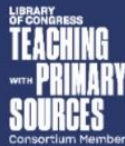
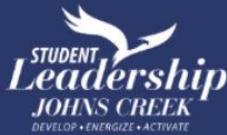


Same Storm Different Boats

Documenting the Living History of the COVID-19 Pandemic



This Book is Dedicated to the Citizens of Johns Creek, Georgia and All Who Served to Help Others During the Pandemic.

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Foreword

Same Storms, Different Boats: An Introduction to Documenting the Pandemic with Student-Led Local History Research

By Katherine Perrotta, Ph.D., Mercer University Tift College of Education

This project was inspired by the community engagement and citizenship of the youth of Johns Creek. Student Leadership Johns Creek, which is in its 10th year of service to the high schools of this city, plays an integral role in cultivating the city's young people's talents and skills to be the future leaders of Johns Creek, our state, and our country. After completing a Georgia Humanities-funded project in partnership with Mercer University Tift College of Education, Student Leadership Johns Creek (SLJC), and the Johns Creek Historical Society (JCHS) where high school students in the SLJC program researched and filmed documentaries about the history and preservation efforts of the Macedonia African Methodist Church Cemetery, I realized that these students remained engaged in community service despite experiencing the ravages of living through the COVID-19 pandemic. When I pitched this idea to SLJC Executive Director Irene Sanders about having the next class of SLJC students, who were in middle school when the pandemic began, research the lived experiences of community members during the pandemic, she immediately latched onto the idea that documenting this time in history is like sharing how everyone's diverse experiences was akin to riding out the same storm in different boats. Thus, the project was born.

We rallied our team that included Johns Creek Historical Society President Joan Compton, City University of New York (CUNY) Gotham Center K-12 Education Director Julie Maurer, and Ph.D. student and social studies teacher Katlynn Cross of Mercer University Tift College of Education to create a curriculum for students to research the origins of the pandemic in order to conduct their own original research of experiences of community members with photographs, poems, songs, stories, texts, artwork, videos, podcasts, and oral history interviews. The final product would result in an exhibit and companion book of student research. The team worked together in applying for a Mercer University Office of the Provost Humanities Seed Grant and a Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources (TPS) Grant with the Eastern Region at Waynesburg University to fund the creation of a physical exhibit and this companion book to display this research. We are in gratitude for \$3,000 funding from Mercer University Office of the Provost and \$25,000 from the Library of Congress TPS Grant to support this project.

Students began this project in July 2022 by reflecting on their own experiences, feelings, and questions they had about the pandemic. Their insights were critical in giving voice to the youth who were bystanders to the decisions adults made when first dealing with the pandemic with school closures, mask mandates, and social distancing. 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 to write a historical analysis essay about the origins of the pandemic, initial responses to the pandemic, and what we have learned throughout this global ordeal.

From October through December of 2022, 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 book and exhibit. Students designed not only the exhibit and this book from January through February 2023, but also the logo that prominently features the title of this project *Same Storm, Different Boats*. Students hosted two public events in Johns Creek and Mercer University Atlanta Campus to share their research with the community at the end of the Spring 2023 semester. Simultaneously, the students' work on this project was presented with the Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources Grant at the annual conferences of the National Council

for the Social Studies in Philadelphia in December 2022, National Council for History Education in Salt Lake City in March 2023, and American Educational Research Association virtually in May 2023.

We learned a lot from this project, particularly the importance of being flexible. Like living through the pandemic, we did what the crew in *F*R*I*E*N*D*S* did while carrying a sofa and “pivoting” to ensure that the students’ vision of documenting the diverse experiences of the pandemic as an exhibit and companion book became a reality. What started as an idea of printing gallery-type canvases of original photographs and art illustrating students’ experiences during the pandemic turned into an all-encompassing endeavor of documenting the pandemic through research of audio, text, videos, and oral history interviews. This project was both meticulously planned and an organic process of the grant team brainstorming ideas that would best support the students to engage in community service through historical research and design of exhibits and companion book.

This book serves as a companion to the exhibit. The Introduction is provided by Emory Johns Creek Hospital CEO Marilyn Margolis, who played a pivotal role in supporting the city of Johns Creek during the pandemic. Chapter 1 explains the research process of this project, including the partnership with the Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources Consortium, the students’ reflections in a word cloud and Google Jamboards, and action photographs of student work during Student Leadership Johns Creek program days. Chapter 2 features the collaborative essay in which students researched the origins of the pandemic by using the Library of Congress’ growing archive to set the historical context of how this global phenomenon impacted their community of Johns Creek, Georgia. Chapters 3 through 6 shows expanded artifacts students collected and analyzed in virtual notebooks with reflections about the compelling question, “should times of uncertainty be remembered for the historical record?” Chapter 8 features closing remarks from SLJC Executive Director Irene Sanders. The Afterword invites visitors and readers to share their experiences and perspectives living through the pandemic by scanning QR codes to record a video on FlipGrid or to write a reflection on a Jamboard. The credits highlight the members of the grant team, and each of the student researchers.

The COVID-19 pandemic is a modern-day crisis that every person around the world lived through, yet experienced in vastly different ways. Acknowledging that major challenges to access to healthcare, education, political enfranchisement, civil rights, and basic social services were exposed, and continue to exist, during the pandemic, this project aims at contributing to the historical record so that future generations can learn about how to be prepared to respond to difficult situations and challenges. I am so incredibly proud of the students who conducted this research, and confident that the future is in great hands because these young citizens are dedicated to making their community, and their world, a better place through practicing empathy, compassion, and respect.

Introduction

By Marilyn Margolis, CEO Emory Johns Creek Hospital

For the past 42 years, I have been an employee of Emory Healthcare and have served as the Chief Executive Officer of Emory Johns Creek Hospital since 2015. I am fortunate to work with the most phenomenal team of leaders and staff at the hospital and with the city of Johns Creek. Serving organizations that are shaping the future of this growing and thriving city has been a pleasure and an honor for me. Student Leadership Johns Creek, led by the inimitable Irene Sanders, has become a driving force in our community and creates transformative opportunities for young people.

In my career, I have never experienced anything affect so many aspects of day-to-day life the way the COVID-19 pandemic has. Living through this rocky time and leading a busy academic community hospital was like being in an ever-changing melodrama--- each new day brought new information and mandates on how to operate, yet we remained committed to ensuring the safety, security, and support for our community. The pandemic happened quickly and changed our lives in almost every way. We were flying the plane while learning how to navigate it and trying to keep everyone safe and alive.

Information started coming rapidly from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and top experts in the fields of infection prevention and medication stewardship. Our infection prevention team, consisting of doctors, nurses, pharmacists, clinicians, and ancillary services, met three times every day to receive and provide updates, and create and recreate guidelines using the best information we had. I spoke frequently with the mayor and city officials to share updates and the best advice we could give at the time. The city of Johns Creek and Emory Johns Creek Hospital worked in tandem to determine what would keep our community well. Strategies like vaccine recommendations and mask mandates were the result of the constant flow of information from experts at Emory Healthcare and the Woodruff Health Sciences Center.

Our challenges were many; we ran low on supplies, medications, isolation equipment, and masks. Johns Creek and surrounding communities came to our aid in every way imaginable. We received love, food, and support from our neighbors all throughout that first year. Feeling that love and support was a huge boost to the morale of our staff who came to work every day, month after month.

As the pandemic continued on longer than many of us thought or hoped it would, our folks were getting tired and weary of seeing COVID-19 take away the stability and normalcy we had previously enjoyed. However, we didn't see an increase in staff turnover or a decrease in engagement. The staff stayed, working together for the good of the whole. Thankfully, very few of our staff members got sick and we were able to provide vaccines as soon as they became available. We designated special areas, equipment, and care to keep COVID-19 patients and their families safe and well but our critical care unit and medical units stayed filled with COVID-19 patients. There was a huge increase in Emergency Department visits. We had to get creative by finding new ways to meet with and care for patients via telecommunication.

The patients that we treated at Emory Healthcare had some of the best outcomes in the nation. However, having to separate patients and their families was one of the most daunting challenges we faced. There was no question that COVID-19 patients needed to be fully isolated and, unfortunately, that didn't include having a family member by their side. As a health care system that focuses on the patient family-centered care, this approach was counterintuitive to how we normally operate. Therefore, we had to find new ways to communicate. Our care teams worked diligently to keep patients and families connected, emotionally and physically, using Zoom, tablets, and mobile phones.

I am often asked how we managed through the pandemic and what we have learned from it, even though COVID-19 is still around. How we got through it is pretty basic--- we were present every day on every shift and we supported the staff. "Support" took a lot of different forms. For example, good food is always appreciated at work, as are meals for staff to take home to their families after a long day of serving patients. The Emory Johns Creek Senior Team spent much of every day rounding, visiting with staff and answering questions --- and there were lots of questions. There were some questions we had answers for, and others that we needed to get more information to answer. We were there, and the staff and doctors understood that we really were all in this together.

George Santayana said that those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.¹ This is why it is essential for leaders to work with our young people--- those who can be the scribes of our memories and knowledge bases. Sharing our stories with the spectacular students of Student Leadership Johns Creek, and having those lessons documented, will make us stronger and smarter when another global crisis occurs.

My role was clearly defined at the beginning of the pandemic: lead, stay strong, maintain focus, and ensure that the presence of Emory Johns Creek leadership was felt. Personally, I've learned how to stay positive and find the best in everything. As a team, we learned to appreciate what we have at Emory Healthcare, in the city of Johns Creek, and at Emory Johns Creek Hospital. We were all in the pandemic together, weathering the same storm but definitely in different boats.

¹ George Santayana, *The Life of Reason*, 1905. <https://americanart.si.edu/artwork/those-who-cannot-remember-past-are-condemned-repeat-it-george-santayana-life-reason-1905>

Chapter 1 The Research Process

Mercer University Tift College of Education joined the Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources (TPS) Consortium Member after being awarded the grant to support this project. Dr. Perrotta attended the Teaching with Primary Sources Institute, which is a professional development workshop for teachers, to learn how to implement Library of Congress teaching strategies for students to analyze primary sources. Dr. Perrotta created a TPS Network Album that featured teaching notes that educators can use with their students to analyze primary sources about the COVID-19 pandemic.



Artists, journalists, photographers, and citizens are donating their artifacts to the Library of Congress. Among the artifacts that Dr. Perrotta included in this album are original artwork and public service announcements from the non-profit Amplifier Design Lab, pastel paintings by Tori Lane, the Camilo J. Vergara exhibit “Documenting Crossroads: The Coronavirus in Poor and Minority Communities,” and photographs from the Library of Congress’ “COVID-19: American Experiences” crowdsourced gallery on Flickr. She also included the Atlanta History Center’s “Corona Collective,” a crowdsourced digital archive of photographs on this TPS Network Album in order for students to study the pandemic on a national and local level. Dr. Perrotta collaborated with Ms. Julie Maurer, Director of Education at the CUNY Gotham Center, Ms. Katlynn Cross, a social studies teacher and Ph.D. student at Mercer University, and Dr. Ann Canning of Waynesburg University to create a poster to present at the National Council for Social Studies conference in Philadelphia, PA on December 2, 2022. The poster highlighted the primary sources and analysis strategies the students in Student Leadership Johns Creek used to begin their research about the COVID-19 pandemic.

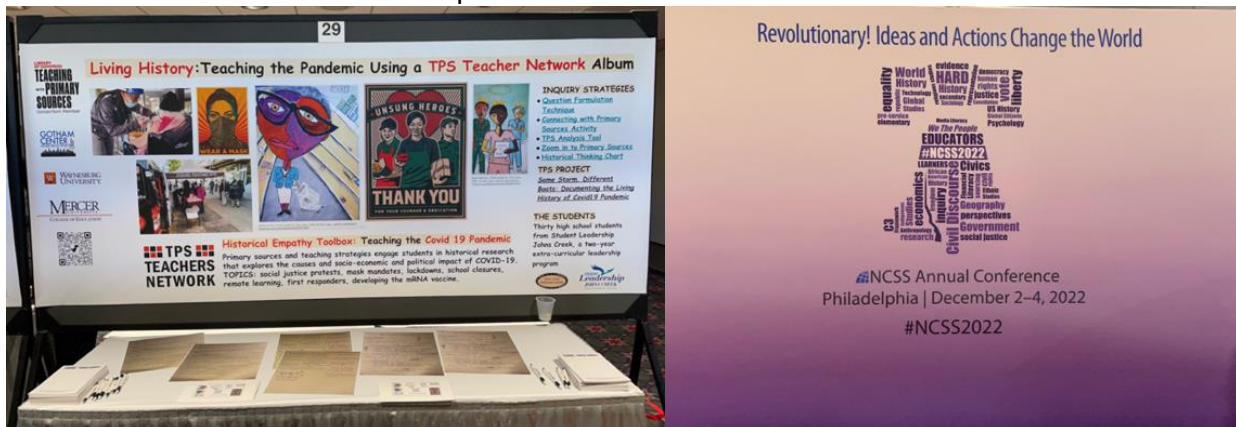


Photo Credit, Katherine Perrotta

In order to prepare students for conducting their research from the Library of Congress' archives and to gather original artifacts from their community of Johns Creek, students completed several reflections. Focusing on the big idea of "uncertainty" and a compelling question "should times of uncertainty be remembered for the historical record?" students shared how they felt and what they experienced during the pandemic.

Before we begin this project, think about your own experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic. Post a sticky note to share your thoughts for these questions:
1) How do you define "uncertainty"? Do you think the COVID-19 pandemic was a time of uncertainty? Why or why not?

I believe that uncertainty is a feeling of unknowingness and doubt for the future. The pandemic was a time where circumstances changed and, most people weren't able to predict what was 1/2

2/2 going to happen next; it was a time of uncertainty.

1/2 I define uncertainty as not knowing what is going to happen next, not knowing how things will turn out, not understanding or comprehending a situation.

I would define uncertainty as the feeling of cluelessness regarding what the future would hold, and a general feeling of dread or excitement that is associated with it. The pandemic was definitely a time of

Uncertainty is the fear of not knowing what will happen next. The COVID-19 Pandemic was a time of uncertainty. No one knew what would happen next. The entire world was not prepared and everybody lived in

2/2 I do believe that those years were a time of uncertainty. No one knew what was going to happen, especially at the beginning. It kept taking turns that no one expected, so yes.

Personally, I feel that uncertainty is the idea that something is not concrete or stable. It is a feeling of not being sure about something or someone. The COVID-19 pandemic was definitely a period of uncertainty

Uncertainty is when no one knows what to expect or how to prepare. COVID was full of uncertainty because no one knew what to expect with each new

Uncertainty to me is a fear of the unknown in the future. In times I think things change with no way of knowing what will happen in an next uncertain word that is mostly used, I think

Magpie To me, uncertainty means that there are many possible outcomes of a situation and no one can be sure what will happen. I believe the beginning of Covid was a time of uncertainty

Uncertainty to me is state of being unsure and unpredictable. I believe the covid-19 pandemic was exactly this; epidemiologists were unsure on how to combat the virus, and we were all confused on how to get used to a lifestyle

Uncertainty is when you can't assume events that will occur in the future, in other words it is similar to instability. COVID was a time of uncertainty as many people lost their jobs without expect

In my opinion, "uncertainty" is when a person is unsure of what to do or isn't adequately prepared to handle something, which creates uncertainty. I think the COVID-19 pandemic was definitely a time of

1/2: Uncertainty to me means there's worryingly little understanding or hope of the outcome of a situation. I definitely, think the pandemic was a time of uncertainty, mainly

2/2: due to the amount of people affected in so little time. Job loss and insecurity alongside mass hysteria also play a part in why the times were so uncertain.

Words that come to mind when I think of uncertainty are unknown and change. I define uncertainty as a situation that can change and isn't set in stone. You don't know what happens next 1/2

COVID-19 was a time of uncertainty because the world wasn't prepared and scientists couldn't treat it at first. The word "unprecedented" was in every school email.

Uncertainty for me is defined as something that isn't promised or something that shouldn't have your hope sitting with it. I definitely think that the COVID-19 pandemic was a time of uncertainty, because of the

Before we begin this project, think about your own experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic. Post a sticky note to share your thoughts for these questions:
2) Should times of uncertainty be remembered for the historical record? If so, how? If not, why?

Times of uncertainty should definitely be recorded because of the lessons that can be learned from them. Since the last flu pandemic, we have become more adaptable and have created systems that can keep us safe, such

Times of uncertainty should be remembered for the historical record as the people of the future can learn from our mistakes. By doing this, the future generations can find sol.

Times of uncertainty should be recorded in history so future generations know how to how not handle a similar situation, and I believe that events like these that greatly impacted the whole world should be taught and

Times of uncertainty should be remembered! As they say, history repeats itself. And no one wants to repeat a time when people were unprepared and unsure of what lies ahead

Overcoming a time of un

Uncertain times should be documented in order to reflect & see the progress made by the community through interviews or books. -Maggie Dowd

Uncertain times should only be added to history books if their impact was greater than a couple months of change. If they are able to change the timeline of the world then they shou

Yes, so we can learn from them! We don't want the future people to struggle like we did. There should be interviews/footage of what happened and how it was dealt with.

They should be recorded for history. History repeats itself if we don't learn it's lessons. One way to keep track of the events is by firsthand accounts like journals or diary entries.

1/2: They should be recorded so we can learn from our mistakes/ accomplishments when handling them for future reference.

Effective ways to record include video documentaries, online blogs and organized government files on problems that arise + strategies and policies used to fix them.

Times of uncertainty should be remembered. They should be remembered so as a society, we can learn from these times and be better prepared for another time of uncertainty. Interviews, primary

These students were in middle school when the pandemic began in March 2020. Students shared these reflections on Google Jamboards and in a Word Cloud. These reflections served as a springboard for students to not only reflect on their experiences, but how to consider how other people had different experiences coping with the pandemic.

Before we begin this project, think about your own experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic. Post a sticky note to share your thoughts for these questions:
3) What was this experience like for you? What did you learn?

Even though I didn't gain anything extraordinary from the pandemic like a lot of people, I didn't lose anything either and I think that means a lot because what I did understand more

The experience was not pleasant given that I had family overseas, and my dad was traveling at the time. It was incredibly scary given that we had no idea what would happen, and also knew that regardless of what

Adjusting to the pandemic and a life of uncertainty had a bit of learning curve. I struggled with discipline and laziness. I distanced from friends. However throughout this time, I learned a lot about myself took that of a

The COVID-19 pandemic was a huge change from my normal life. It was difficult having to adjust to being isolated from my friends and not being able to go to school. However, it helped me explore things I

1/2: It's a common answer but one that resonates with me -- I was able to take the time to grow and mentally, physically and spiritually. I can't say I didn't lose a lot of things and people,

2/2: but the transformation I went through because of it gave the sufferings meaning.

is how grateful I am for where and who I live with in the midst of a pandemic that was crashing a lot of lives.

The pandemic completely transformed my life, as it did for many. I found myself being a better daughter and sister by using all this new extra time that I had to make meaningful memories with my family. I also

Before covid I always wished that I could learn from home. After covid hit, I was stuck at home for over a year and was learning virtually. This experience taught me that sometime the thing

I learned how to take initiative and achieve my goals in an unusual setting. Learning was more difficult, but I learned to adapt.

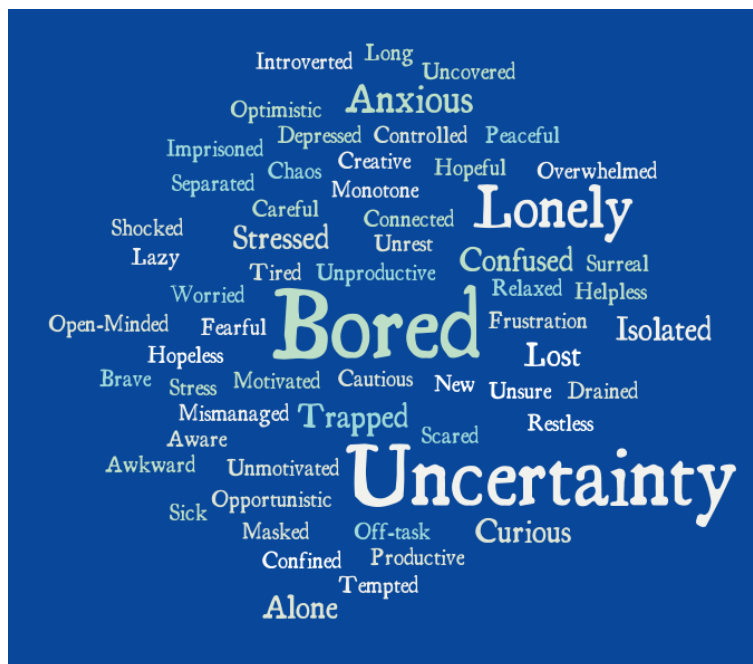
COVID was a time for major self reflection for me. I learned it's difficult for me to slow down the pace of life and isolate, but it made me more resourceful. -Maggie Dowd

Through the pandemic I was able to discover a lot of new interests and figured out what my priorities were. The pandemic allowed me to slow down and learn new things I otherwise wouldn't have learned

COVID, for me, was filled with a lot of stresses and staying inside. I wasn't able to see my friends or communicate in person for a good bit of the time. However, it did give me a

chance to grow certain skills, like speed-reading and note taking. Virtual learning was a terrible experience at first, but it did teach me to adapt to new situations faster.

