILLIS



"I really think you need to get to know and be familiar with your audience. It made that bonding stronger. You cannot bond on a TV screen and social media, we're looking for personal effort only."



JUSTICE SHAWN ELLEN LAGRUA

"I enjoy personally interacting with the public, with my staff and my colleagues, but in the beginning of the pandemic, in particular, that just was not feasible."



FORMER CHIEF JUSTICE HAROLD MELTON

"We never closed the courts. We absolutely could not close the courts. We felt the responsibility of the court was to keep people safe."

PUBLIC OFFICIALS

FORMER MAYOR MIKE BODKER



"It was a careful balancing act between protecting our first responder, and making sure that people were going to be as safe as possible."



FORMER FULTON COUNTY COMMISSIONER LIZ HAUSMANN

"I think we all learned to be a little bit more self-sufficient, and learned to connect with things thoroughly regarding the future and our progress."



JOHN'S CREEK CITY LEADERS

Pictured L to R: Roland Castro, Bob Mullin, Ed Demaree, Aloha Kelli, Chris Coates and Chris Haggard

GOVERNMENT LEADERS



"This is our moment. This is what binds us all. Everybody that survived COVID, we all now have some commonality, and we all, for a lack of a better way to describe it, have that scar tissue. I don't think it has to be ugly. I think it can be something that binds us, that we learn from, and we stronger because of it, and pass those learnings on to the next generations behind us."

Mike Leamy - Fulton County Superintendent



"I feel like the whole world needs to throw a parade for coming out of COVID, but of course little did I realize we're not out of the forest, and it seems like it's just lingering to the point where we can never just say 'we're moving forward'."

John Bradberry - Johns Creek Mayor



"We, children and other family members of the lawyers (and the judge) would make noise, or even simply pass through the room routinely. These disruptions served to humanize all the participants and really just demonstrated that we all had a lot in common as humans trying to navigate a disaster."

Rachelle Carnesale - Fulton County Superior Court Judge



"I was worried about technological failures...Internet going out was a major concern in Zoom courtrooms."

Eric Downey - Superior Court Judge

LEADERS IN EDUCATION



"Personal experiences varied widely, and it was impossible to make all parents happy with the decisions that were made."

Linda McGinn - Former Fulton County Board of Education Board Member



"I was clear I got my joy from interacting with students, and without that it was hard. My joy right now in elementary school, walking into an elementary class, those kids are so joyful."

Brian Downey - Superintendent, Learning Zone 6



"We hope this never happens again, but we will be very prepared if it does."

Neil Pincock - Principal, River Trail Middle School



"We did the best that we could, but now we say you know better you do better, but I think that we made the most of it." The main lesson she takes away from this pandemic is to be not be hard on herself and there wasn't that idea of work-life balance like she used to have."

Camille Christopher - Principal, Tinley Oaks Elementary School

TALKING IT OUT

SECRETARY OF STATE AMBASSADORS

RELIGIOUS LEADERS



"It allowed us to discover whether or not we were really committed to our mission. Every organization has a mission and a model that we carry our mission; sometimes, they don't line up. If the model doesn't line up with the mission, the model is broken."

Pastor Andy Stanley - North Point Community Church



"But my point to us had to be very creative. We did the best we could to accommodate the needs of our people and our community here in Johns Creek."

Reverend Father Neil Herby - St. Bridget Catholic Church



"The biggest difficulty we had to make, hands down, was interacting with people because communities thrive and are built on engaging with others."

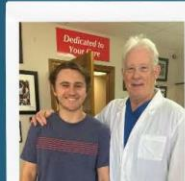
Rabbi Hersh Minkovics - Ohad North Fulton



An interview with Emory Johns Creek CEO Marilyn Margolis. "Anything we could do for the staff to make their lives easier we did."



An interview with Northview teachers Tania Pope and Jean Armstrong. "Experiences define growth."



An interview with Stat Medical Center Dr. Jim Dugal. "I got COVID in November...I was rushed to the hospital. I died twice, my heart stopped two times."



An interview with Emory Johns Creek VP Heather Redrick. "It was emotional. We were scared. We were dealing with things we hadn't seen before."

MORE CITY OF JOHN'S CREEK VOICES



"We would come in and fog the building, everything with disinfecting stuff, and then we were going out and giving people tests that were city employees or family members of city employees and you know just odd-odd-ends outside of the norm of being a Fire Fighter."

Chris Coats - Johns Creek Fire Chief - Served as Johns Creek "Captain Coats" during COVID to be the person in charge of city response.



"In terms of personal experiences, Major Castro had to get off social media due to negative comments towards police officers, but found comfort in being able to exercise outside without the stress of confinement."

Roland Castro - Johns Creek Insides Chief of Police During Pandemic



"I was officially sworn in as the city manager on a Monday on Tuesday I shut the city down for the first time that's never right and hopefully I'll never have to do that again but that was the decision I made."

Ed Demaree - Johns Creek City Manager



"Having kids and schools being closed had a big impact to not just me but also my staff. Being understanding that they you get to take care of the child care, you get to get to work serve the community."

Chris Haggard - Johns Creek Public Works Director

MORE VOICES IN THE STORM



"It was scary in that it was unknown, I'd never heard of such a thing and I didn't believe it had happened."

Robin Buckley - CEO Johns Creek Chamber of Commerce



"I remember, as a teacher, at that time I was teaching special education students or students with special needs at a social study writing, teaching 9th history, and we would start the class off with a CNN program. It was called CNN 10. And we were learning about COVID, where it was in China and all of a sudden, it was here."

Chris Bray - Special Education Teacher - Innovation Academy



"The way I see it, it was this sort of a ball game of an experience, in the beginning we couldn't believe it was happening and then you are in the midst of it all trying to figure out how to do things."

Bob Mullin - City of Johns Creek Director of Communication



"But then 2 weeks turned into months turned into a year or two or something like that and I started to realize that COVID was serious since we saw many people actually getting sick and hospitalized and even dying unfortunately."

Nia Whipple - Northview High School Student



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SAME STORM, DIFFERENT BOATS



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SOURCES**

Consortium Member



THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

CONTRIBUTING CREDITS

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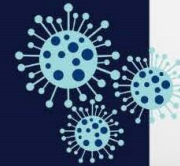


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Same Storm Different Boats

Documenting the Living History of the COVID-19 Pandemic



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