For me, it was a lot of laziness at home and stress about the news. I learned how lucky/grateful my family was to not be affected by widespread unemployment.



After the reflections were complete, students gathered at the Student Leadership Johns Creek program day on September 8, 2022 and January 12, 2023 to begin their archival and original research about the pandemic. During the September program day, students worked in groups to analyze the primary sources using Library of Congress strategies from Dr. Perrotta’s TPS Network Album. Among the strategies students engaged in was “Connecting with Primary Sources,” “Think like a Historian,” “Analyzing Photographs,” and “Zoom-In Technique.” Students recorded their findings on chart paper and shared what they learned to the whole group.

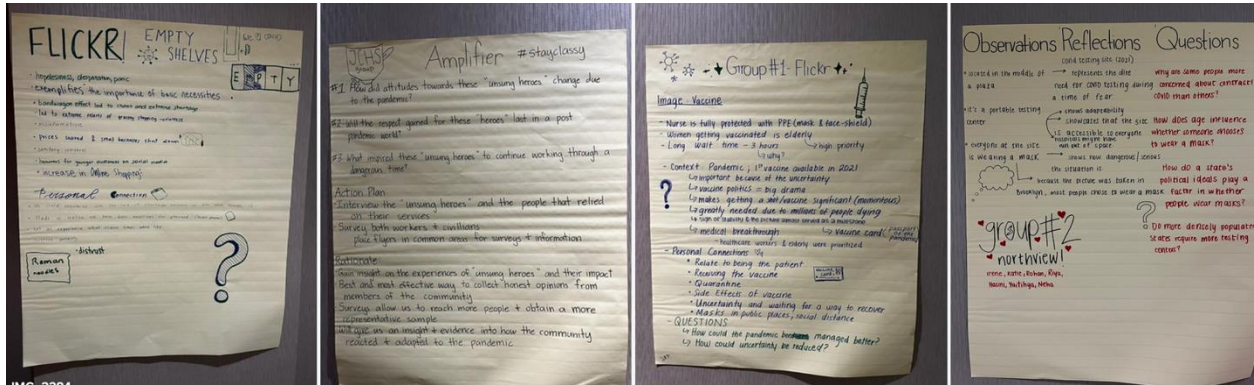


Photo Credit, Irene Sanders



Photo Credit, Irene Sanders



Photo Credit, Irene Sanders

Students continued their studies of the Library of Congress’ archives to write a historical analysis essay about the beginnings of the pandemic and how this global event impacted their lives and experiences in their community. Students read and cited secondary sources and documents from the Library of Congress’ archives as evidence to support their explanation of the big idea and compelling question from the reflections, “should times of uncertainty be documented?” Each

group collaborated on the research and writing on a Google Doc. You can read their essay in Chapter 2.

From October 2022 through January 2023, students in each group began doing original research by finding artifacts from friends, family, and community members to document the unique experiences of people living through the pandemic in Georgia. Although the focus of the students' project was Johns Creek, they quickly realized that decisions made on the county and state level impacted how their city responded to this crisis. During this research phase, students completed virtual notebooks on a dedicated Google Classroom where they selected their artifacts, explained a rationale for why each artifact was chosen, and wrote a reflection on what they learned about different perspectives and experiences of people in their community during the pandemic. The virtual notebooks can be accessed to this Google Classroom (invite code vilj7je).



Innovation Academy students researched photographs and artwork from the pandemic (Chapter 4). Johns Creek High School researched texts from the pandemic that include, but are not limited to, phone messages, poems, school newsletters, emails, and signs (Chapter 5). Northview High School researched audio-visual artifacts that included clips from virtual proms, YouTube videos of mayoral updates, friends' TikTok videos, the Student Leadership Johns Creek documentary films about the Macedonia African Methodist Church Cemetery, and adaptations to contact sports (Chapter 6). Students representing various high schools in the Secretary of State Ambassadors group compiled a list of community members and officials to conduct oral history interviews with (Chapter 7). They worked on interviewing many dignitaries through March 2023.

During the January 12, 2023 Program Day, students began curating the exhibit by finding artifacts from their virtual notebooks that best represent the diverse experiences and perspectives of friends, family, and community members during the COVID-19 pandemic. Students collaborated on Canva to design the exhibit panels that are on display through February 2023.



Photo Credit, Irene Sanders and Katherine Perrotta

Once the exhibits were designed, students selected their work from the virtual notebooks to include in this companion book to provide guests with deeper insights about the multitude of

experiences and perspectives of diverse people in Georgia who lived through, and survived the pandemic. Students also reflected on how their research of these primary sources supported the findings from their collaborative essay when answering the question, “should times of uncertainty be remembered for the historical record?”

In March 2023, Dr. Perrotta and Dr. Canning presented this project at the National Council for History Education Conference in Salt Lake City. They shared an updated poster, designed with Julie Maurer, and facilitated a breakout session with conference participants on how to implement the TPS document analysis strategies to conduct research about the COVID-19 pandemic while using the Library of Congress’ archives. They received a lot of great feedback from TPS Consortium Members, as well as social studies and history teachers across the country about this project. This presentation was a wonderful way to prepare for the community events where students displayed their exhibit and this book at Northview High School and Mercer University Cecil B. Day Atlanta Campus in April 2023.

Freedom From Uncertainty: Teaching the Pandemic
 Using Historical Research, TPS Teachers Network Album & Library of Congress Collections

TPS TEACHERS NETWORK

WEAR A MASK

UNSUNG HEROES
THANK YOU
 FOR YOUR COURAGE & DEDICATION

HISTORICAL EMPATHY TOOLBOX: TEACHING COVID19 PANDEMIC

Primary sources and teaching strategies engage students in historical research that explores the causes and socio-economic and political impact of Covid 19.

TEACHING WITH PRIMARY SOURCES

WAYNESBURG UNIVERSITY

STUDENT LEADERSHIP JOHN'S CREEK

TPS PROJECT
Same Storm, Different Boats: Documenting the Living History of Covid19 Pandemic

THE STUDENTS
 Thirty high school students from Student Leadership Johns Creek, a two-year extra-curricular leadership program

Photo Credit, Katherine Perrotta

This companion book and exhibit will be catalogued and stored at the Fulton County Library Ocee Branch. The public will be able to check out these materials to learn about the historical significance of the COVID-19 pandemic, and how people in the community experienced the same pandemic in different ways. The students who conducted this research did the work of historians by gathering and analyzing primary sources in order to explain why learning about the past is important for our present and future. Eventually, the events of the pandemic will be in the distant past, and this project empsheres the perspectives and experiences of community members who survived the pandemic.

Chapter 2

Boats in the Storm Historical Essay

By Student Leadership Johns Creek

In order for students to conduct original primary source research about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on their community, they needed to examine these events in a broader historical context. Such an examination is critical when doing local history research in order for students to connect micro-level experiences to global events. These connections demonstrate how seemingly unique experiences are interdependent upon the decisions, action, and reactions to events on a macro-level by community leaders, government officials, and other civic institutions.

In order for students to conduct original primary source research about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on their community, they needed to examine these events in a broader historical context. Such an examination is critical when doing local history research in order for students to connect micro-level experiences to global events. These connections demonstrate how seemingly unique experiences are interdependent upon the decisions, action, and reactions to events on a macro-level by community leaders, government officials, and other civic institutions.

In late 2019, China was experiencing an unexpected situation.² Many of their citizens died, and constant death surrounded the area.³ The cause of this was later found to be, as quoted by Mayo Clinic, a severe acute respiratory disease called SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19 (History of COVID-19: Outbreaks and Vaccine Timeline, n.d.-b).⁴ When the epidemic in China spread across the world, it transitioned to a global pandemic.⁵ The difference between a pandemic and an epidemic is that an epidemic involves the wide-range spread of a disease through an area or a particular community, and a pandemic involves an even wider range through which the disease spreads.⁶ Most countries started shutting down in March of 2020, the United States included.⁷ Travel was restricted, businesses started shutting down, and states started enforcing social distancing orders where people had to wear masks to stop the spread of COVID-19. Schools transitioned from in-person interactions to digital platforms, as the general public was unaware of how to handle the situation. Students were also left to handle the situation alongside the adults and were greatly impacted by being forced to stay inside, the mask mandate, and forcing themselves to adapt to online learning.

Everyone's lives—students, parents, teachers, frontline workers, and so many others—were turned upside down after the emergence of COVID-19 in the United States and around the world.

² Mayo Clinic. "History of COVID-19: Outbreaks and Vaccine Timeline," <https://www.mayoclinic.org/coronavirus-covid-19/history-disease-outbreaks-vaccine-timeline/covid-19>.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "CDC Museum COVID-19 Timeline," March 15, 2023, <https://www.cdc.gov/museum/timeline/covid19.html>.

⁶ Barcelona Institute for Global Health. "A Pandemic Year in 10 Quotes - Blog." ISGlobal. Accessed [insert date accessed]. <https://www.isglobal.org/en/healthisglobal/-/custom-blog-portlet/a-pandemic-year-in-10-quotes/3098670/0>.

⁷ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "CDC Museum COVID-19 Timeline."

Schools closed, and the students were thrilled; some thought that they were getting an extended vacation of sorts, while others were relieved, they would not have to take a test they had the next day. The amount of news thrown at people was overwhelming, and no one knew what to do or which sources to believe. We were caught off guard in a wave of uncertainty. Uncertainty at that time meant not knowing what the future held, specifically for students not knowing whether school would start in-person or if we could do simple things like go grocery shopping or meet with people in public without risking both parties' lives. This can be seen in picture from the Library of Congress' crowdsourced Flickr archive of digital images documenting experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic, in which empty shelves are shown in a grocery store in Maine that otherwise may be full.⁸ This was an especially shocking event for the vast majority of people in America because we are used to having an abundance of items at stores. This was not normal. Times of uncertainty, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, should be remembered and [cherished] so that we can mitigate the effects of future problems similar to these. This essay—and this project—outlines how the effects of the pandemic were experienced by people in several different ways.

Part of the uncertainty of COVID-19 was where the virus originated from and the consequences it had on our community. Unfortunately, the cause of COVID-19 is still undetermined. Some experts believe that the virus is a zoonotic disease, which starts in animals and then spreads to humans. Some people think the pandemic happened in a local live animal market in Wuhan, China.⁹ Some researchers and government officials believe the COVID-19 virus leaked from a lab in Wuhan December 2019.¹⁰ Within 100 days of the pandemic, there have been over 1.3 million confirmed cases, and over 75,000 fatalities have been reported all over the world.¹¹ Due to the shutdown of economic activity throughout the world, stocks plummeted, and billions of people were ordered to stay in their homes.¹² It has also taken a heavy toll on the world economy, with the International Monetary Fund predicting that the global economy contracted by 3.9% on average between 2019 and 2020, making it the worst downturn since the Great Depression.¹³ The United States economy shrank by 8.9 percent in the second quarter of 2020, the most in more than 70 years.¹⁴ Airlines, one of the most prosperous industries, also went through a severe economic downturn. The suspension of travel in several nations, including China and Italy, known

⁸ June McClean. "Inspiration: Current Events." Library of Congress. COVID: American Experiences Gallery 1. March 13, 2020. https://www.flickr.com/photos/142351481@N02/49659728336/in/gallery-library_of_congress-72157716271339617/

⁹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

¹⁰ Michaleen Doucleff, "What Does the Science Say about the Origin of the SARS-CoV-2 Pandemic," NPR, February 28, 2023, <https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2023/02/28/1160162845/what-does-the-science-say-about-the-origin-of-the-sars-cov-2-pandemic>

¹¹C.M. Tomlin, "Facts about coronavirus." National Geographic Kids, July 21 2021. <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/science/article/facts-about-coronavirus>.

¹² Andria Cheng, "Covid Demand Gave Etsy a Big Boost. Will Customers Stick around Post Pandemic?" Forbes Magazine, February 26, 2021. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/andriacheng/2021/02/26/thanks-to-coronavirus-etsys-annual-gross-merchandise-value-just-doubles-to-top-10-billion/?sh=cb155cb48082>.

¹³ Andria Cheng, "Covid Demand Gave Etsy a Big Boost. Will Customers Stick around Post Pandemic?"

¹⁴ "The U.S. Economy and the Global Pandemic - White House." [insert date published/created]. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Chapter-3-new.pdf>.

as COVID-19 "hotspots," as well as in cities such as New York in our nation, caused a decline in airline stock prices and threats of layoffs of airline workers.¹⁵ The pandemic effectively brought light global economic interdependence.

Despite the challenges faced by people in numerous countries, humanity came together to fight back against the virus. The U.S. government was responsible for supporting the development of vaccinations distributed free of charge in most places. The Trump administration signed the COVID Relief Act to provide unemployment benefits for people who lost their jobs during the pandemic.¹⁶ Later, the Biden administration expanded these benefits and made vaccines available to under-resourced communities.¹⁷ As for companies and organizations, Apple released an app with a COVID-19 symptom exposure questionnaire that enables people to recognize symptoms and provide recommendations. Apple collaborated with government agencies such as the Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control, and the White Coronavirus Task Force to create this app.¹⁸

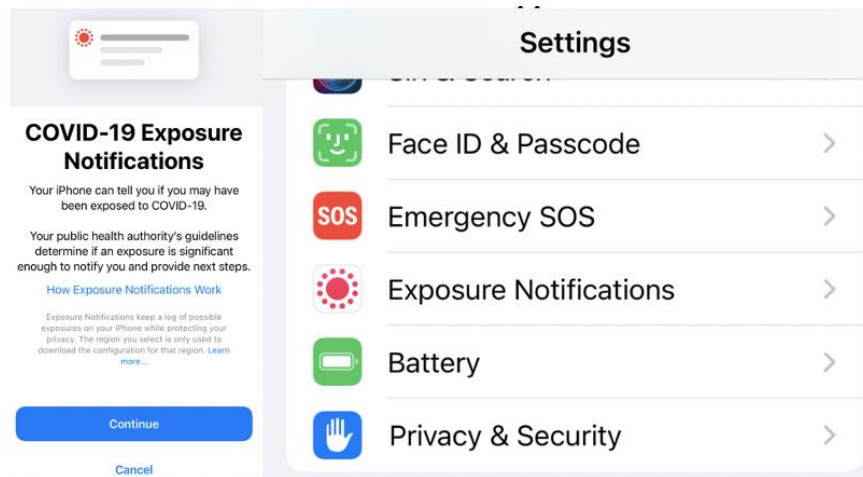


Photo Credit, Katherine Perrotta

Additionally, in this fear-filled period, some residents went on purges and cleared grocery store shelves. There were shortages of basic necessities such as toilet paper, cleaning products, and certain foods. Because restaurants were closed, the rate of grocery spending was greater than it was before the outbreak. Another way individuals were able to reduce their exposure to the virus was by obtaining their daily necessities online without going to the grocery store due to platforms such as Instacart. Instacart was so effective that it helped many people who could not go to stores. According to Russell Redmen of Supermarket News, the "average customer basket size swelled over 25% month over month as customers stocked up on staple groceries and daily

¹⁵ Cheng.

¹⁶ White House, "The U.S. Economy and the Global Pandemic."

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Ibid.

essentials” during 2020.¹⁹ Even though the pandemic was a dreadful time, mankind persevered through it because of community collaboration and the use of innovative technology to buy goods and to stay in touch.

Gaining tremendous popularity during the pandemic was a social media platform called TikTok for users to create, share, and discover short videos. On TikTok, society found solutions to the arising problems during the time. Some of these trending solutions were dying hair at home when salons were closed, following online work-out videos worked when gyms were closed, and creating at-home meal recipes were popular when restaurants were closed. Alongside TikTok, social media platforms played a big role in the effort to maintain community relationships by sharing photos from quarantine online. Still, this physical distance remained difficult as local community relationships eroded due to distance regulations and fear of the virus. Children growing up struggled to build social skills as critical aspects of young social life were taken away, such as playing outside in the park.²⁰ The global shutdown, widespread unemployment, and delay of the supply chain area all associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Industries throughout the world were forced to adapt to the pandemic as the food industry became more delivery and pick up based, and retail stores changed their business model to be more digital friendly. Consequently, communities avoided shopping in malls and stores amidst the fear of COVID-19, ultimately causing stores to shut down, like in the photograph of “Ghost Towns” in rural areas in the United States that never re-opened.²¹ The increase of online shopping and shortage of labor led to a slowdown of the global supply chain, with effects still being felt today. Industries of all sorts had to adapt to a loss of items and thus reduced profits, especially when stores like Walmart had to limit the number of people who could shop because of social distancing as shown in a photograph from Maryland.²²

During the lockdowns, there were widespread demonstrations and civil rights activities across the country following the murder of George Floyd. People protested for Black Lives Matter, and for reforms that protect African Americans and people of color. Some protests involved tension between protestors and police as seen in this photograph in Seattle.²³ Adding to the tension between already divided communities, racism became more prevalent and the number of hate

¹⁹ Russell Redman. “Instacart Works to Expedite Delivery as Coronavirus Hikes Orders.” Supermarket News, April 10, 2020. <https://www.supermarketnews.com/online-retail/instacart-works-expedite-delivery-coronavirus-hikes-orders>

²⁰ Patrick Pemberton, “No Play Today--- Life in the Time of Coronavirus.” Library of Congress. COVID: American Experiences Gallery 1. March 28, 2020. https://www.flickr.com/photos/artbypem/49709825076/in/gallery-library_of_congress-72157716271339617/

²¹ Judith Jackson, “Deserted.” Library of Congress. COVID: American Experiences Gallery 1. April 17, 2021. https://www.flickr.com/photos/130010035@N04/51125538577/in/gallery-library_of_congress-72157716271339617/

²² Davey Nin. “COVID-19 Social Distancing.” Library of Congress. COVID: American Experiences Gallery 1. June 27, 2020. https://www.flickr.com/photos/daveynin/50149826762/in/gallery-library_of_congress-72157716271339617/

²³ Derek Simeone. “Community Engagement.” Library of Congress. COVID: American Experiences Gallery 1. May 31, 2020. https://www.flickr.com/photos/dereksimeone/50078041341/in/gallery-library_of_congress-72157716271339617/

crimes increased, spreading fear and violence throughout the country. Many looked to blame China as the cause of the pandemic, ultimately leading to targeted attacks against Asian Americans and other groups who have been discriminated against. Posters advocating for “protecting your elders” spread after these recurring attacks to encourage people to be respectful of minorities and older people who were vulnerable to catching the virus.²⁴ Many people became aware of how much racism and forms of discrimination still impact our country against African Americans, Asian Americans, and Native Americans.

While the lockdowns and social justice protests were going on, the 2020 presidential election approached. There were questions about how people could go vote during a pandemic. Many people decided to cast absentee or early ballots rather than traveling to their local polling place and waiting in line, decreasing the transmission of the disease. People felt very strongly that it was important to vote because of these major issues facing our country. During this time of crisis, citizens of countries turned towards political leaders for hope and guidance. In some cases, some leaders inspired yet separated citizens. Contrasting viewpoints led to a division in communities throughout the United States about issues like social distancing.²⁵ Political leaders participated in debates and publicly advocated through multiple platforms in favor of the use of masks, the effectiveness of quarantining, and other COVID-19 guidelines. Even throughout these fearful times, people still came out to vote. Positive messages, such as “There’s No Quarantine on Kindness,” were displayed in towns and across social media in support of social justice and keeping citizens safe from the viral spread.²⁶

The COVID-19 pandemic was a difficult time for everyone and presented many challenges and hardships that had massive effects on communities, the United States, and the world as a whole. COVID-19 has also shed light on the racial disparities plaguing our country in healthcare, food access, and education. For example, a photograph in the Library of Congress Flickr album “COVID-19: American Experiences Gallery 1,” shows a section of a crowd in the midst of a Black Lives Matter protest (as shown on the sign) who want social justice racial equality.²⁷ Some challenges of this pandemic that affected the world included hospitals exceeded maximum capacity, therefore sadly causing some patients to go untreated, resulting in further spreading of the disease and even death. People were not able to visit their loved ones who were sick in the hospital; some people had to wave at loved ones from outside through windows at nursing homes²⁸. COVID-19 made it more difficult for people with family members in jail to visit them.

²⁴ Gregg Deal, “Protect Our Elders,” Library of Congress Amplifier Poster, 2020, <https://www.loc.gov/item/2020632277/>

²⁵ Blink O’Fanaye, “Rally for Trump Outside Walter Reed,” Library of Congress. COVID: American Experiences Gallery 1. October 5, 2020. https://www.flickr.com/photos/blinkofanaye/50420566857/in/gallery-library_of_congress-72157716271339617/

²⁶ Skye Sturm, “There’s No Quarantine on Kindness—Spread Love, not the Virus,” Library of Congress Amplifier Poster, 2020, <https://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2020632234/>

²⁷ V Hines, “Black Lives Matter Demonstration, San Francisco,” Library of Congress. COVID: American Experiences Gallery 1. June 7, 2020. https://www.flickr.com/photos/vhines200/51236463926/in/gallery-library_of_congress-72157716271339617/

²⁸ Jeanne G. “Visiting Grandma.” Library of Congress. COVID: American Experiences Gallery 1. October 20, 2020. https://www.flickr.com/photos/jeaneg/50525438491/in/gallery-library_of_congress-72157716271339617/

Worldwide unemployment rates skyrocketed, countries became less unified because of the strain of resources due to lack of trade, and it was universally unsafe and impossible to travel. Along with the many challenges arising on a worldwide scale, the United States faced many issues including a decrease in GDP, which took a large toll on the United States' economy. The pandemic created many severe economic hardships as many people lost their jobs and houses or experienced cutbacks in paychecks, and all inside eating areas as well as many large corporations temporarily shut down. Many small businesses shut down, causing people to lose their homes and not have enough money to pay for groceries, and sports and other events like graduations were canceled.²⁹ Parents were forced to work from home, and students were unable to attend school or see friends.³⁰ These closures caused an increase in academic dishonesty, such as cheating, and also increasing depression and suicide rates in kids.

Despite the destruction and loss facilitated by the spread of COVID-19, the pandemic had some global, national, and local benefits. From a global standpoint, COVID-19 promoted unity among nations with the start of organizations such as COVAX, which provides vaccinations to people in middle- and low-income countries. According to the World Health Organization, 172 nations signed on to this effort.³¹ The lockdowns during the COVID-19 pandemic also had positive effects on our environment. For example, air quality has improved in many cities because 'lockdown' caused people to drive less and reduce vehicular emissions. In the United States, accessibility and communication has been revolutionized by virtual meeting organizations like Zoom, as seen in the Library of Congress Flickr Album.³² Those who are unable to physically attend meetings due to distance or disability are now able to communicate virtually with the click of a button.

In the United States, COVID-19 protocols, like social distancing, mask mandates, and incessant hand washing decreased flu rates throughout 2021. In our community, while some people felt isolated, others became closer to those with whom they quarantined. People who previously spent most of their time at their jobs began to work from home, which allowed them more time with their families. For example, Newtown Park in our city of Johns Creek never had so many people taking a stroll as it did during COVID. The pandemic encouraged people to go outdoors and enjoy the fresh air, which helped to benefit some peoples' mental and physical health. COVID-19 also inspired people to tap into their creative sides and find hobbies that they can do at home like drawing, playing music, cooking, and writing. Despite the pain and loss caused by

²⁹ Cory Doctorow, "Dolores Huerta Middle School Graduation Ceremony, Burroughs High, Burbank, California," Library of Congress. COVID: American Experiences Gallery 1. May 28, 2021.

https://www.flickr.com/photos/doctorow/51209783548/in/gallery-library_of_congress-72157716271339617/

³⁰ Patrick Pemberton, "No Play Today--- Life in the Time of Coronavirus." Library of Congress. COVID: American Experiences Gallery 1. March 28, 2020. https://www.flickr.com/photos/artbypem/49709825076/in/gallery-library_of_congress-72157716271339617/

³¹ World Health Organization, 172 countries and multiple candidate vaccines engaged in COVID-19 vaccine Global Access Facility, August 24, 2020, <https://www.who.int/news/item/24-08-2020-172-countries-and-multiple-candidate-vaccines-engaged-in-covid-19-vaccine-global-access-facility>.

³² Kurt Wagner, "All-Hands Zoom Meeting," Library of Congress. COVID: American Experiences Gallery 1. August 10, 2020. https://www.flickr.com/photos/kurtwagner/50211704013/in/gallery-library_of_congress-72157716271339617/

the pandemic, these benefits are a small consolation to people both on a communal and worldwide scale.

The COVID-19 pandemic is a very significant event and will go down in history along with other major pandemics like the Black Death, Spanish flu, Smallpox, and more. A global virus that did not care about your social status, racial/sexual identity, how you lived, or your health conditions, it just spread everywhere. The COVID-19 pandemic is significant because it impacted the lives of everyone and changed how the world operates. Simple daily routines were taken away such as in-person schooling and new protocols were put into place such as mask mandates in public spaces. The CDC timeline from 2022 describes several impacts the pandemic had and has on the world today.³³ Preliminary examples of these include, unemployment rates skyrocketing, a decrease of global economies, and the scrutiny of governmental bodies on trying to devise plans to decrease the spread and keep people safe, especially in countries like China and Italy.³⁴ It's like the Earth's axis tilting in a different direction. As humans we are very social creatures, and due to the pandemic, we were tasked with the mission to make the best out of this situation and find comfort within our own home, which can be hard for many people. There were both positive and negative experiences that came out of this pandemic depending on who was affected. Looking at our Jamboards, the first form of reflection we participated in for this project, many of us in Student Leadership Johns Creek felt stressed in this new environment, and laziness overtook our once active lifestyle. While for others, the pandemic and quarantine were a lifestyle change for them as people had time to do activities like exercising, reading, and self-reflection with this newly given time.

It is incredibly important to document people's experiences during a significant time in history like the COVID-19 pandemic. This documentation helps us understand the statistics and the impacts of the pandemic from different perspectives. Additionally, the emotional aspect of the pandemic cannot be understood without knowing the effects of COVID-19. Not only does analyzing people's experiences give a sense of the emptiness of what were once prosperous monuments of human culture, but it also provides a newfound understanding to how desperately people need human connection. It also shows the transition and change communities underwent over these years. For nearly three years at the time of writing this essay, we have all been bombarded with headlines as to how the pandemic has irreparably changed the course of education as we once knew it given the near-immediate switch to virtual and hybrid learning methods.

The news, however, can only bring so much coverage without evaluating the perspectives of those who are most affected by it; and yet, the fact remains that as much as we students have been drastically affected, our perspectives within this given topic of discussion are rarely ever given the time of day. Having experienced this education shift from 'normal' schooling to virtual learning to what we now may consider the 'new normal', however, gives students the first-hand perspective that is often overlooked but is nonetheless essential. Our student perspective

³³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

³⁴ *ibid.*

encapsulates the struggles, the triumphs, and the tragedies that can help to make our story more than just a statistic. Looking back on past pandemics, we have seen keen improvements to face challenges that humans can overcome. Yet, those improvements were only possible due to science, history, artifacts and the collection of sources from our past which we used to learn from.

In the light of encompassing something with infinite magnitude such as the pandemic, it is crucial that we study, analyze, and most importantly save and restore pieces from our present so that future generations of “uncertainty” can tackle obstacles of a similar nature. All things considered, each individual, city, and nation steered towards different routes through the pandemic, but at the end of the day, no matter how many different boats we rode, we cohered through the same storm.

Chapter 3: Innovation Academy

Photographic Evidence

Passport through the Pandemic

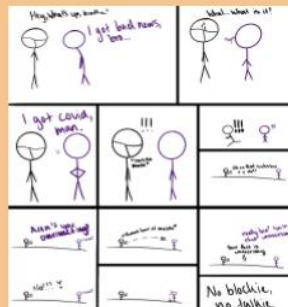
Students at Innovation Academy researched multiple types of images from the pandemic. They included captions and credits for each image, and provided a rationale for why they chose these artifacts to document diverse experiences during the pandemic. The reflection was written by the group to connect their findings to the big idea “uncertainty” and the compelling question “should times of uncertainty be remembered for the historical record?”

Comic Collection



Rebecca- “Trying so hard to get this down” This was a comic made during school for the AP World History class about how the General Crisis was named.

Rebecca Gottlieb (2022)



Rebecca- 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. Rebecca Gottlieb (December 2020)



Aditi- this comic strip shows the impact of COVID-19 had on education as it shows how teachers had to improvise to help students learn subjects such as AP environmental science during an uncertain time

Comic Rationale

- Do a quick free write and add notes to justify:
 - Why did I pick these images?
 - I picked these images because it shows the creativity and adaptations people had to make during the pandemic.
 - Historical context- explain the time period when this image was created. What was happening around the world, the country, in your community.
 - During this time period, the schools were out, and students and teachers alike had to find new ways to teach and learn the material in their classes.
 - Perspective Recognition and Taking- explain how the historical context when this image was created could have impacted how and why this person created this image.
 - The historical context could impact the pictures by viewers not knowing what was going on if it was taken away. For instance, with the mask one, viewers might not understand what was happening or why the author decided to make that image if the context was removed. However with context added, the image makes a lot more sense in that viewers would understand that the masks were important during the pandemic, and so their brain would connect the dots and make more sense of the image.
 - Affective Responses- how does analyzing this image make you feel? How is the time when this image was created different when compared to today? How are these time periods similar? Can this research impact how you can take informed action on an issue facing your community today?
 - I feel nostalgic looking back on this, but also in a weird way, brave. It felt like such a long time ago when we were locked inside or were forced to wear masks every time we went outside. I don't miss it. These periods are similar in that we still have to wear masks, but it's advised, not mandated. They're different in that people have more liberties of when they can wear masks. This research can impact how we can take informed action on an issue facing our communities today, I believe.

Signs



Rebecca- this sign is showing a limit to the amount of people during the pandemic. During this time, they had to limit the amount of people that could go into buildings due to people getting sick and infecting people.



Aditi Satghare- Due to Covid, school sports teams were not able to effectively advertise for themselves. Since this team was not attached to the school, it was even more challenging for them. Because of this, coaches distributed signs to put in the students' yards, in hopes of recruiting new members.



Rebecca- This is a sign in a shop that shows that the 6-foot rule was implemented in that building. Six feet apart was the mandated distance the CDC advised during the pandemic. This rule made it a little bit safer for when people went outside and into stores to get groceries.



Lakshana: These signs were outside every store to show the significance of wearing masks. This was during the beginning of the pandemic when the disease spread extremely fast and taking precautions was first priority.

Signs Rationale

- Do a quick free write and add notes to justify:
 - Why did I pick these images?
 - These images were chosen because they effectively communicated how Covid-19 influenced stores and sport teams all across the city.
 - Historical context- explain the time period when this image was created. What was happening around the world, the country, in your community.
 - Covid-19 had a huge impact on public places and events all across the world. During this time period, people were easily spreading Covid-19 from contact. Social Distancing was mandated, Stores began having limits on the number of people they could have inside at a certain time, and sport teams lost their members due to member's fear for their safety.
 - Perspective Recognition and Taking- explain how the historical context when this image was created could have impacted how and why this person created this image.
 - The sign for social distancing shows how people were forced to stay 6 feet away from each other at all times due to fear of contacting the disease. Too many people in a store could increase the risk of catching Covid therefore the number of people in the store was also limited.
 - Affective Responses- how does analyzing this image make you feel? How is the time when this image was created different when compared to today? How are these time periods similar? Can this research impact how you can take informed action on an issue facing your community today?
 - Analyzing these pictures makes me feel nostalgic and kind of sad; remembering all those days when we were just allowed to go outside (most of us were still indoors, though) makes me remember the loneliness and the solitude... and the fear of the situation. The days of social distancing are long gone now and it makes me think back on the difficult times we had during covid. This research can definitely impact how we make informed action on issues facing the community today.

Community Photos- city of Johns Creek



Aabha Muley: Members of Johns Creek associated with Taiwan Can Help, which is helping others by sharing their experience, advance medical research, as well as providing medical resources, are pictured supporting the Johns Creek community.



Aabha Muley: 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.



Aabha Muley: This picture depicts citizens at the Autrey Mill Nature Preserve & Heritage Center of Johns Creek continuing to support the community despite COVID-19.

Rationale- City of Johns Creek Community

- Do a quick free write and add notes to justify:
 - Why did I pick these images?
 - I picked these images because I think they exemplified the bond between a community.
 - Historical context- explain the time period when this image was created. What was happening around the world, the country, in your community.
 - COVID-19 was at its peak during this period. Many people were afraid so they stayed at home.
 - Perspective Recognition and Taking- explain how the historical context when this image was created could have impacted how and why this person created this image.
 - The people who are depicted in the pictures are brave as they cared about the community of Johns Creek seen through the Autrey Mill picture as well as the Taiwan Can Help image.
 - Affective Responses- how does analyzing this image make you feel? How is the time when this image was created different when compared to today? How are these time periods similar? Can this research impact how you can take informed action on an issue facing your community today?
 - Analyzing these pictures makes me feel proud of our community as they care about others. It also makes me feel sad especially after viewing the park being closed as it reminded me of how we had to sacrifice many of the things we enjoyed and which brought us together.

Selfie Collection

Place the selfies or links to the images here.

Pictures taken with friends while maintaining social distancing and wearing masks



Lakshana Ramanan: At school, masks were required for a period of time during late 2021.



Sana: Flight to India in October 2020. Flight was completely empty and face mask and shield was required the whole way



Aabha Muley: Members of Innovation Academy's Interact Club attend a meeting in Houston in all masks.



Chloe lee: A picture taken with my parents and grandma outside of my grandfather's funeral ceremony in South Korea during the peak of the pandemic where Covid-19 regulations were strict



Tanmaya Muvva - A picture taken with mask as a sophomore during the first week at Innovation Academy.

Selfie Rationale

- Do a quick free write and add notes to justify:
 - Why did I pick these images?
 - I picked these images because they represent the period of masks and physical distancing that was mandated. They also represent the struggles that people went through to get together and see each other.
 - Historical context- explain the time period when this image was created. What was happening around the world, the country, in your community.
 - In this period, I flew to South Korea to mourn my grandfather's death at Samsung Hospital. This picture was taken outside of the hospital. It was a hectic time as we needed to find a way to visit the funeral without going through the mandated 14 day quarantine period as well as constantly be checked for symptoms as well as wearing masks and social distancing.
 - Perspective Recognition and Taking- explain how the historical context when this image was created could have impacted how and why this person created this image.
 - The image portrays my parents and grandmother who all seem very tired and exhausted. The history behind this image explains the probable cause for our appearance.
 - Affective Responses- how does analyzing this image make you feel? How is the time when this image was created different when compared to today? How are these time periods similar? Can this research impact how you can take informed action on an issue facing your community today?
 - Analyzing this image made me feel nostalgic and reminded me of the time when Covid-19 was a very serious issue. Research could impact how i take informed action because there is always a hidden story that needs proper research to be examined and known about. Additionally, today and back then aren't too far apart. The masks are still around, and people are still struggling to have large events together while trying not to get anyone sick. However, the amount of the COVID-19 has decreased overall during today's times, so the mask mandate and the staying at home is a little less strict.

Drawings or Digital Art Collection



Ananya: During virtual school in 8th grade, this artist took Intro to Art and one of the assignments was to create a perspective city drawing. In her drawing, she depicts a futuristic city where plants have taken over to symbolize her uncertainty of what bizarre things she thought the future may hold at that time.



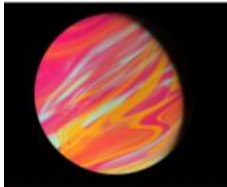
Ananya: This piece was inspired by the artist's favorite show during the pandemic, Avatar the Last Airbender. She says it represented what she felt like at the time—a roller coaster of ups and downs—like yin and yang.



Aabha Muley: This individual picked up a new hobby of drawing during quarantine. She expressed that it helped her calm down during the uncertain time. This drawing depicts the many feelings she felt while social distancing at home.



Ananya: This was one of the first paintings the artist did during the COVID-19 pandemic and was inspired by an image of the streets of Italy that went viral on social media at the time.



Rebecca- A picture of a planet made on the Procreate app. During the pandemic, there were large amounts of boredom, which led to a lot of experimentation with artistic apps. This was one of the results: *Andreolea, a planet of mystery and enchantment.*



Aditi Satghare- This piece was painted also during the time of the pandemic. The inspiration behind this, was the chaos and confusion caused by covid. During covid, artwork similar to this was also becoming popular on social media, which also inspired this piece.

Aditi Satghare- This piece was painted during the time of the pandemic. The inspiration behind this, was the uncertainty that people faced because of covid, hence the



Drawings or Digital Art Rationale

- Do a quick free write and add notes to justify:
 - Why did I pick these images?
 - I picked these images because they symbolize emotions these artist's felt during the pandemic which they expressed through their art. Fear, excitement, uncertainty, boredom, and anger are all associated with those times and these pieces of art show that.
 - Historical context- explain the time period when this image was created. What was happening around the world, the country, in your community.
 - When these artworks were created, students were doing virtual school from March of 2022 and taking online art classes due to the pandemic. With all of this time on their hands, they found inspiration from the emotions they were feeling at the same. They transferred these emotions onto paper.
 - Perspective Recognition and Taking- explain how the historical context when this image was created could have impacted how and why this person created this image.
 - The historical context of the pieces of art seen is quarantine and the feelings of uncertainty which accompanied it. These feelings probably led to the need of calming one down seen through these pieces of art.
 - Affective Responses- how does analyzing this image make you feel? How is the time when this image was created different when compared to today? How are these time periods similar? Can this research impact how you can take informed action on an issue facing your community today?
 - Analyzing the pieces of art make me feel proud of these artists and inspired. For many of us, this time was not in our control but after looking at these pieces of art, I feel as if these artists were in control of how they could cope with this uncertain time.

Friends



Aabha Muley - A group of friends with masks on taking a picture at school celebrating the end of their virtual class.

Aabha Muley - A group of friends with masks on seen taking a mirror selfie in a public place which sells makeup.



Lakshana - Two friends taking a picture before spring break at school. They had to wear masks to follow school rules on required masks.



Sana - Friends getting ice cream with masks. They had eat the ice cream at home since masks were required in the shop.



Aabha Muley - Two friends with masks on taking a selfie at a movie theater, a public space.



Tanmaya Muvva - A picture taken during Pink out during school in October 2021 with masks.

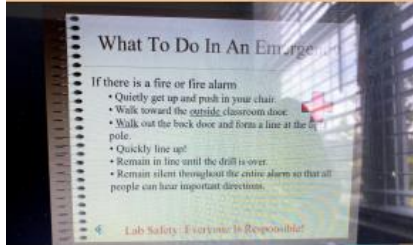


Rebecca: Two friends matching masks during the year back in in-person school.

Friends Photos Rationale

- **Do a quick free write and add notes to justify:**
 - **Why did I pick these images?**
 - I picked these images because they not only displayed how I felt about COVID but also how my friends felt. It is something we can bond over now. When we do activities together like going to the mall or eating at a restaurant, it makes us feel nostalgic for what life was like before the pandemic. This is a feeling we all share and our friendship strengthens because of the strain it overcame.
 - **Historical context-** explain the time period when this image was created. What was happening around the world, the country, in your community.
 - The time period when most of these images were taken are during the period of COVID when you could visit public places but masks were still mandatory. Around our community, people were definitely feeling more comfortable but we weren't fully there yet. It felt as if we were so close yet so far at this point.
 - **Perspective Recognition and Taking-** explain how the historical context when this image was created could have impacted how and why this person created this image.
 - The historical context when this image was created was the period where social distancing and masks were mandatory but things were easing up. This can be seen in the pictures as masks are still present but we can still sense bonds between the people in the pictures.
 - **Affective Responses-** how does analyzing this image make you feel? How is the time when this image was created different when compared to today? How are these time periods similar? Can this research impact how you can take informed action on an issue facing your community today?
 - Analyzing these pictures makes me feel nostalgic as they bring back memories of how life used to be. I am grateful that we could still meet but I am even more grateful that we can interact with our friends in a more close manner today. This research can definitely impact how I can take informed action on an issue facing my community as it shows how far we've come.

Screenshots of Virtual School & School During Covid



Ananya - During the first week of virtual school in August of 2020, we were given a lecture on lab safety which was ironic because none of us were truly in a lab and had to listen to the lecture through a computer screen.



Rebecca- during the first year back, we had to wear masks a lot. One of the units done at Innovation Academy was how to take care of young children. Additionally, CPR was made a little bit safer since we didn't actually have to blow on the dummies.



Rebecca- in classes that had to turn in notes (like Spanish), some people made theirs online so that they could send it more easily to their teachers. This one was made on procreate for the direct object pronoun unit.



Lakshana: When school went fully virtual, it was crucial that my sister understood how to use technology properly. Being in 2nd grade and missing all the fun and seeing all teachers online was not the way to enjoy elementary school.

Rationale- School

- Do a quick free write and add notes to justify:
 - Why did I pick these images?
 - I picked these images because it encapsulated the struggle that we went through with virtual school and the ways that we had to get around the pandemic to learn.
 - Historical context- explain the time period when this image was created. What was happening around the world, the country, in your community.
 - During this time period, the schools were closed in person at the beginning (and then most people stayed home except for a select few). Therefore, students, teachers, and organizations alike had to figure out ways to get around the pandemic to give all students accessible learning. The solution: online learning platforms. While detrimental to some, it held promising prospects in giving everyone the materials they needed.
 - Perspective Recognition and Taking- explain how the historical context when this image was created could have impacted how and why this person created this image.
 - Without the historical context, people could be confused as to why someone is taking pictures of a lecture on a screen or why the person is holding a screaming baby thing with a mask on. It would also impact their view of why it was made and not fully comprehend the struggles that people went through to make this happen.
 - Affective Responses- how does analyzing this image make you feel? How is the time when this image was created different when compared to today? How are these time periods similar? Can this research impact how you can take informed action on an issue facing your community today?
 - Some of the images make me feel pain, some of them make me feel joy. This time period was very productive for me, personally, and I had a lot of fun with my own things during school. I felt that there was a lot more freedom for some people during this time. You could go to the bathroom when you wanted, you could eat snacks during class, and you could possibly talk over text in class, too. However, it makes me a little frustrated because of all the times the wife was being a pain during school and the struggles we went through. The time when we made the image was different than it is now because we're not forced to be online anymore. Some of the restrictions are back, though. The times are similar though in that we're still technology dependent; from the pandemic, we've shifted a lot of our physical learning to online platforms (like turning in assignments through teams or google classroom), and it's still here, which leads to an interesting impact that will help us take informed actions in the community today.

Dr. P's Artifacts

https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipNo2Obr-gR2HY4ykS-WYFwPlhgoiHKBLQFyYnu2MiwQ6bSGARxfpk0zQ92nu98_pQ?key=OGZna0E4OHpsM0lwN2V0WE9zbzkyX1ZZSkZkZzRR



Rebecca- Masks don't have to be plain and drab! During the pandemic, some companies made a profit of fabric masks that were reusable and rewashable and in fantastic colors and patterns (such as this one).



Rebecca- Sometimes, you have to be innovative with the way you teach. With online school going on, parents had to find another way to teach their young ones material that they would learn if the pandemic wasn't going on. One of these ways was online, and using rocks around the house for this little kid helped them learn early addition with ease.



Rebecca- this little girl is doing work and coloring with her crayons; making notes sparkly and pretty and creating drawings take work, and this little girl has it in the bag!

Rationale- Dr. P's Artifacts

- **Do a quick free write and add notes to justify:**
 - **Why did I pick these images?**
 - These pictures were chosen to show how an individual's (Dr. P) life was affected by Covid 19. The pictures document different areas of life that was adapted to fit the restrictions imposed by the pandemic.
 - **Historical context-** explain the time period when this image was created. What was happening around the world, the country, in your community.
 - These photos were taken from 2020-2022 over the span of the pandemic. It shows experience wearing masks, teaching from home, and going out in public.
 - **Perspective Recognition and Taking-** explain how the historical context when this image was created could have impacted how and why this person created this image.
 - Dr. P took photos of whenever she felt Covid had caused a certain element of the picture. The pandemic had greatly changed the way of her normal life and this is seen in those photos.
 - **Affective Responses-** how does analyzing this image make you feel? How is the time when this image was created different when compared to today? How are these time periods similar? Can this research impact how you can take informed action on an issue facing your community today?
 - Analyzing these images made me feel relatable to her life. They, too, were stuck at home and tried to navigate around the pandemic; it makes me feel less alone. It helped me realize that other people also had similar experiences during the pandemic such as learning from home and wearing masks to public areas. It also shows how far we have come since 2020 and 2021 when wearing masks was a must and now is up to discretion.

Ms. Sanders' Artifacts-



Rebecca- 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!



Aabha Muley - This picture depicts the strength of the firefighters of Johns Creek as they continued to work to keep our community safe despite the uncertainty of COVID-19.



Aabha Muley - This picture depicts the kindness of the firefighters of Johns Creek as they drove around to wish kids on their birthdays to cheer them up during the lonely times of COVID.



Lakshana - 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.

Rationale- Ms. Sanders' Photos

- Do a quick free write and add notes to justify:
 - Why did I pick these images?
 - I picked these images because they showed the strength of the people that maintain the safety of the community of Johns Creek, specifically firefighters.
 - Historical context- explain the time period when this image was created. What was happening around the world, the country, in your community.
 - The time period when this image was created was COVID-19 when we needed to social distance to keep everyone safe. Everyone around the world was feeling gloomy but through small actions such the firefighters wishing kids on their birthday, people in the community were effectively trying to bring happiness to each other.
 - Perspective Recognition and Taking- explain how the historical context when this image was created could have impacted how and why this person created this image.
 - For someone looking back to these pictures in the future, they may look odd, but for someone who lived through that experience, the historical context of COVID-19 makes complete sense. The social distancing seen in the birthday wishing picture shows how the historical context impacted what happened in the picture.
 - Affective Responses- how does analyzing this image make you feel? How is the time when this image was created different when compared to today? How are these time periods similar? Can this research impact how you can take informed action on an issue facing your community today?
 - Analyzing these images make me feel so proud and grateful of the Johns Creek firefighters as they not only persisted during the tough times of COVID but also brought smiles to many of the citizens of Johns Creek. It brings me inspiration when thinking of how to make an impact for my community today.

Ms. Compton's Artifacts- Johns Creek Historical Society



Lakshana - Stores were empty in the beginning of the pandemic when people were scared and started hoarding essentials like toilet paper and water bottles.



Lakshana - Masks were also homemade by many people to customize them into fun designs to enlighten the mood.



Lakshana - People took on many hobbies during the pandemic and one of the popular ones was bread making. It also helped save trips to the grocery store when more food was homemade.

Rationale- Johns Creek Historical Society

- Do a quick free write and add notes to justify:
 - Why did I pick these images?
 - These images were picked to see how Covid altered the community and people's lives. It showcases the different hobbies people took over and how people's behaviors changed.
 - Historical context- explain the time period when this image was created. What was happening around the world, the country, in your community.
 - These images were in the beginning of the pandemic when people were panicking and stocking up on necessary supplies and making masks since it was a necessary piece of clothing people had to wear.
 - Perspective Recognition and Taking- explain how the historical context when this image was created could have impacted how and why this person created this image.
 - These images were most likely taken to signify what kept them occupied during the pandemic and different memories. A photo of a store is pretty ordinary but an empty store with barely any supplies is unusual which was caused by the pandemic.
 - Affective Responses- how does analyzing this image make you feel? How is the time when this image was created different when compared to today? How are these time periods similar? Can this research impact how you can take informed action on an issue facing your community today?
 - These images brought back many memories such as the frustration when trying to find a single thing of hand sanitizer at the stores and trying to busy myself with new hobbies such as baking, drawing—and then failing at those new hobbies originally—which I tried to develop during the beginning of the pandemic. It provokes nostalgia and portrays how our lives were from being at home. The time is different today because now there are supplies on the shelves (usually) and most people don't wear masks anymore. However people still sanitize and wipe down their groceries today. This research can impact how we take informed action on an issue facing the community we live in today for certain.

Family Photos Collection



Aabha Muley - A family in India wearing masks is seen making the brave decision of sending off one of their family members to pursue a further education in Paris, France during quarantine.



Aabha Muley - When lockdown started, many families had to improvise. This picture depicts a mother taking a haircut for her son as barber shops were closed. This was a way for families to create memories and bond for sure.



Aabha Muley - A mother and daughter seen in masks traveling to India to visit relatives after a very long time is depicted.



Aabha Muley - For families living in different countries, group video calls were the only way to bond and truly feel connected. This is one instance of such a connection between families.



Tanmaya Muvva - My sister during the first day of school in 2021 when Covid was still an active threat so masks were required.



Sana - A family visiting Six Flags over Georgia during the holiday season of December 2020.



Lakshana Ramanan: Seen here is my mom, sister, and I attending my sister's gymnastic competition. In events with a large audience, masks were recommended.

Lakshana Ramanan: Facetime and other video call applications were used frequently to talk to family in other countries where travel was restricted.

Family Pictures Rationale

- Do a quick free write and add notes to justify:
 - Why did I pick these images?
 - We picked these images because they show the struggles and adaptations that families across the globe had to go through.
 - Historical context- explain the time period when this image was created. What was happening around the world, the country, in your community.
 - During this time, the entire community was experiencing the outbreak of a pandemic and dealing with it in different ways. Many were forced to alter their daily routines and their hobbies due to Covid.
 - Perspective Recognition and Taking- explain how the historical context when this image was created could have impacted how and why this person created this image.
 - If someone took this out of the context that this was created, they would be wondering why the mother was doing her son's haircut herself. Why not take him to a barbershop? Why can't the family go see each other in person? Why bother with online?
 - Affective Responses- how does analyzing this image make you feel? How is the time when this image was created different when compared to today? How are these time periods similar? Can this research impact how you can take informed action on an issue facing your community today?
 - Analyzing these pictures makes me understand the toll that Covid-19 took on families all around the city, and connect to my peers through our experiences with Covid. I can relate to some of the events shown in the pictures such as the haircut; that was definitely chaotic in my house, and I find some of the events very unique and interesting.

Cultural Activities



Tanmaya Muvva - When my dad visited India during covid-19, he was stamped and required to home quarantine for 14 days after reaching home.



Nyneishia Jana- During the annual Hindu holiday of Holi, masks had to be worn at our neighborhood celebration party. The colorful powder that we throw on each other, as seen, accumulated on the masks.

Nyneishia Jana - The GMEA Allstate orchestra had assembled together for the first time after the lockdown period of COVID-19, and all the members had to wear masks during a 2 hour concert.



Miscellaneous Collection



Aabha Muley - COVID-19 definitely restricted many things for us, but we could still help our communities. In the picture, my grandmother is seen packing lunches for underserved students in India with a mask on.



Aabha Muley - The feelings of tension are seen on a man's face as he is receiving the COVID-19 vaccine for the first time in India.



Aabha Muley - My younger brother is seen feeling nervous waiting for his second COVID-19 shot.



Aditi Satghare- A picture from June 2020 of getting the second COVID shot, in preparation for school



Aabha Muley - The feelings of pride are seen on a young boy's face after receiving the COVID-19 vaccine in India.



Aabha Muley - My brother and I wanted to continue learning taekwondo during COVID. This picture shows us posing with our master in celebration of passing our belt tests.



Lakshana Ramanan - A picture of a negative Covid test. The feeling was very anxious waiting for the result and it shows the type of test taken.

Sana Fatima - My brother went to the Wellstar Hospital in North Fulton during peak covid times. The wait time was over 3 hours as there were no beds available. He was then put in a hallway bed to minimize contact with other Covid patients



Miscellaneous Rationale

- Do a quick free write and add notes to justify:
 - Why did I pick these images?
 - I picked these images because they bring back memories of how we lived and brought feelings of pride back as it helped us understand the hardships we went through and overcame.
 - Historical context- explain the time period when this image was created. What was happening around the world, the country, in your community.
 - The time period when most of these images were taken was when we were hopeful as a society. Many of the individuals in the picture are receiving vaccines or providing support seen through the medical workers giving vaccines to the individuals as well as the doctor providing support at the Wellstar Hospital.
 - Perspective Recognition and Taking- explain how the historical context when this image was created could have impacted how and why this person created this image.
 - The historical context when this image was created varies for each picture but most of them were when things were loosening up a bit seen through the interaction between the people in the volunteering and taekwondo picture. There is also a sense of hope in these pictures as many of the people depicted are receiving vaccines. There is one picture of when COVID-19 was at the peak and the urgency is felt in that picture seen through the hospital.
 - Affective Responses- how does analyzing this image make you feel? How is the time when this image was created different when compared to today? How are these time periods similar? Can this research impact how you can take informed action on an issue facing your community today?
 - Analyzing this image makes me feel nostalgic as it feels like it was a while back. It also makes me feel proud of ourselves as we stayed strong during this period and persisted. Back then, I felt scared, terrified of anyone and everyone; now I feel proud of us for overcoming it. I feel proud of us for getting through the worst parts of this time. Reflecting on these feelings is important because emotions give us key insights into what the lives of people were like, especially during this time. It is very different than how we are living now and I am very glad we stayed strong during that period as we can live more freely now seen through how we interact with others. This research helps me know that we can help improve issues our community is facing today through persistence.

Final Reflection

Explain in at least 1 paragraph (5-6 sentences) how your artifacts connect to the historical analysis essay below. Why is your group's research important?

These artifacts that we collected are crucial to our understanding of the Covid-19 pandemic. By looking back into our phones for pictures, we unlocked many past memories of our lives in 2020 and 2021 when there were feelings of stress, anxiety, and boredom. This research shows how we all got past the pandemic and coped with its effects as a community through a visual display with many hidden details that make up a big picture. It is important to revisit these artifacts to learn from our experiences and preserve history. Throughout this research, we had the opportunity to view other people's artifacts and what they were involved in. It shows how humans adapted through different innovations to continue living with joy in a time of fear. These artifacts showed the perspectives of students, adults, doctors, elderly, and other community members on their individual experiences with the pandemic.


Chapter 4: Johns Creek High School

Written Evidence

Pandemic on Paper


Students at Johns Creek High School researched multiple types of texts from the pandemic. They included captions and credits for each type of text, and provided a rationale for why they chose these artifacts to document diverse experiences during the pandemic. The reflection was written by the group to connect their findings to the big idea “uncertainty” and the compelling question “should times of uncertainty be remembered for the historical record?”

Signs




Above is one of *many* businesses that was forced to close permanently in result of the pandemic's harsh toll on the economy.


Photo Credits: Johns Creek Historical Society



This image shows an example of a sign displayed outside of a CVS, which was advertising free COVID-19 vaccination, with or without a scheduled appointment, in an effort to increase vaccination throughout the community.



This sign, posted outside of an elevator, requested social distancing/limited the amount of people that should be in the elevator at once. This was a recommended way to prevent the spread of COVID-19.



This sign was posted on the entrance to Johns Creek High School. It notified that Fulton County School Board decided to completely close the school building until further notice.

Photo Credit: Chris Shearer Twitter

Sign Rationale

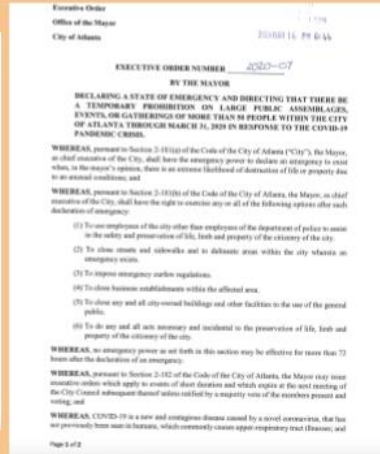
- Do a quick free write and add notes to justify:
 - Why did we pick these images?
 - The three of these images do an amazing job in capturing how differently public spaces were operated in result of the COVID-19 pandemic's outbreak. In the far left image, a business is shown to be newly closed down; This was unfortunately a very common negative outcome from the pandemic, as many businesses struggled to continue operating, and in result had to shut down entirely, causing a loss of jobs and income for many. The middle image displays a sign outside of a CVS store advertising free walk-in COVID-19 vaccines. This displays how many healthcare companies worked to advertise free and accessible vaccination opportunities in the hopes of increasing the percentage of vaccinated people in the community. Furthermore, as the far right image displays, public places began posting signs asking the community to limit the amount of people who were in shared spaces together, introducing social distancing.
- Historical context- explain the time period when this text was created. What was happening around the world, the country, in your community.
 - These signs were created in the height of the pandemic; Infection rates were rising and businesses were closing due to the rapidly spreading COVID-19 disease. Around the world, COVID-19 had begun to impact nearly everyone. In addition, when these signs were created both our Georgia/Johns Creek community as well as the United States had nearly entirely shut down, was evidently practicing social distancing, and vaccines were beginning to be introduced to certain age groups.
- Perspective Recognition and Taking- explain how the historical context when this text was created could have impacted how and why this person created this image.
 - If the pandemic had not been happening during this time, these signs would not have been created at all. Before the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the practice of social distancing was unheard of, mass amounts of businesses were not being forced to close, and there was no new widespread vaccine that our society was in need of as far as we knew at the time. The people/companies who created these signs/images were working to inform the community of updated information regarding public places/safety, and these signs would never had been made had the pandemic not taken place.
- Responses- how does analyzing this text make you feel? How is the time when this text was created different when compared to today? How are these time periods similar? Can this research impact how you can take informed action on an issue facing your community today?
 - Analyzing this text, it is shocking to see not only how quickly our communities began to be faced with new issues, but even more shocking to see how far our community has come since the time these signs were created. When these signs were created, COVID-19 was arguably at its initial peak of infection, and communities near us, as well as around the world, had begun to really face the initial impacts of the pandemic. Businesses had just shut down, social distancing had only recently become a form of regulation/protection, and overall the pandemic had just begun impacting us all. Now, although signage and other forms of indirect communication are still used, businesses are now reviving themselves as opposed to shutting down, vaccination against COVID-19 has become more widespread, and social distancing has become less vital, and to many irrelevant at all.

Mayoral Updates

What The City of Atlanta is Doing

The City of Atlanta comes deeply about the health of its employees and their families. Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms outlined the City's efforts related to Coronavirus 2019. To help keep you safe and healthy, we are doing the following to ensure a healthy and safe environment at City facilities:

- February 2020 - Under the direction of Mayor Bottoms, the Mayor's Pandemic Coordination Team was created to lead the City's strategic plan to ensure minimal impact to the City of Atlanta in the case of a COVID-19 pandemic. The team is led by the City's Chief Health Officer, Dr. Angelica Oster Fugerson, and the City's Director of Emergency Preparedness and Senior IT Specialist Angel Parker del Bello. <https://www.atlantaga.gov/Home/Component/News/News/132785072>
- March 3 - Mayor Bottoms made public the City's ongoing preparations to any potential health threats posed by Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19).
- March 11 - Mayor Bottoms issued an Administrative Order directing the Commissioner of Watershed Management to refrain from taking any action which would result in the termination of water services for any Watershed Management customer due to non-payment for the next sixty (60) days.
- March 11 - Mayor Bottoms issued an Administrative Order directing the Chief Financial Officer to coordinate with the Chief Health Officer and Director of Emergency Preparedness to develop a financial framework to identify funds to implement the activities and needs of the Mayor's Coronavirus Pandemic Coordination Team.
- March 12 - Mayor Bottoms announced the City is implementing a full network deployment for all non-essential employees through Tuesday, March 31, 2020 pursuant to the terms of the City's recently issued Telework Policy. City Hall was closed to the general public.
- March 14 - Mayor Bottoms announced the Centers of Hope Attached program will continue to provide free meals to all students who rely on them throughout the closure of school.
- March 16 - Mayor Bottoms issued an Executive Order declaring a state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic and that public assemblies, events and gatherings of 200 or more persons be prohibited within the City and territorial limits of the City of Atlanta until March 31, 2020.
- March 16 - Mayor Bottoms issued an updated Executive Order prohibiting public gatherings and events of 50 or more persons within the City of Atlanta until March 31, 2020. The new Executive Order closes the West Center for Disease Control and Prevention guidance.
- March 17 - Mayor Bottoms issued an Executive Order calling on the Atlanta Housing Authority, Atlanta Building Inc., Fulton County, City of Atlanta Land Bank Authority, Inland Atlanta, Parkview for Home and the City of Atlanta's Department of Grants and Community Development to initiate a temporary moratorium on residential evictions and filings for a period of sixty (60) days effective immediately.
- March 17 - Mayor Bottoms issued an Executive Order creating a \$7 million emergency fund to provide assistance to those impacted by COVID-19. The resources are designated to fund emergency assistance to food programs for children and seniors, homeless preparedness, support to small businesses, assistance to hourly wage earners and other areas adversely impacted by COVID-19.
- March 18 - Mayor Bottoms signed legislation sponsored by Council members Andre Spivey and Marc Gertler, Downtown - allowing the City to temporarily reduce Coronavirus and Civil Remedial Category rental requirements by



NOW, THEREFORE, BY THE POWER VESTED IN ME AS MAYOR OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, pursuant to Section 3-204 of the City of Atlanta Charter and Section 3-10(c) of the City of Atlanta Code of Ordinances, it is hereby ordered that the Human Resources Director, in coordination with the Commissioner of the Department of Public Works, shall coordinate with the Commissioner of the Department of Public Works to provide for the creation of certain employee classifications which provide for temporary salary increases for certain employees experiencing increased burdens in their work responsibilities during times of emergency, in order to ensure continuity of business operations within the City of Atlanta, in line with the budget.

SO ORDERED this 16th day of March, 2020.

Keisha Lance Bottoms
Mayor

ATTESTED:
Paula White, III
Municipal Clerk

Rationale Mayoral Updates

- Do a quick free write and add notes to justify:

- Why did I pick this text?

- This text exemplifies the need our community had to obtain clear, direct leadership, during difficult, unforeseen times. This text provides examples of how government officials, such as our Mayor at the time, needed to release statements of guidance and restrictions for the community in order for everyone to protect the state, as well as themselves, in a time of crisis.

- Historical context- explain the time period when this text was created. What was happening around the world, the country, in your community.

- At the time these statements/updates were released, the time spanned between February/March of 2020, when COVID-19 first began affecting the US, and one of these documents reaches to the summer of 2020. In our Johns Creek/Georgia community, throughout this time, COVID had just begun affecting everyone's work, school, and extracurricular lives. Afterschool programming, schools, colleges, and businesses/offices all began their quick transition to convening online, and everybody was forced to adjust nearly instantly. In other parts of the world, some people had already contracted Coronavirus, but for our local community the spread of the virus had just begun. According to covid19.who.int, by the end of March 2020 approximately 500,000 cases were confirmed globally. Among the US and Georgia, people began to isolate/quarantine, wear masks if they needed to leave their homes, and panic began to spread for many.

- Perspective Recognition and Taking- explain how the historical context when this text was created could have impacted how and why this person created this image.

- Given the historical context above, the creation of these documents/updates was most likely prompted by the distress and confusion among our Georgia/Atlanta community. Since all three of these statements/updates from the Mayor were released towards the beginning of the pandemic outbreak, it can be assumed that they were sent out with the hopes of helping lead our community to any "answers" available about how to respond to/act in response to following the sudden health crisis. These updates seem to be attempting to define restrictions, assist those in need, and provide a public response to what was going on throughout the community.

- Affective Responses- how does analyzing this text make you feel? How is the time when this text was created different when compared to today? How are these time periods similar? Can this research impact how you can take informed action on an issue facing your community today?

- Analyzing this text, I am reminded how suddenly everything shut down when COVID-19 first began affecting our community. When these texts/statements were released, they were ordering that all of a sudden, large gatherings should be prohibited, certain employees needed a larger income, and they were also outlining the Mayoral efforts to keep the community informed/assisted. However, now most people feel comfortable gathering with large groups, and going about their day-to-day lives. While widespread fear and isolation has significantly decreased since this time period, it is still important for major announcements regarding public health to be accessible by the public, as they were in these Mayoral updates. This research can impact how we, as well as others, take informed action on issues facing our community today by reminding us how important it is to stay informed to help our community, and how important it is to pay attention to everyone around us, and how difficult times affect them, even if it may not impact us, and our lives, directly.

Emails

Gymnasts who are out of the gym for COVID quarantine are invited to join Zoom conditioning and bar basics sessions at the following times:

This week:

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday - 4:30 - 5:45PM

Saturday - 10 - 11AM

Next week (Thanksgiving week):

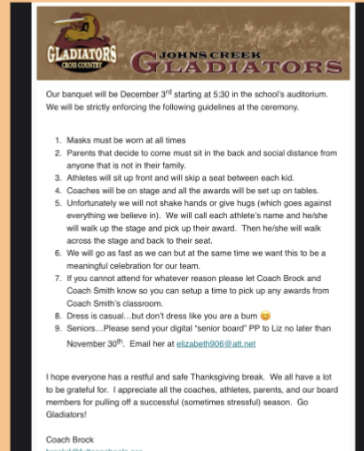
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 2:30 - 4:00

Deshawn will send the link by tomorrow.

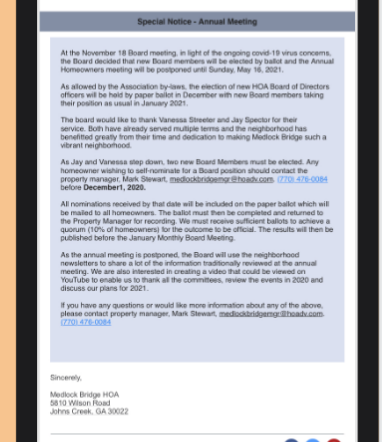
We will also be offering Open Gym free of charge to any team gymnast who would like to participate on December 6, 13, 20 (all Sundays) 1:00 - 3:00.

As an extra precaution, all team coaches are being tested tomorrow morning. We will share the results as soon as we have them.

This email from a gymnastics coach in fall of 2021 addresses how in person sports practices were replaced by virtual zoom meetings. Email credit: Deshaun Holden



This email from John's Creek's Coach Brock lays out the post-COVID guidelines for a sports banquet. Email credit: Coach Brock



This email, written in fall of 2020, was sent out by the Medlock Bridge HOA. The email is informing HOA members that their Annual Homeowners meeting will be postponed, and that the election of new members will be done now by ballot. Both of these changes were due to COVID-19 protocols. Email credit: Medlock Bridge HOA

Rationale for Email

- Do a quick free write and add notes to justify:
 - Why did I pick this text?
 - These emails show cancellations, modifications, procedures, and closures due to covid-19.
 - Historical context- explain the time period when this text was created. What was happening around the world, the country, in your community.
 - The covid-19 pandemic had just hit and these emails were laying out how they were going to handle the situation at hand.
 - Perspective Recognition and Taking- explain how the historical context when this text was created could have impacted how and why this person created this image.
 - The pandemic was the reason these emails were written.
 - Affective Responses- how does analyzing this text make you feel? How is the time when this text was created different when compared to today? How are these time periods similar? Can this research impact how you can take informed action on an issue facing your community today?
 - These emails make me think about exactly what the pandemic took away from people. So many milestones and important dates were cancelled because of it.

Newspapers



A newspaper written during the debates of opening up Georgia during the pandemic discussing the risks of opening up the state. Photo credit: Johns Creek Historical Society



A newspaper article during the pandemic that analyzes the similarities between COVID-19 and the Spanish flu. Photo Credit: Johns Creek Historical Society



A newspaper article over the small acts of appreciation and kindness during the pandemic. Here they feature signs encouraging people through COVID-19. Photo credit: Johns Creek Historical Society.

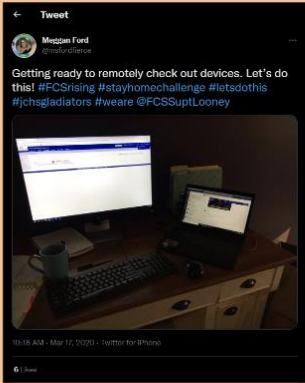
Newsletter Rationale

- Do a quick free write and add notes to justify:
 - Why did I pick this text?
 - These newsletters show how the community responded to the covid-19 outbreak and how awareness was spread.
 - Historical context- explain the time period when this text was created. What was happening around the world, the country, in your community.
 - During these newsletters, the community was in the midst of the pandemic and was finding ways to cope.
 - Perspective Recognition and Taking- explain how the historical context when this text was created could have impacted how and why this person created this image.
 - If the pandemic hadn't happened none of these would have been news. There would not have been a need for opinion pieces on reopening or fact pieces on the stats of the pandemic.
 - Affective Responses- how does analyzing this text make you feel? How is the time when this text was created different when compared to today? How are these time periods similar? Can this research impact how you can take informed action on an issue facing your community today?
 - These pieces make me realize that it wasn't just my bubble that was affected by the pandemic, but the entirety of the community around me as well.

Tweet Collection

Place a screenshot or links to the tweet here.

<https://twitter.com/msfordfierce/status/1239919108059267078>



Because of the full remote learning, everyone needed a proper device. However, COVID made it difficult to distribute laptops in-person in a large scale. This tweet shows how Media Master Ms. Ford began to remotely check out devices. **Photo Credit: Meggan Ford Twitter Page**

<https://twitter.com/LeadGladiator/status/1241178046532587520>



In-person faculty meeting became impossible because of the school shut down following the pandemic. New way to communicate between the leadership team was an imperative. This tweet shows how Mr. Shearer, the principal of Johns Creek High School, utilized Microsoft Teams to conduct a faculty meeting and stay connected to the community. **Photo Credit: Chris Shearer Twitter Page**

<https://twitter.com/LeadGladiator/status/1242213786481831936>



The pandemic and the consequent new normal put everyone under uncertainty. This was especially impactful to the seniors who were about to face multiple major events in their lives. This tweet displays how Mr. Shearer shows sympathy and relate to all those under uncertainty. **Yoseop Han Photo Credit: Christ Shearer Twitter Page**

Potential Links:
<https://twitter.com/LeadGladiator/status/1242213786481831936>
<https://twitter.com/LeadGladiator/status/1242213786481831936>
<https://twitter.com/LeadGladiator/status/1242213786481831936>
<https://twitter.com/LeadGladiator/status/1242213786481831936>

Tweet Rationale

- **Do a quick free write and add notes to justify:**
 - **Why did I pick this text?**
 - I picked these tweets because they are one of the front liners of the Johns Creek community, and they are establishing the great example of the new normal we all had to experience. These tweets also address the trouble the class of 2020 had to experience as the first generation to go through their senior year virtually.
 - **Historical context- explain the time period when this text was created. What was happening around the world, the country, in your community.**
 - In this time period, everything was changing rapidly. With the virus that quickly spread across the state and the world, no one knew how long the pandemic would last, nor did they know how their lives were going to change due to this event. Schools and public buildings started to shutdown one by one, and teleconference applications such as the Microsoft Teams and Zoom were the only safe place everyone could meet to thrive in this hardship. These tweets are the best examples of how many aspects of school were moving towards virtual world as the world began to change.
 - **Perspective Recognition and Taking- explain how the historical context when this text was created could have impacted how and why this person created this image.**
 - The new virus and the consequent quarantine created an uncertainty for many people, but especially the current seniors. They were now set to spend their last year of high school virtually without knowing what is going to happen next. Therefore, Chris Shear, the principle of Johns Creek High School wrote this letter to encourage and cheer the seniors in the new normal. Also, virtual learning was something new, and many people were not familiar with it. In an environment like athletic, this new normal must have had more significant impact. This context gave Logan to address this occasionality through Twitter.
 - **Affective Responses- how does analyzing this text make you feel? How is the time when this text was created different when compared to today? How are these time periods similar? Can this research impact how you can take informed action on an issue facing your community today?**
 - These texts remind me of the beginning of the pandemic when I had to attend school virtually Everything was new, and I was uncertain of how to blend this new normal into my life. Today, virtual learning is nothing new to our lives, and many schools, institutions, and companies still incorporate virtual meetings. This experience teaches us how to properly act in such time of hardship in our community.

Yoseop Han

Poetry Collection

Sometimes I can't but feel isolation
creeping back in,
Wondering what it's like to feel okay
while watching from where I've been
Light yearning, the planet's still
turning, but it might go down in a
crash,
Slow motion, the way that it's going,
wish this would go by in a single
flash,
Glass wall separating from you and
all the fun we had before I took off in
my spaceship.

This lovely poem, written by Maggie Dowd, describes the feelings of doubt and uncertainty, which weighed heavily on us all during the pandemic

Photo Credits (both) : Maggie Dowd

Been here before, but never quite like this
Here we go again, but I can't seem to help it
Simply put, I feel like I don't have a single friend
Someone to trust, someone to laugh with or someone to confide in

Floating between spaces, no where to belong
Trapped inside my own mind, alone in a box
Driving aimlessly sounds fun until it's not
Wish I had someone who didn't leave me, like they forgot

Real life, right in front of me, slowly slipping away
Think I'm your last priority, wish that you would stay
Maybe if I fly away, will you ever even say
She lied, right in front of me, when she said she was fine

This poem, written by Maggie Dowd, touches on the isolating and repetitive nature of the pandemic. It beautifully captures the strain COVID-19 caused on many friendships and the feelings of loneliness it evoked.

Poetry Rationale

- **Do a quick free write and add notes to justify:**
 - **Why did I pick this text?**
 - I chose these pieces of poetry because I wanted to express the pain and suffering that COVID caused, as well as the emotional toll it took on so many of us. These are pure examples of the raw emotions that most people, especially teens, were facing during the prime season of COVID.
 - **Historical context- explain the time period when this text was created. What was happening around the world, the country, in your community.**
 - Both of these pieces were written in fall of 2020. This was when a new school year had just started up, but only this year, it was now virtual. Kids spent all day and all night locked up in their houses, unable to communicate properly with the rest of society and this caused kids to feel trapped. These pieces highlight feeling both distant and lonely throughout this period.
 - **Perspective Recognition and Taking- explain how the historical context when this text was created could have impacted how and why this person created this image.**
 - The period of time was a tremendous burden on kids who had never had to deal with a situation like COVID before. Feeling isolated led to a major increase in depression for people of all ages, especially teenagers. These pieces describe how lonely and isolated the author was feeling during this period of time.
 - **Affective Responses- how does analyzing this text make you feel? How is the time when this text was created different when compared to today? How are these time periods similar? Can this research impact how you can take informed action on an issue facing your community today?**
 - Analyzing these texts bring back memories of rough times and experiences that I hope I never have to go through again as it was very traumatic. Today, kids are able to attend school normally and are able to see their friends there everyday. This has helped with curing some of the loneliness and isolation that kids were feeling during the quarantine period of COVID-19. These pieces could help spread and bring awareness to the mental health issues and effects that COVID-19 had on youth around communities and around the world.

Text Messages Collection

Place the screenshots of the text messages here.

These text messages are prime examples of the shifts in everyday life, especially being able to socialize with others during the COVID-19 lockdown period. It also demonstrates how society began to rely more on virtual communication, such as text messaging or on apps, such as Instagram and snapchat.

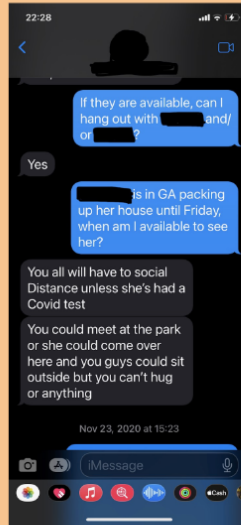
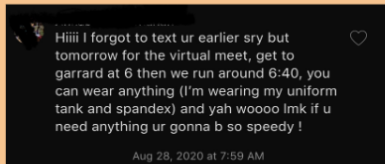
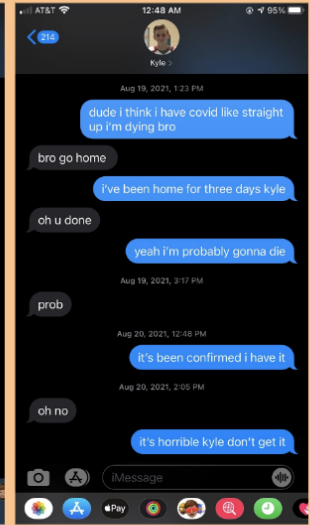


Photo Credit: Beth Dowd



Photo Credit: Jorge Seda



Text Message Rationale

- **Do a quick free write and add notes to justify:**
 - **Why did I pick this text?**
 - I chose these texts to show the different aspects of COVID-19, both in its prime and currently. These texts demonstrate different aspects such as the symptoms of having the virus, attempting to see friends and family despite the virus, choosing between education and health, and so many more.
 - **Historical context- explain the time period when this text was created. What was happening around the world, the country, in your community.**
 - These texts were sent and received both in 2020 and in 2021. These were the two years when high school students, along with the rest of the world, were trying to overcome the several different challenges that COVID-19 caused. Economies throughout the world were at an all-time low and the virus was being passed around through schools, which severely negatively impacted students' education.
 - **Perspective Recognition and Taking- explain how the historical context when this text was created could have impacted how and why this person created this image.**
 - The historical context impacted how and why these texts were included because these texts reflect some of the very specific, but widely faced challenges that COVID-19 presented in earlier years. These texts would hopefully provide a source of comfort to those who were facing the same issues as most teens were in the earlier months and year of COVID.
 - **Affective Responses- how does analyzing this text make you feel? How is the time when this text was created different when compared to today? How are these time periods similar? Can this research impact how you can take informed action on an issue facing your community today?**
 - Analyzing these texts feels very nostalgic, but it's also a bit stressful to look through these texts, as this happened not too long ago and it was a really rough patch for a lot of people. The time when these texts were written is very different from the current day because most of the time, COVID does not restrict seeing friends or family and it doesn't have a major effect on learning (virtually). This research does not provide any concrete solutions other than waiting out the virus to the point that it's now finally safe to interact with people outside your direct family. The research highlights how technology was a vital tool during the pandemic period because it allowed people to communicate without having to risk their health.

Short Story Collection

Place the screenshots or the links to the short stories here.

This short story, written by an anonymous copy editor, featured in the Johns Creek High School magazine, emphasizes the loneliness of a daily life for a high school student during the lockdown period of the COVID-19 pandemic.

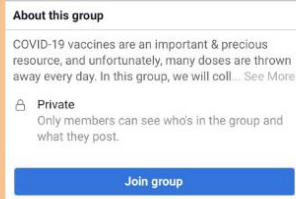


Photo Credit: The Chariot (JCHS Magazine) & Ms. Alred

Short Story Rationale

- **Do a quick free write and add notes to justify:**
 - **Why did I pick this text?**
 - I picked this text because this story highlights the daily routine and struggles of living through a day of virtual school. This period of time caused a lot of issues, both mentally and emotionally because mentally, kids fell behind in their education a bit because of having to adjust to relying solely on technology for communication with their teachers. Emotionally, kids began to struggle with depression because of the isolation they were feeling.
 - **Historical context- explain the time period when this text was created. What was happening around the world, the country, in your community.**
 - The time period when virtual school began was in March of 2020, directly after COVID-19 caused a national state of emergency to be declared by the President, who then shut down the schools. Technological communication companies, such as Zoom or Microsoft Teams, had not been widely used by students or teachers before for education, so it was difficult to adjust to the new ways of learning.
 - **Perspective Recognition and Taking- explain how the historical context when this text was created could have impacted how and why this person created this image.**
 - The historical context could impact why this person wrote the short story is that because of the novelty of virtual learning, this person wanted to share their experiences so that others could understand that every student was in the same boat during this time of lockdown.
 - **Affective Responses- how does analyzing this text make you feel? How is the time when this text was created different when compared to today? How are these time periods similar? Can this research impact how you can take informed action on an issue facing your community today?**
 - Analyzing the text brings back a lot of memories about learning virtual learning and being locked up in my house, while trying to find creative solutions to stay motivated to learn and prioritize my education.

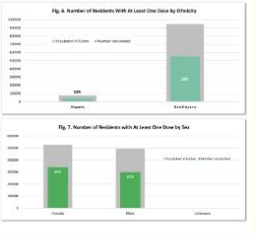
Miscellaneous Collection



This is a flyer from May 2020 for a virtual 8th grade graduation ceremony at Autrey Mill Middle School. Credits: Autrey Mill Middle School

This Facebook group, started during the Pandemic, focuses on vaccinations and where to receive them. Credits: Georgia Vaccine Hunters

This google sheet was created during the Pandemic to help support Atlanta restaurants, while COVID was severely hurting their profits. Credits:



These graphs depict the number of Georgia residents with at least one dose of the vaccine by ethnicity and religion. Credits: fultoncounty.gov

This graph depicts the percentage of Georgia residents with at least one dose of the vaccine by census tract. Credits: fultoncounty.gov

Miscellaneous Rationale

- **Do a quick free write and add notes to justify:**
 - **Why did I pick this text?**
 - These artifacts show the cancellations and conditions of many everyday events in the community. Sports practices, races, neighborhoods were all shut down in response to covid.
 - **Historical context- explain the time period when this text was created. What was happening around the world, the country, in your community.**
 - During this time, covid had started to become a normal part of everyday life, so many were trying to work around it with regulations.
 - **Perspective Recognition and Taking- explain how the historical context when this text was created could have impacted how and why this person created this image.**
 - It impacted their creation of these items because during any other time they would not have had to write emails or messages of this kind. The common factor in all of these items is that they are all about creating a community. These items all highlight different aspects of everyday life that we shared that was taken away from us by the pandemic. These items also highlight the effort to try and maintain a community so that people aren't feeling alone in these times of uncertainty. These items make people feel excited to get back to normal life where they don't have to spend their time isolated.
 - **Affective Responses- how does analyzing this text make you feel? How is the time when this text was created different when compared to today? How are these time periods similar? Can this research impact how you can take informed action on an issue facing your community today?**
 - When analyzing these texts it makes me realize how far we've come since covid began and how grateful I am that despite the tough circumstances, the community continued to work hard to fight covid while maintaining a semi-normal life.

Final Reflection

Explain in at least 1 paragraph (5-6 sentences) how your artifacts connect to the historical analysis essay below. Why is your group's research important?

The artifacts we collected have a powerful connection to the historical analysis essay because they illustrate the front line experience of many people throughout the pandemic period. The pandemic once again proved how our community is dependent on human interaction and how we adapt to the new environment. The huge changes in the course of education is shown in many of our artifacts, and displays how we altered our environment to best live in such a harsh period of time. Our group's research was especially significant in this aspect because the writings and textual records depict the thoughts and emotions of the people who wrote it back in the time. This is especially helpful when we try to analyze and document this historical event. As we gathered these artifacts, it gave us a better understanding of how we thought and processed the circumstance back in 2020.

Chapter 5: Northview High School
Audio Visual Evidence
Stronger Together

Students at Northview High School researched multiple types of audio and visual media from the pandemic. They included captions and credits for each screen shot of audio and video, and provided a rationale for why they chose these artifacts to document diverse experiences during the pandemic. The reflection was written by the group to connect their findings to the big idea “uncertainty” and the compelling question “should times of uncertainty be remembered for the historical record?”

SAME STORM, DIFFERENT BOATS
NORTHVIEW AUDIO VISUALS
STRONGER TOGETHER

All hyperlinks from this section can be found
at this QR code:



Miscellaneous section

<https://youtu.be/buwsPI1LSKw>

During the pandemic get togethers ceased, including big birthday parties. Something that I did and many more was “drive through” birthdays where my friends would come in their cars and we would cut a cake and have a safe celebration. This is definitely a way covid impacted the way we had fun and celebrations in general.

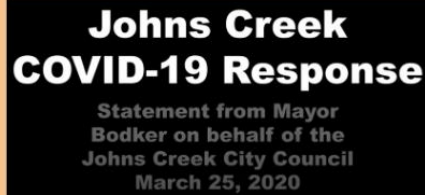


Miscellaneous Rationale

- **Do a quick free write and add notes to justify:**
 - **Why did I pick this audio/visual artifact?**
 - I wanted to highlight how covid did not only have an effect on our daily lives and activities, but things as small as even birthdays had safety elements added to be safer.
 - **Historical context-** explain the time period when this audio/video artifact was created. What was happening around the world, the country, in your community.
 - This video was filmed during the time when the pandemic still had a large affect on our lives and impacted how we celebrate birthday parties, graduations, and other events. Everything was either online, outside, or had masks involved.
 - **Perspective Recognition and Taking-** explain how the historical context when this audio/visual artifact was created could have impacted how and why this person created this image.
 - They documented this moment on video because it is so unique to have a birthday party outside where the guests have masks on. The birthday girl couldn't even blow the candles because she was wearing a mask. If someone was looking at this video in 2017, they would be confused why a birthday party was so protected even with close friends. However, with the context of the pandemic, it makes much more sense to have this extra protection in place against bacteria and germs.
 - **Affective Responses-** how does analyzing this audio/visual artifact make you feel? How is the time when this artifact was created different when compared to today? How are these time periods similar? Can this research impact how you can take informed action on an issue facing your community today?
 - Analyzing this video present day makes me feel remembrance to when I also had a birthday party that all the guests showed up in masks for. It is different compared to my most recent birthday party in 2023 when we went to a restaurant without worry about our health. However, some of my friends still wear masks to this day, which is a lingering effect of the pandemic. This research can impact how we take on information facing our community.

Youtube Collection

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V61T9JQTwb0> - Mayor Bodker address City of Johns Creek on pandemic (March 2020). This piece shows how covid affected us in local politics. Former Mayor Bodker is making announcements and generating hope within his constituents.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nrxBA0a04_A&t=109s - Georgia Express FC (local soccer club) showcases their first stage in returning youth soccer back to play safely. (May 2020) This piece shows how close contact activities such as youth soccer will have to adapt to safety concerns and the new government regulations. GXFC Director Craig Cunningham narrates Stage 1 in the Return to Play, detailing the first stage as well as reflecting upon so other youth sports teams can follow example.

Newscast Collection

<https://www.wsbtv.com/news/local/fulton-county/high-school-students-working-restore-historic-slave-cemetery/US2CQ3SN7NDVTEGA3LXZZRFAYU/>

- This newscast has a lot to show us regarding life during the pandemic. While these students were working hard on their projects and our attention is still divided towards the astonishing numbers displayed in the headlines on the bottom of the video. This shows that no feat is big or small in face of the pandemic's headlines. They continued to display shocking numbers throughout the pandemic and in every news channel you check, it is not something you can escape during the pandemic as shown in this newscast. Furthermore, there was also several images of students wearing masks, throughout the video. If you look closer they even had the SLJC logo on it, which further shows how organizations also started changing due to the pandemic and specializing in other things that pertain to the pandemic. For example, today in the post pandemic era SLJC hands out pens to us with their logo on it for us to use in daily life. But back then in peak pandemic time they handed out masks with their logo for the same usage, which goes to show that during the pandemic masks were considered even more useful and important than a day to day writing utensils.

Visuals Collection



Northview students' handmade posters that were put around the school this year warning peers to be wary it comes to germs and sickness. It's purpose is to stop the spread of COVID and other illnesses around the school after the two years we've had already facing a pandemic.



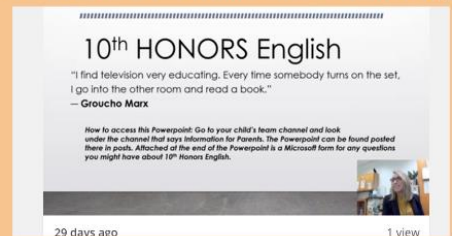
Video and Audio-Visual Artifacts

Northview Virtual Prom - Northview HS

TikTok - Raaga Sarraff



Northview HS Virtual Class - Tania Pope



More Visuals and Videos

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UAc9RkoJzuNd2LvfQVBDaXclqYzmqzE/view?usp=share_link

- Northview High School drive-through graduation

As a whole class was getting ready to graduate high school, college and even middle school, COVID-19 prevented many normal festivities such as graduation, prom, field trips, and more. Pictured in the video above is a parent-organized drive-through graduation for seniors graduating from Northview High School. Cheering in the video is parent Ellen Lark who was able to bring friends together safely while also celebrating the seniors that had worked so hard that year and many before. (Ellen Lark waiver signed)

[https://deref-mail.com/mail/client/atYB4NTml4\(dereferarr?r=directUri=https%3A%2F%2Fdrive.google.com%2Ffile%2F%2F1nJB-WPOK4p2O4rh2xd5mXhSPvhtICQFG%2FView%3Fusp%3Ddrive_web-nothview's%2020%20virtual%20prom](https://deref-mail.com/mail/client/atYB4NTml4(dereferarr?r=directUri=https%3A%2F%2Fdrive.google.com%2Ffile%2F%2F1nJB-WPOK4p2O4rh2xd5mXhSPvhtICQFG%2FView%3Fusp%3Ddrive_web-nothview's%2020%20virtual%20prom)

As Northview High School's 2020 prom was held virtually, many couples found ways to spend time together. Specifically, prom queen Samantha Izzi and her boyfriend Beau Lark were able to dress up together and rock the night away. I picked this visual because it accurately portrays the hardships the class of 2020 faced and how they were able to overcome it. 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. (Waiver signed/sent)

Ella Dancing on Teams Call:

<https://vimeo.com/781245011>

Virtuals classroom across the nation were silence except for a few. Although teachers encouraged students to turn their microphones and cameras on, many didn't, making it hard to interact between screens. On the contrary, Ella Lazar, student at Northview High School can be seen dancing for her classmates at home. This video shows some of the uncommon fun that students had in their virtual classrooms. (waiver signed; not sent)

Credit:Northview High School

Visuals and Videos Rationale

- Do a quick free write and add notes to justify:
 - Why did I pick this audio/visual artifact?
 - I picked this visual as they are good displays of the impact that COVID had and has still. We included visuals that are from Northview high school and our close community to show the close impact that it has around us.
 - Historical context- explain the time period when this audio/video artifact was created. What was happening around the world, the country, in your community.
 - The historical context of the virtual graduation, virtual prom, and virtual classrooms/lessons was during the time where the pandemic was too severe for us to even leave our homes, therefore, online became the new norm for us. Even after the pandemic died down, people still had to be cautious about health and safety issues, as depicted in the posters spread around Northview.
 - Perspective Recognition and Taking- explain how the historical context when this audio/visual artifact was created could have impacted how and why this person created this image.
 - The posters spread around Northview were made during a Healthcare class to warn our school about spreading germs and taking precautions in protecting others.
 - Affective Responses- how does analyzing this audio/visual artifact make you feel? How is the time when this artifact was created different when compared to today? How are these time periods similar? Can this research impact how you can take informed action on an issue facing your community today?
 - I feel sad looking at the online videos, because although people in the videos are cheering and happy, they were brave to go through these strange circumstances. The visuals from then are completely different from now, because we have resumed normal graduations, normal proms, and normal classes. However, one thing that remained the same is that people wear masks now to these events. This research can help how we take action on issues facing the community today.

Screenshots and Video Rationale

- **Do a quick free write and add notes to justify:**
 - Why did I pick this audio/visual artifact?
 - Because these are good depictions of COVID impact on community.
 - Historical context- explain the time period when this audio/video artifact was created. What was happening around the world, the country, in your community.
 - It was during COVID in its peak era when everything was online.
 - Perspective Recognition and Taking- explain how the historical context when this audio/visual artifact was created could have impacted how and why this person created this image.
 - Because of the circumstances of COVID, the artifacts were created because of the inability to do normal things in person. Therefore, online classes, masked birthday parties, and city r~~ess~~ponses were created.
 - Affective Responses- how does analyzing this audio/visual artifact make you feel? How is the time when this artifact was created different when compared to today? How are these time periods similar? Can this research impact how you can take informed action on an issue facing your community today?
 - It feels nostalgic to remember a time when the world looked like this and remembering when we took online classes. The times are now different with resumed in person classes.

Final Reflection

Explain in at least 1 paragraph (5-6 sentences) how your artifacts connect to the historical analysis essay below. Why is your group's research important?

Each artifact holds a significant value for what the COVID-19 pandemic was to us and our population, and our main priority was being able to portray the different perspectives of the pandemic. For instance, the birthday drive-thrus, TikTok videos, and the online school videos exhibit how COVID affected the lives of Gen-Z citizens and students all around the country. Additionally, COVID changed our simple daily routines. For example, the way we washed our hands changed. Many businesses and schools had a fun take on this by including interactive posters on how to wash your hands (perry the platypus poster). Another artifact that exemplifies the effects of COVID-19 is the 10th Honors Literature class recording. This artifact highlights the need to move something so regular in someone's lives online, which in our case was school. The movement of classrooms to an online setting shows how dire the pandemic situation was at the time and how daily lives were adjusted towards it. Our goal with these artifacts is to display how the COVID-19 virus affected businesses, schools, and other places.

Chapter 6: Secretary of State Ambassadors
Oral History Evidence
Talking it Out

Students in the Secretary of State Ambassadors group compiled a list of community members and various leaders throughout the state of Georgia to interview about their experiences during the pandemic. They included photographs from the interviews, headshots of the interviewees, and excerpts from the interviews.



Pictured from top right: Aria Smith, Andy Stanley, Tiffany Obasohan; Governor Brian Kemp, Brady Carnesale; Aria Smith, Brady Carnesale, Marilyn Margolis; Rabbi Hirshy Minkowicz; Heather Redrick, Lakshana Ramanan; Nicholas Stone, Alisha Kohli, Laura Skillen, Katie James; Linda McCain, Alisha Kohli, Aria Smith, Dr. Mike Looney

Georgia Governor Brian Kemp
Interviewed by Brady Carnesale

Governor Kemp, you were just over a year into your first term when COVID began to cause massive shutdowns in the United States and around the world. What do you think prepared you to lead during such uncertain and frightening times?

Those were difficult times for all of us. Thankfully, I had both a strong faith and strong family to help me get through it, and I think many other Georgians did, as well. I also leaned heavily on my experience as a small business owner. I knew firsthand the struggles job creators like that were facing. That's why I decided to open Georgia up as soon as we could safely do so, to give them a fighting chance so that they could provide for their families and keep their employees on payroll. I also knew firsthand just how resilient the people of Georgia are, and as they always do, they rose to that challenge despite the unprecedented difficulties we faced.



The theme of this project is the disparate impact of COVID on different populations. What would you like people to know about how you approached your decision-making as you rolled out Georgia's response to the COVID Pandemic, given the dramatic diversity of people and resources around the State?

I'd like them to know that we did everything in our power to fight for both lives and livelihoods during the pandemic. We also trusted our people to make the right decisions for their families and communities. We're proud that so many people of different backgrounds and walks of life choose to call Georgia home, and we also know that because of the great diversity in our state, a one-size-fits-all approach doesn't work. People have different strengths and needs, and we kept that in mind when we approached COVID response.

Schools in Georgia were given the option to return to in-person learning in the Fall of 2020. Why was it important to give parents and students that option at that point in the pandemic?

For the same reason we needed to open our economy – because families know their needs best. Students were falling behind, and we could not let COVID rob them of the futures they deserve. With proper protocols in place, we knew that students could safely return to the classroom and continue on their educational journeys.

Georgia House of Representatives Congresswoman Lucy McBath
Interviewed by Aria Smith



What was the general atmosphere in Congress and specifically your office on March 12/13, 2020, the day's most consider the start of the pandemic?

“My office had long been tracking developments about the coronavirus, and I was closely monitoring the situation in Georgia in the leadup to that point in time. 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. I was in Washington that week, and on March 12th there was actually a bipartisan congressional briefing for members of Congress on Capitol Hill. Dr. Fauci and additional administration officials from the CDC, NIH, and HHS came and spoke to us about the latest developments on the coronavirus. In January, before the virus had even come to the United States, I introduced a bill that would have made it easier for health officials to track and treat pandemics.” “On March

13th, I voted to pass the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, a bipartisan bill focused on providing support for American families during this public health crisis. That legislation included free coronavirus testing for everyone who needs a test, paid emergency family and medical leave, enhanced unemployment insurance to protect furloughed workers, stronger food security initiatives for students, seniors, and food banks, and increased federal funds for Medicaid as states prepared to face higher costs. The package also included my bill that would make it easier to trace future pandemics, and I'm proud that our work to keep our families safe continues.”

When was the turning point where you knew you and other leaders of Georgia needed to take action? What are some examples of your initiatives in response to the pandemic?

“My office launched a COVID-19 resource page on March 3, 2020 that was designed to help families in our community stay informed and learn more about prevention and containment advice from public health experts. On that same day, I also sent an informational newsletter to my entire district sharing those resources and encouraging people to learn more.” “Federal leaders began discussing funding to respond to COVID-19 for weeks prior. And within the week following March 12th, I was convening calls with local government leaders in my district to share information and offer my office as a resource for whatever they might need as we prepared for a seismic shift in how our communities operated.” “On March 18th, I teamed up with the Weather Channel to launch a public service announcement about how our community could keep themselves, their families, and their loved ones safe.”

What consequence of COVID-19 was the most impacting in your personal and professional life?

“Having to pivot from shaking hands in a room full of people to greeting people on Zoom and was certainly impactful on my own personal life. But beyond that, I think it is absolutely critical to remember the unimaginable impact that this pandemic had on human life in this country and around the world.”

Former Georgia Supreme Court Chief Justice Harold Melton
Interviewed by Brady Carnesale

You were the architect for the statewide judicial plan for keeping our courts open. What prepared you such a task?

- “When came time to call upon people...I was able to look out and see friends...to lean on.”
- “It’s about relationships.”
- “I chaired a pandemic preparation committee in 2006.”
- “When COVID occurred, we had to answer the questions we didn’t know to ask.”
- “We didn’t have to start from scratch.”

What do you think was your biggest priority when developing this plan?

- “We never ever closed the courts.”
- “We absolutely could not close the courts.”
- “The courts needed to be able to help.”
- “We felt the responsibility of the court was to keep people safe.”

What would you say were your biggest challenges in this plan?

- “In some instances, we’re putting some people’s liberties on hold.”
- “Some trials were postponed at least a year.”
- “There are so many moving pieces in the state judiciary.”
- “People needed to work together.”
- “Keeping everybody informed.”

What changes to the system from the pandemic do you hope will survive the end of the emergency period?

- “I think judges will have more remote hearings.”
- “Judges won’t make lawyers drive to their clients and them spend that money.”
- “Transporting inmates for short hearings... that won’t happen anymore, which is really good.”
- “Using video is a much more efficient option.”



Georgia Supreme Court Justice Shawn LaGrua
Interviewed by Brady Carnesale



The Pandemic began while you were still on the Fulton County Superior Court bench but continued through your advancement to the Georgia Supreme Court. As Chairperson of the Chief Justice’s COVID Commission, how did you take into consideration the needs of the entire system of courts in Georgia?

In a word: Listened. Rather than simply assuming that we knew best what would work or that there was a one size fits all solution, we solicited input from judges and other stakeholders around the state. In my role as a Superior Court Judge, I also served as President of the Council of Superior Court Judges and during that time, I had the privilege of getting to know judges from around the state in all classes of courts. These connections proved invaluable because they enabled us to quickly contact our colleagues in all levels of courts across Georgia. As you might imagine, the needs and resources of a large metropolitan court may differ greatly from a smaller, more rural jurisdiction.

In January 2021, you were appointed to the Georgia Supreme Court. Was the transition from Superior Court to the Supreme Court made more challenging because of the Pandemic? If so, why? What adaptation do you feel was most beneficial to continued operations in the Courts and to overcoming the obstacles faced by judges in the pandemic?

It was quite challenging, largely because I am a people person. I enjoy personally interacting with the public and with my staff and my colleagues, but in the beginning of the pandemic, in particular, that just was not feasible. There were times that I think was one of just a handful of people who were physically present in the Supreme Court building. I found that isolating and I think that most people could relate to that issue, at least early on during the pandemic. An incredibly important innovation involved the ability to hold virtual hearings. I’ll admit, technology is not my forte. However, video conference technology and adaptation of the court rules surrounding that technology were probably the most important tools we had at our disposal. Across the state, courts of all levels from municipal courts to the Supreme Court of Georgia swiftly mobilized to continue the business of the courts across Georgia. While much of the state and the country shut down, the courts did not. We just had to get a little creative about how to move forward. Admittedly, it was a challenge for me (and I’m sure others) at first, but being the daughter of a United States Army Colonel, adapting to challenges and change was ingrained in me from birth. I am extremely proud of how my colleagues across the state rallied to keep the courts open and moving forward for the public we serve.

Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis
Interviewed by Tiffany Obasohan



How did the social unrest that sprung up at the same time (BLM protests, etc.) affect your work?

“I think it absolutely did. Things were very, very tense at that time. There was great disrespect for law enforcement going on because people were, for good reason, angry about some of the things that they saw going on in society. It brought everything to a height. I often say that it was like *the Perfect Storm*. You had the pandemic going on at the time, you had society angry about things, you had a court system where you couldn't move things through. It was not a positive time, and not just in this county's judicial system, but in judicial systems all throughout the country. We are also in one of the few careers where a lot of it could not be virtual. If you were a police officer or an investigator, you had to be out there, still doing things. We did try to make the court system virtual, but that did not work for every single thing. It really backed up trials and is still having an impact today.”

Did any positive changes come about from the pandemic and its closures to your line of work/ immediate community? If yes, please briefly explain.

“We learned how to conduct court virtually. I think that's effective because, if you conduct court virtually, you can have citizens sign on and they can see it. It was enlightening to them. It also gave us criticism. They could give positive feedback as to what they would like to see in the criminal justice system. I think the use of the Zoom Court is helpful. Obviously not for trial, as you have the right to be there and confront your accusers, but for some of our smaller hearings.”

Follow-Up: Do you think you'll continue to use virtual courts?

“I think that we're going to have to, just to move things along. It takes a lot of money, effort and time to get to this courthouse and we deal with a lot of poor citizens. It may not seem like a big deal to some people to come down here, use gas and pay \$15 for parking, but some people don't even have access to a car. It removes a lot of barriers.”

Is there anything else you would like to share about your experience during the COVID-19 pandemic?

“What I learned about myself is that I need to be around people. What drives me is actually being able to communicate with people, to help people, to feel needed. Some people are motivated by money; money does not motivate me in any way. What motivates me is being able to make a difference. I hope when I leave this earth that I will have made some positive differences in people's lives. Being removed from people, it was not good for my mental health, I feed off of being able to interface with people, and I think that a lot of people did. I think that it does not work for us to be isolated. I think we are social beings by nature, so it's very important that we remain part of people's lives.”

What activity you began to engage in, or continued engaging in, to bring you joy/ comfort following all the changes brought about so far by 2020?

The work. Just with moving the cases, there's a little bit of satisfaction every time we move another case (meaning we get that family justice). I have personally lost someone to violence, so I understand that families need closure. I also understand that, while people work through the judicial system, you rip off a Band-Aid and almost re-victimize them because it's very hard to relive those negative experiences.

Fulton County Superior Court Judge Eric Dunaway
Interviewed by Brady Carnesale

Were there any concerns with Zoom court?

- "I was worried about technological failure."
- "Internet going out... that was a major concern."

Were there any advantages with using Zoom?

- "For lawyers, they can be in a lot of places at the same time."
- "It cuts down on travel costs."
- "Interviewing witnesses is a lot easier."

Do you see Zoom as a viable alternative in the long run?

- "Absolutely."
- "We're going to continue to use Zoom..."
- "On the criminal side, we definitely offer a Zoom option."



If a defendant didn't have a working computer, what was the solution?

- "That was also a concern."
- "People of certain generations are not technologically savvy."
- "But everybody has a smartphone."
- "A lot of people Zoomed from their phone."

Fulton County School Board Member Linda McCain
Interviewed by Alisha Kohli, Aria Smith and Shruthi Balachander



During the interview, Mrs. McCain indicated that the atmosphere in Fulton County Schools on March 12-13th, 2020, when students were told that schools were closed until further notice was described as uncertain and unsettling. However, the board felt a sense of relief in their decision to close the schools.

The COVID-19 pandemic created significant challenges for the education sector. The single biggest issue was the impact on younger students, who were most impacted by the loss of opportunity to attend school in person. Personal experiences varied widely, and it was impossible to make all parents happy with decisions that were made.

Overall, the interview focused on the challenges faced by the education sector during the pandemic, with particular emphasis on the impact on students in Fulton County Schools and the need to adapt to new modes of learning.

Former Fulton County Commissioner Liz Hausmann
Interviewed by Neha Gurram

Did you have to transition from working remotely to working back in person? If you didn't work remotely, how did it feel to have people return to your workplace?

Fulton County initiated a flex-work program early on, most of the services that the county offers interact with people (libraries, tax offices, etc.), we determined that pretty early on in the pandemic we could reopen some critical functions if we put in safe guards and plastic dividers, hand sanitizers, and masks, so we opened some critical community programs.

Personally, how did COVID-19 affect your family life, did you feel this was a positive or negative impact?

It was difficult, very difficult. It was an adjustment, I don't think I was different compared to anyone else and their family life, you were disconnected and afraid to be around the elderly members of the family. I think we all learned to be a little bit more self-sufficient, and learned to investigate things thoroughly (regarding the false news and reports.)



As someone that has to allocate money for different aspects of Fulton County, how did COVID serve as an obstacle to this and why?

- Two-fold - we had operations shut down and employees couldn't do their normal jobs, and they decided not to lay anyone off.
- Tried to get different workers to do their jobs at home, which was a challenge.
- Had to make big decisions diverting money that would normally go to senior programs and a lot of other things and gave bonus money to the safety providers like North Fulton community charity and agencies like that before knowing we would get any federal relief.
- Major projects that were put on hold. For instance, turning warehouses into testing stations and PPE warehouses.

How did you feel about COVID-19 being heavily politicized, and the government being divided, (as a government official and politician)?

- It's been used as a weapon.
- Both sides were pointing fingers at each other, and it shows what's really wrong with our political process.
- COVID was used in some ways to control people, they scared people.
- The people's priorities shifted more to their families
- What we did to stop the spread was similar to other historic pandemics.

What were some big decisions you were required to take and how does that affect you now?

- We hired an emergency management firm to help us navigate everything which was one of the best decisions we made.
- The ORCA program- to deal with the backlog of cases from the pandemic.
- We had to figure out how to work with the local cities when getting Federal funding and how to put together an election with everyone at home.
- We had to hire a consultant to release people from jail, they had to assess each prisoner and release some with ankle monitors.

Fulton County Schools Superintendent Dr. Mike Looney
Interviewed by Alisha Kohli, Aria Smith and Shruthi Balachander



What was the general atmosphere in Fulton County Schools on March 12-13th, 2020, when students were told that schools were closed until further notice?

- Anxious and delighted at the same time
- First district in state of Georgia to have a face
- Not enough information from State of Georgia or from the safety departments
- We were not prepared

The pandemic created problems across all fields and everyday life. From an educational perspective, what was the single biggest issue you had to deal with in regards to the COVID-19 pandemic?

- The unequal distribution of student learning regardless of the methodology used
- Social and emotional growth
- Language development
- Interventions and supports
- More emotionally fragile afterward

How would you sum up the COVID experience?

“So, I think, I still think we are right on the outskirts of the aftermath of COVID, so I think it's a little early to draw any conclusions about any long-term impact that it has on us. I think there's some beauty to this tragedy too. You know, as a man, that's had lots of experiences, I've got lots of scars. But scars aren't all ugly. They tell our story. And you are all part of a generation, we all are part of a time in this world history where we have a more vivid and more passionate story. It's kind of like if you think about ‘the greatest generation of all time’ which was said to be the World War II time, that was their moment in world history. This is our moment. This is what bonds 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 are stronger because of it. We must pass those learnings on to the next generations behind us.”

GRANT TEAM NOTE: This quote from Dr. Looney was one that everyone in the room sat back and said “did you get that” as it was so well articulated and absolutely described our collective boats.

Fulton County Superior Court Judge Rachelle Carnesale
Interviewed by Brady Carnesale



What was it like to campaign for election to keep your job during the Pandemic? Did it impact how you performed your job, as well?

I received my appointment to the bench in June, 2019 and had to run for office to hold that seat in June, 2020. We stopped having in-person court in early March, 2020 and at that point, all in-person campaign events were suspended, as well. I had opposition in the election along with many other incumbents, so it was important for me to find creative ways to reach voters. I participated in several online Zoom debates and one challenge was finding out when different groups were hosting candidates virtually and seeking invitations to those online events. I was fortunate to succeed in my election and I think that having to be creative about communications helped evolve my approach to my job as well as well as campaigning. When we started holding court by Zoom, Teams and WebEx, it was so interesting for everyone in the session to see each other in their home or office environments. Pets, 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.

Following up on that, what changes in practice have occurred in your courtroom because of the pandemic?

Our case management has become more successful because of the technology that would never have been embraced by the courts, in my opinion, but for the pandemic. One lovely result of offering virtual hearings has been that in adoptions, supportive family and friends from all over the country can “attend” the proceeding. It’s not easy, especially for older children, to find forever homes. And the road to becoming adoptive parents is also long and fraught with heartbreaking challenges for many people who want to adopt. Seeing dozens of people clapping onscreen at the end of the adoption is extremely moving. It’s incredible to see the network of people who were hoping and praying that the adoption would work out, celebrate the final result. It’s very emotional for the families and supporters, and sometimes for the judge...

You are a special needs parent. Did the pandemic affect families with special needs children differently?

Families with special needs children who are able to attend school are dependent on the school systems for so much. The children have access to socialization that is often unavailable outside school, and to education and activities. When the schools closed, special needs students were relegated to a virtual learning environment, just as the typical kids were, which was challenging given very limited skill sets in this population. Also, many families who may not be able to afford caregiving assistance, rely on schools for respite from the daily rigors of caring for high needs children. For our son, the biggest challenge was the absence of the typical students who volunteer in his classroom daily and become friends. He was excited to see his classmates on Teams, but he lost access to most of the typical kids during the in-person shut down. Those students motivate him to go to school, inspire him to work hard and dramatically impact his social skills. We were fortunate to have a teacher who adapted very well to online teaching, but the social aspect of school was greatly impacted. For kids with fewer resources, or parents who were unable to stay home with them, losing access to school therapists and supportive adults at the school was devastating and could have been dangerous. When my son was allowed to return to school, he was incredibly emotional. He was joyful and ecstatic to return to the class. It was a great day and one I won’t forget.

Fulton County School Johns Creek Leadership – Brian Downey, Neil Pinnock and Camille Christopher

Interviewed by Shruthi Balachander



L to R: Mr. Neil Pinnock, Mr. Brian Downey and Ms. Camille Christopher

Mr. Brian Downey, the Zone Superintendent of Learning Zone 6 in Fulton County along with River Trail Middle School Principal Neil Pinnock and Findley Oaks Elementary School Principal Camille Christopher described to me their unique experiences navigating through the COVID-19 pandemic in their respective roles. Prior to the pandemic, Mr. Downey described his role as a “never-ending list.” As the former principal of Northview High School, his role included setting the mission of the school, guiding the instruction leaders of the building and most importantly,

communicating to high leadership, staff, parents, and students. Mr. Pinnock similarly described his role prior to the pandemic as communicating with stakeholders and supporting teachers while Ms. Christopher stated that she was most involved in visiting classrooms, observing instruction, and supporting staff as well.

When asked about how the pandemic changed the dynamics of decision-making choices with restrictions from the state, Fulton County Board of Education, fellow staff members, school leadership, and influence from the students’ families, Mr. Downey described how the word “grace” was over implemented. “We leaned into the decision that would benefit the kid the most, and let’s give them the benefit of the doubt,” he stated. Ms. Christopher added that decision was always changing and there was always a plan B that needed to be put into place because of the new load of constant changes. According to Mr. Pinnock, the impact of scores, academics, and student success pre-pandemic, during COVID, and now as we slowly begin to recover from the pandemic is versatile and constantly changing. He believed that COVID did not bring much of a change in the scores, but there are still practices put in place to help students with lower scores. Mr. Downey, with an alternative perspective, stated that many kids in the transitional years forgot what school was like or never fully experienced it. Working with kids, Ms. Christopher added that many kindergartners and first-graders had a tough time getting used to a group environment and having to “share” the classroom with other kids.

As they reflected on their personal and professional experiences, Mr. Downey, Mr. Pinnock and Ms. Christopher all shared their unique and thoughtful perspectives. Mr. Downey explained that he now values the idea of joy more and through dealing with COVID, he understood how much of a toll it took on everyone’s mental health – even his own. As he faced pressure being a principal during this time and experiences feelings of “self-doubt” and “emptiness,” he now finds joy in the little things. “My joy right now is in elementary school, walking into an elementary class; those kids are so joyful,” Mr. Downey stated. Ms. Christopher and Mr. Pinnock described their moments of what they would’ve done differently in their own respective perspectives. “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,” Ms. Christopher stated. And Mr. Pinnock ended with a note that we can perhaps all relate to – “If I could do it all over again, I would take care of myself more.”

**Northview High School ELA and 3DE Co-Chairs Tania Pope and Jean Armstrong
Interviewed by Shruthi Balachander**



Tania Pope



Jean Armstrong

Ms. Tania Pope and Ms. Jean Armstrong are the 3DE Co-Chairs and teachers of the ELA department at Northview High School. Focusing on the subjects of AP Language and Literature along with Senior Consultancy, Ms. Pope is deeply involved in the school's impact with the 3DE program, Black History Club, and Northview United. Ms. Armstrong has been teaching 9th Grade Literature as well as being the sponsor of Northview's TEDx club, playing a huge role as well on the 3DE program. In their interviews, they describe the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on different aspects of their lives.

When asked about the general atmosphere in Fulton County Schools on March 12-13th, 2020, Ms. Pope and Ms. Armstrong described the feeling of confusion and excitement among students. Ms. Armstrong even made an allusion to Shakespeare's famous "Romeo and Juliet" when her students happened to be coincidentally reading about the plague letter announcement in the book in comparison to Fulton County's announcement of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As most others, the two teachers described tackling online teaching to be their biggest struggle from navigating the technology and adjusting to the virtual environment, to being aware of students' privacy and personal lives in regard to mental health. While they attempted to balance their own professional and personal lives, they definitely found the entire experience "Overwhelming."

Holding the role of current 3DE co-chairs of Northview's chapter of the magnet program under Junior Achievement, Ms. Armstrong and Ms. Pope consistently work on building the core competencies of students under the program. Through this, they noticed a huge learning gap and a curve of competencies such as self-direction in students. As they added their thoughts on students' views of post-secondary education, the teachers stated how we need to "Take the time to explore new things" and even added how "We kind of slowed the pace of life down a little bit and we were no longer obligated to have [social obligations] which brought a very freeing perspective."

In hindsight, would they have done anything different during the pandemic? Not necessarily. To Ms. Pope and Ms. Armstrong, experience defines growth. They would not change how things worked out in their lives as they felt that it was all a learning experience in their respective lives and careers.

Northview High School Student Nila Wisepearl
Interviewed by Varsha Nirmal



What were your general thoughts about COVID when the lockdown first began, and how did it change over the course of quarantine?

When COVID first started we got like two weeks off from school, so I was thinking *oh just two weeks and we have to come back to school and then that's fine*. I thought it would be over quickly and that the CDC would figure it out and get a solution to the problem so it would be over kind of just like that. 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 ill and hospitalized and even dying unfortunately. I guess at

first it seemed like an easy thing and then it became something way more serious that affected a lot of people.

How did you manage your mental health during the pandemic, as mental health issues increased exponentially in this time period.

Since I couldn't go out because I didn't want to get people sick, how I managed my mental health was virtually calling my friends and doing little hobbies and exploring new things that I could do at home like journaling or painting. I think I got into jewelry making too. It was a nice stress reliever to be in control in a time when you couldn't really control things. I had a lot of good creative productivity that came out of it so that was nice.

How did you see the people around you (family, friends, classmates, etc.) get impacted, positively and negatively?

Positively, I saw people around me exploring new things. With all the time we had some people took opportunities of being at home and utilizing their resources to better themselves in some way. Negatively, with my parents and their work it was harder to just convert online. It's difficult to take a physical job and just transfer it all online for health reasons and preventing risks. Risking your health for a paycheck or something doesn't sound right. My parents eventually got the hang of it and now there are times when they go back to work in person, so it has gotten better. For friends and classmates impacted negatively from COVID, a lot of teenage life depends on interaction and that balance so that was a loss we were negatively affected by which resulted in more stress and dealing with things by yourself.

As a student, how has school life changed and what are your thoughts about it?

I suppose that regulation wise they became less strict yet more strict at the same time. At the beginning when we came back from COVID, there were less rules in place like you could retake stuff with extended deadlines and whatnot. I guess the school realized with leniency comes consequences since there were multiple absences and many people failing tests knowing that they could easily retake them. I'm assuming that's why they had to increase regulations, which is not the worst and honestly not the best. School life has changed because of those stricter deadlines than before. Especially with multiple classes, sometimes it's hard to keep up only having specific timelines to retake and I sometimes am not able to meet those deadlines and that adds on to the stress. It has not been too long since we've been in COVID so moving on to our original 2019 school life was kind of hard and difficult for students in general.

Innovation Academy Special Needs Teacher Chris Bray
Interviewed by Lakshana Ramanan



How did you feel during the early weeks of March and how did your feelings change?

Something that I remember, as a teacher, at that time I was teaching special education students or students with special needs at a social study setting, teaching US history, and we would start the class off with a CNN program. It was called CNN 10. And we were learning about COVID, elsewhere in China and all of a sudden, it was here. And it was, you know, kind of surprising and jarring that it spread so quickly around the world. And so, I think, first it was a surprise, and then it's like, how long is this going to last? And then you get the sense of, you know, basically, the nature of school is going to change

for a while. Professionally, I would say, it was kind of shocking at first, and then it was quite a period of adjustment to be an educator in those circumstances.

What was the hardest part of your job?

I would say early on those first few months of getting my students to tune in to class when I was teaching US history to students with disabilities. With each week, students were likely to check in, less likely to appear in class. So those were some things that were very challenging and difficult just in connection with students that we're so used to. I've been teaching for 20 years now. And from the 1990s, when I started to today; technology has become more important. But certainly, as far as technology, I don't think we have perfected it or ever will in making it an ideal way to teach our students.

Were there any projects that you worked on outside of normal teaching?

In addition to teaching students with disabilities, special needs outside of the school setting I work with a Special Olympics organization. We shared, a lot of our sports events were canceled, because the physical face-to-face nature, spreading those concerns, so we moved to try to connect through Zoom meetings, online challenges and make videos of folks out on their driveway shooting baskets instead of being able to get together with your teammates, and we were trying to encourage people to do activities and then report them back with videos to connect. We also had some really cool opportunities to Zoom. Simone Biles, we were somehow connected to a world-famous gymnast through friends at Coca Cola. She appeared on a Zoom with my athletes, Special Olympic athletes, that was a real cool thing that came out of COVID. That wouldn't have happened otherwise. We had to adjust everything. As far as the way we communicate, teach, lead a Special Olympics organization, everything was impacted, but I think and hope it was as effective as possible. But it was lacking in many areas.

What is your favorite part of your job?

I think, my favorite parts, having done this for a long period of time, that's something we're going to have to be patient with here is you work with students from the beginning of their high school experience, and then you see them walk across the stage for graduation. So, it's been a very exciting thing about being in a new school is that is all so fresh and new. We're still a year away from having our first set of graduates. So that is satisfying to see students that have made it through hopefully with success. That's what has always been most satisfying as a teacher.

Johns Creek Mayor John Bradberry
Interviewed by Neha Gurram

John Bradberry, is a former city council member and now mayor of Johns Creek in Fulton County. COVID-19 affected his family life negatively, and as a result he had to homeschool his daughter. As a council member, he felt a sense of responsibility to protect people from unnecessary risks. The closure of city parks and city hall (which didn't close) was considered in the early weeks of March 2020. The pandemic affected fiscal and normal policy decisions, with a major dent in sales tax revenue. The pandemic's heavy politicization was a disappointment, with people using the wearing of masks as a political prop. Bradberry was disappointed by the politicization of COVID-19 and the government being divided. There was a huge need for testing facilities, and Fulton County provided many of those testing locations. During his mayoral campaign, Bradberry had to adjust to the pandemic's realities and change how he campaigned. He also shared personal anecdotes, including the difficulty of finding Lysol and remembering everything that needed to be wiped down, and the unfairness of people in hospitals being unable to see family members. One significant decision the Johns Creek City Council made was to use the CARES Act money for the vulnerable populations and to partner with existing infrastructures. Bradberry thinks that 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 tunnel, and it seems like it's just lingering to the point where we can never just say 'we're moving forward'."



Johns Creek Interim Chief of Police During Pandemic Roland Castro
Interviewed by Tiffany Obasohan



Roland Castro was the Interim Police Chief during the pandemic. He discussed their experience overseeing logistical adaptations in their police department during the COVID-19 pandemic. He further explained that they reduced burnout by separating officer teams and shutting down specialized units. They also had to budget for more PPEs and keep them regularly stocked for future emergencies. 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. He further emphasized the importance of being prepared for pandemics in the future.

City of Johns Creek Critical Staff Leaders
Interviewed by Alisha Kohli



Chris Coons – Johns Creek Fire Chief – Earned nickname “Captain Corona” during COVID as he was the person in charge of city response. “In public safety, we have to do that all the time you know what I mean there's never an absolute set way to do a lot of the things we do, so switching things up a little bit and hitting wasn't a stretch for us. We had to do things that we didn't normally do at all such as a lot of the sanitary fogging the city hall building as firefighters. 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 odds-and-ends outside of the norm of being a fire fighter.”



Ed Densmore – Johns Creek City Manager. “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.”



Chris Haggard – Johns Creek Public Works Director “Having kids and schools being closed had a big impact to not just me but also my staff. Being understanding that ‘hey you got to take care of the child care’, ‘you got to get to work serve the community’. We had to really balance that effort with our team of who's going to be where each day.”



Bob Mullen – Johns Creek Director of Communication “The way I see it, it was this sort of a bell curve 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”



Jason Woolums – Johns Creek Director of IT “We had our folks that were already set up to work remotely anyway and then there was a other city folks that typically were in the office but they were essential personnel that had to be able to work remotely. We were able to get our hands on enough inventory to be able to accommodate them. It's gotten worse as we've gone along in terms of supply chain issues but I would say up until the summer we were able to get what we needed.”

Former Johns Creek Mayor Mike Bodker
Interviewed by Lakshana Ramanan

What was the hardest part of managing the city of Johns Creek when the pandemic hit?

It was a careful balancing act between protecting our first responders, because without first responders, people were going to be in very, very dire straits. And as an example, if you think about it, our number one job is if someone picks up the phone and calls 911, people have to show up. But if they were sick themselves with COVID, they weren't able to do so. So, we created a bubble to protect the first responders. And in fact, as a result of that, we had a period of time that only allowed visitors to be on the first floor of City Hall. We ensured that where the first responders were going to be within city hall, they were protected. We also made sure the first responders maintained a bubble in their own lives, to give them the best chance of being there at work. So that was number one, but then we had to balance that also with the citizens' needs. And trying to carefully balance that was probably one of the tougher things.



How did you feel about COVID-19 being heavily politicized, as you said, the government being partisan and divided on their policies?

So, our government wasn't. And my job was to ensure that we were as even handed as we could be, if you look back, I started sending out a newsletter every week at first and then it went every two weeks. And that newsletter was to provide updated information to the citizens about what was happening within the city of Johns Creek, to give them some reassurance that things were not as bad as they could be. But it was also to give them the information for them to make the personal choice as to what they wanted to. We didn't tell them they had to do anything.

Is there anything you wish you had done better during the pandemic?

I'm not saying we did everything perfectly, but I think on balance, we did a good job. We didn't we didn't force people into anything. We let them make their own choices, to the extent that we could. And I think we did a good job of keeping City Hall open for the people since it's the people's house, but we protected the people that needed to be protected. And so, I think we balanced things out just about right.

What is your advice to people who are wanting to be politicians or involved in the government in the future?

People ask me how do you like politics as a career. I never viewed politics as a career one, I didn't do it to be paid. Second, I think we need good people. But it isn't something that one should consider as their job or their vocation, I think you volunteer, you step up, and there's lots of ways to step up, you might step up in your religious institution, you might step up within your school system, you might step up in general community service, you might step up in elected office. There's lots of different ways, different ways are better for different people, it all depends on what it is.

Johns Creek Chamber of Commerce CEO Robin Buckley
Interviewed by Tiffany Obasohan



How did you feel during the early weeks of March, when the state was initially locked down? What were your initial fears, and how did they change/develop over time?

“It was scary in that it was unknown. I’d never heard of such a thing and couldn’t believe it had happened. The first couple of weeks, I was busier than I had ever been because the community needed a way to communicate with our business members, other businesses and residents. We pondered how to get the word out on what you could and couldn’t do, what was open and what wasn’t. As we also worked with the city to change some of their physical laws and requirements, I felt slammed. It was all *constantly changing*.”

How was the “work from home” system implemented into running the Chamber of Commerce? Was it successful?

Luckily, we had very few employees (3 of them) and we all knew what we were to do, so it felt as though our job descriptions became even more defined. We started with Zoom really early on, and it was successful for those that wanted some kind of connection. Then you had the people who hated it and would rather have done nothing than sit with someone like this. To me, online communication was really one of the only positive outcomes, it opened up so many industries that have been able to continue and flourish. At least it’s an option now to substitute some face-to-face interactions.

What were the most frustrating changes brought about by COVID-19 to your job/the jobs of those under you?

Justifying keeping our doors open, and not just immediately throwing our hands up. At that time, we were also in the middle of negotiating our new space, which was double what we had before. Our rent liability was to substantially increase, so not knowing what it was going to look like and receiving some push-back was frustrating, but in the end, we made the right choice.

What activity did you begin or continue to engage in that brought you joy/comfort following all the changes? Have you continued with any of these?

My very first encounter on Zoom was with my small group (Browns Bridge Church – North Point Ministries), which I had only been involved with for 6 months prior. We became very, very close. We carried ourselves through it. Even just a year after I’d met them, it seemed like we’d known each other for 5 or 10 years because we’d been through so much in that time.

Emory Johns Creek Hospital CEO Marilyn Margolis
Interviewed by Brady Carnesale and Aria Smith

Please describe your personal job duties prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and any changes due to the pandemic.

- “It is difficult to remember what life was like without COVID.”
- “If you were already on a very good course... and COVID came, you were much more likely to be successful than if you had a chaotic... culture/hospital.”
- “Emory has a core value of quality and safety that started well before the pandemic.”
- “Duties pre-COVID: strategic planning (financial trends, how to serve the community best), working in the community (she sits on 8 boards, which was unexpected when she took the job), day-to-day operations (seeing the staff, talking to employees, etc.)”
- “The day before the pandemic, Emory JC was approved for funding to add 2 floors to the hospital, 3 floors for the medical office building, the parking garage, 2 operating rooms and 4 ICU rooms.”
- Staff gatherings were constant during COVID. Ms. Margolis said, “You could not talk enough because there was always new information.”
- Awarded MAGNET status (excellence in nursing) in 2020, could not celebrate until 2022.
- Trust was hard in the hospital because the science and protocols were constantly changing.
- Most people at Emory JC did not work from home and had to work weekends and longer hours. This led them to be successful and trusted by the community.
- End of the pandemic: only thing that changed was now she has time to really do strategic planning rather than “let’s just get through to the next day”. Less stress to her job.
- Something unexpected that happened in the hospital: there was very little transmission of COVID from the staff. This is because they were so updated on the science and always talking about what is best. Turnover rate was very low as well during COVID.



Were there any experiences you gained in your nursing career that influenced your life and your career today?

- “The most important thing I learned is that you’re a leader no matter where you are...you don’t have to have a title to be a leader”
- “It’s about relationships...”
- “You’ve got to love what you do... nursing for me was a wonderful pick”

Please describe the initial state of Emory Johns Creek in March of 2020.

- “It was very scary... we didn’t know what was going to happen.”
- “I think people were on edge and scared to take care of patients who had COVID.”
- “It was a very anxiety provoking time... and a bonding time.”
- “COVID was a united enemy... it made people unite.”
- “Anything we could do for the staff to make their lives easier; we did.”

**Emory Johns Creek Hospital Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer Heather Redrick
Interviewed by Lakshana Ramanan**



During the pandemic, many healthcare workers were overworked, especially nurses, and as Chief Nursing Officer and Vice President Emory, how did you help them manage their job?

There were times where you just had to say, go home, you've worked, your shifts, you've done all you can do, you're tired? Yes, we need help. We need people to pick up another shift. But you had to know people's limitations and allow them because everybody wanted to. The cool thing about being a nurse is we come into this profession because we're compassionate, and we care about others. And we want to help people and sometimes at the neglect of our own selves. And, it was allowing people to know that you have come, you've done, you've given of yourself, it's okay to be off. It's okay to take a day off. We're going to manage, we're going to figure out whatever staffing needs that we have, and it's okay to be off and that was hard. The other thing that I think that we did was we tried to do things to help offset maybe some of the burden. We were very lucky in that Emory has the relationships

that we do with the professional sporting teams for the city, that they helped get local restaurants to supply food. So how can we offset some of that and then providing back a little bit of joy, you know, as best we could. And sometimes for health care workers and nurses brings us joy.

What was your biggest piece of advice you gave other people? Or what was some advice that you got to get over the pandemic better?

To allow yourself to feel the emotions. Because it was emotional. Thinking back now, it's kind of emotional too. We were scared. Yes, we're dealing with things and seeing things that we've not dealt with before. Because we were not immune to patients dying, like others. Not to the degree that you saw in the news and those types of things, but we still had patients, who did, you know, pass away due to COVID and other comorbidities that were exacerbated by having the COVID disease, the virus and so I think the best advice was to allow yourself to experience those emotions, to give yourself that time. But to also, when you're not here, get away from it. Stop watching the news. I stopped watching the news and to do things that refill your tank, or help you to refill your joy, whatever that is, for me that was my faith.

As soon as the pandemic was announced, what were the first steps that the hospital or you took to manage the incoming change?

So as soon as the pandemic was announced, we obviously started looking at what our supplies looked like. I can remember in this very room starting to have meetings with nursing, our physician staff, our administration staff, infection prevention. It started locally, and then it went to system meetings, supply management, do we have what we need? When you think of infection prevention, in the very beginning, we didn't know, what is this going to look like? What type of personal protective equipment are we going to have to have, we weren't masked in the very beginning. The masking came later, because we started talking in February, and remember that the complete shutdown didn't come till March. We had already started talking, what does this look like if it comes here?

Emory Johns Creek Hospital Assistant Nurse Manager Laura Skillen and Nurse Educator Katie James

Interviewed by Nicholas Stone, Alisha Kohli, Neha Gurram and Lakshana Ramanan



What emotional memories do you have from the pandemic?

Katie: An emotional memory I have was when my daughter was 5 or 6, I would have to work 3 shifts in a row and I had to have her stay with other people to keep her safe. Another one I have was with a patient that I was treating, she had a lot of bodily fluids and I was scared that my scrub top was going to touch my face. So, we took a plastic bag and put it over our

scrub tops to take it off.

Laura: I don't think of one particular incident, it seems like an overall event. When you hear that our country is closing down and how deadly COVID is, you get worried for your family and friends, and the way you were taught was thrown out the window. My mother-in-law passed away during this time, we had to talk to her through Telehealth, it impacted our family.

How did you deal with the fact that none of you knew certain parts of the virus?

Katie: We would get daily reports on what was going on in the world and the communication was always great, we were really kept well informed of.

Laura: we heavily relied on the experts at Emory, and they always kept us updated with anything new, we just always knew there was going to be something new.

There were many shortages of supplies like N-95 masks and ventilators, did you ever face this?

Katie: We always had enough supplies and I think it taught us a lesson that we didn't always have to take off and replace masks before entering a room. Even to this day, our director keeps masks in her office in case we need them.

Laura: We did conserve, but we never ran out, we were very well taken care of and the community would donate masks and N-95s. There was only once that I can remember where we only had one ventilator and there were questions on who deserves it the most, but we never came to that point, and we're very blessed and we were ready.

During the pandemic, coming in contact with patients with COVID-19, were you scared of spreading it to your family, and what specific precautions did you take?

Laura: My father-in-law stays with us so I was most scared for him. I would go into the garage and undress, my robe was there, I would go straight to the shower and spray down my things with Lysol disinfectant.

Katie: I kind of did something similar, my husband is also an ER nurse. Our laundry room is right near our garage, so we would undress in the laundry room and go upstairs and shower. I knew a lot of co-workers that would buy UV disinfectant devices and put their shoes in there and doctors changed their clothes before leaving.

Stat Medical Center Dr. James Dugal
Interviewed by Brady Carnesale



Tell me a little about yourself?

- “I’m Board Certified for Emergency Services.”
- “I was one of the medical directors for the Olympics in 1996.”

After COVID-19 first reached the news, what were the first reactions?

- “We have a tremendous amount of international travel.”
- “When it first hit, it hit very slowly.”
- “Viruses change all the time, they mutate... it was an ever-changing scenario of what to do.”

- “We followed the CDC guidelines.”
- “We were in masks; we were in helmets... this was before the vaccinations came out.”
- “I saw it early... how sick people were getting.”
- “COVID would attack the lungs.”
- “It looks like popcorn in the lungs... you can actually see COVID.”
- “My brother died of COVID in Chicago... he was one of the first who died in the Chicago area.”
- “We lost emergency physicians, we lost nurses, a lot of them quit too... we were so understaffed.”
- “I got COVID in November... my lungs shut off... I was rushed to the hospital.”
- “COVID attacks the weaknesses in your body.”
- “It attacked my colon... it exploded... I was in the hospital for four months.”
- “I died twice; my heart stopped twice.”
- “I was a quadriplegic. had to relearn how to talk.”
- “There were 7 patients to one nurse, it was brutal.”
- “I’ve had the booster shot twice.”
- “Everybody had good intentions.”
- “It’s not over... it will be with us for a long time.”
- “I’ve had 3 positive COVID tests in our center today and it’s only the afternoon.”

Do you still use past precautionary measures?

- “We still separate patients.”
- “We were beyond a lot of other places.”
- “People who didn’t know they had COVID were spreading it.”

Chabad North Fulton Rabbi Hirshy Minkowicz
Interviewed by Nicholas Stone



Describe the overarching impact that COVID-19 had on your ministry for the Orthodox Jewish Congregation in Johns Creek.

Obviously, when the pandemic hit, we were severely impacted because the synagogue had to shut down and we had nothing going on in-person for nearly a year. Our outreach was also compromised; it came to an end because we were unable to offer the one-on-one counseling sessions that we offered pre-pandemic. I'll give you a perfect example, just two days ago, we held an event where around ten of our teens were able to go and care for some of the elderly people who attend our synagogue. It's a volunteering opportunity that we've

been offering to our youth for many years before COVID. In the early days, we lost out on all our opportunities to enrich our youth with community service opportunities. They couldn't actually visit the elderly in person anymore because of immune-compromised conditions, and it took a while for everybody to become comfortable and antiquated with these new technologies, like Zoom. We went from interacting with hundreds of human beings a month to very few people. It became very quiet.

How did you try to mend your disconnected congregation through virtual means?

In the beginning, we didn't really have a handle on anything because obviously, nobody had a handle on anything. Later, people started learning how to use Zoom, so we pivoted. We held study sessions where people would come together with the Bible online, and we also held virtual worship and prayer sessions. We took advantage of these virtual opportunities, but it took us a while to actually get into the swing of it.

Did you attempt any in-person services?

The very first time that we did a worship service after around three months of the synagogue being completely empty, we did it in our parking lot. It was a Jewish holiday, and so we were really eager to bring people together. People came with masks, and we sat out in the parking lot. You have to remember that we have a special scroll called the Torah, a written Bible. We had to take it out of the archives where it's held because it is very holy and not supposed to come out of there, and we brought it out into the parking lot. It was very out-of-the-box, but we had no choice. People had to pray. I'm not sure if you know how the Jewish calendar works, but the Jewish New Year came up around that time. Even if a Jewish person doesn't attend the congregation, they always come for the New Year celebration. So, we gave people two options. There was an option for indoor service for those who were comfortable with masks and an outdoor service. We also made small pods out of the attendees. For the outdoor service, we made four services to break it into smaller, safer groups. We called them "God Pods" because it rhymed. I came up with the name. It was also much shorter with the pods. Instead of two and a half hours, it was only sixty minutes, because we had to be safe.

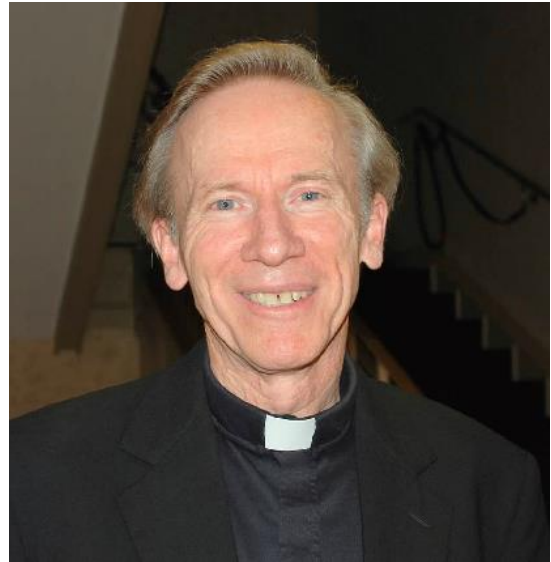
What was the biggest sacrifice you had to make?

The biggest sacrifice we had to make, hands-down, was interacting with people because communities thrive and are built on engaging with each other. When you say the word sacrifice, it wasn't like we gave it up; it was forced upon us. We didn't make a sacrifice; God really made it happen. But the biggest thing that we lost was the hundreds of people that contributed to that beautiful energy and power in our service. That's a huge thing to lose. For older people, it was very hard.

St. Brigid Catholic Church Reverend Father Neil Herlihy
Interviewed by Shruthi Balachander

Reverend Father Neil Herlihy is the Pastor at Saint Brigid's Catholic church in Johns Creek. As a profound religious leader in the community, Father Neil is familiar to many and has a grand impact on the community through several of the church's initiatives. Through his interview, he shared his experiences with the COVID-19 pandemic and navigating through such a virus while staying true to God and the people.

Father Neil discussed his experience during the pandemic as a church leader, where he had to be creative and innovative in reaching their congregation while adhering to guidelines from the church. He also mentioned how they had to take precautions to prevent the spread of the virus and be sensitive to the apprehension of the elderly.



Brainstorming meetings were held every few weeks to address the needs of the public as they came up with effective ideas. Personal reflection and prayer were also important for Father Neil's well-being and he highlighted the importance of addressing the needs of families and being supportive during the pandemic. The leadership team at St. Brigid's was even able to help the community continue to connect spiritually and support one another through these difficult times. Father Neil particularly outlined how the Church had seen attendance slowly increasing over time and how the outreach efforts he worked toward assessing the needs of those who haven't yet returned and bringing the Eucharist to those who are homebound has been something important to their continued outreach to the congregation as they slowly return to in-church services. According to Father Neil, it's good to have a plan to transition back to normalcy, while also being mindful of the potential pitfalls of becoming too comfortable with online services.

"But my point is we had to be very creative," the Pastor adds. Also, the main responsibility we had was feeding people spiritually and giving them the sacraments. During Easter, we have what we call Easter Vigil, and we have new people coming into the church, a number of people come into the church, and they receive the sacrament of baptism and confirmation. Well, we couldn't do that during COVID, so what did we do? We adapted. We also had 150 students, second-graders, most receiving First Holy Communion, and that's the first week of May, we couldn't do it. So, we had to be creative about it and we found a way."

One additional way St. Brigid's was creative was having outdoor church. People stayed in their cars and tuned into a specific radio channel and participated together in church from the comfort of their cars. This was captured on WSB-TV in a broadcast during COVID. The outdoor stage still stands in the parking lot.

In Father Neil's words, "We did the best we could to accommodate the needs of our people and our community here in Johns Creek," and he truly did.

North Point Community Church Pastor Andy Stanley
Interviewed by Tiffany Obasohan and Aria Smith



How did you feel during the early weeks of March, when the state was initially locked down? What were your initial fears, and how did they change/develop over time?

I like change, interruption, and having to figure things out. In terms of the organizational challenge, I liked all of it. Of course, that's aside from all the chaos that came with COVID. It allowed us to discover whether or not we were really committed to our mission. Every organization has a mission and a model (how we carry out our mission) – sometimes they don't line up. If the model doesn't line up with the mission, the model is broken. The other thing I always say is that you date the model, but you marry the mission, because the models come and go.

If our mission was to inspire people to follow Jesus, the challenge was how we were going to do that amidst what was happening because of COVID. Since we were committed

to the mission, we scratched the model because it didn't work anymore (we couldn't meet indoors or gather). So, we pivoted, and I liked everything about that. It was very challenging, but it was good because we discovered and learned so many new things as an organization. We realized we were really committed to what we say we're committed to. What happened with a lot of churches was, since they were committed to their model, when they couldn't meet anymore, they just froze.

How was the “work from home” system implemented into North Point Church? Was it successful?

We're an events-based organization, but, at the same time, we're a relations-based organization. The event is really sort of the “click-bait” to get you to come here and *do life* with others. We were able to shut down the events side and hopefully fuel the relationship side so that students and side could remain connected. We didn't try to organize events from home, because that would be impossible. But we did work hard to keep people connected through Zoom and digital communication.

Also, since we weren't trying to do too many things at one time, we were able to create digital content for everybody: parents with preschoolers, elementary age kids, middle school, high school and adults. We were able to take the ‘event’ part and deliver it into homes. We would not have gotten good at that as opposed to doing something else really well.

Did you believe any positive changes came about from the pandemic and its closures to churches? If yes, please explain.

We donated millions of dollars through *BeRich*. We gave away more money than we ever had before by a longshot. People just wanted to be engaged with the community. We also figured out how to do digital content quicker. Ever since the closures, as soon as we know there's going to be problems with the weather, nobody assumes anymore that we're going to be closed. Our staff in every sector immediately goes in to create digital content. We didn't even think that way before COVID.

What were the most frustrating changes brought about by COVID-19 to your job and/or branch of churches in general?

The isolation. I'm an introvert so it didn't bother me one bit. But, for people who are more extroverted, it's horrible. So, we knew we needed to over communicate and figure out how to help people feel connected. Those pastoral things that the church is really about were also hard because we didn't have that interpersonal contact.

Chapter 7: Final Reflections



"Everyone got through COVID in a different way, but we all got through together."

"I learned that even though there were hardships there were also silver linings that we cling to get through these times."

"They can teach us how not to repeat history."

"We must come together with empathy and kindness to push through hard times,"

"I learned that people's experiences -- their ups and downs; their good, their ugly and their mundane — varied much more than I expected."



"Learning about times of uncertainty and recording them is important because it shows how far we've come and that we can continue to grow."

"I've learned that while each individual may have had a different experience during the pandemic, our experiences all were a part of a time in history that altered the course of our lives forever."

"I learned that people should do their best to seek happiness in times of uncertainty."

"Learning about how uncertainty during the pandemic and how it structured today's societal norms always reminds me that life should be enjoyed in the moments even when you are unsure of what to do. "



Chapter 8- Closing Remarks

By Irene Sanders, Executive Director of Student Leadership Johns Creek

According to American entrepreneur Eric Ries, “a pivot is a change in strategy without a change in vision.”³⁵ Ries’ advice seemed to be the common theme while working on the *Same Storm, Different Boats* grant project. In March, 2020 the Student Leadership Johns Creek program came to a complete halt, dashing our hopes of annual visit for Johns Creek City Day and eventually our annual graduation celebration. We quickly pivoted to the new virtual environment in order to provide our normal program, but in an altered fashion. As days turned into weeks and weeks turned into months, our program underwent a rapid change, but remained consistent with our leadership lessons and mission. Instead of doing in-person escape room games to kick-off the program, we virtually traveled to Lithuania to escape rooms that were thousands of miles away on a tiny computer screen. We made YouTube videos of graduation speeches, leadership lessons, virtual candidate debates. The one absolute was that our pivot was a necessary strategy to accomplish our vision for these student leaders.

The students who worked on the *Same Storm, Different Boats* project were concluding their middle school years and heading to high school in a virtual world with much anxiety in their lives. That step from middle school to high school is big, and many times scary. Couple this uncertainty of transitioning to high school with a pandemic, everything was poles apart from what these students expected. Certainly, these students’ perspectives of the pandemic differed greatly from mine, but we collectively lived through a time that was truly historic. We learned together how to pivot our individual boats during this storm.

Without a doubt, none of this would have been possible without the vision and leadership of Dr. Katherine Perrotta, and support of the Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources Eastern Region at Waynesburg University and Mercer University Office of the Provost and Tift College of Education. Dr. Perrotta put together a grant project team including Julie Mauer, Joan Compton, Katlynn Cross, and myself where we were assigned areas that fit our personal strengths. Although I was personally in charge of the students, without the brain trust of the grant project team, we would not have accomplished all that we did in such a short time.

Parts of this grant process were cathartic. Being able to share stories with people in our community that were similar, yet different, allowed me to reflect on the fact that although we were all in our own individual boat, we were also all in the same storm, working as a collective to get through the COVID-19 pandemic. I’m so proud of our student leaders for their hard work on this grant project. My hope is that they will point to this project later in life and reflect on their individual boats, and the boats of others, that they were lucky enough to learn more about.

³⁵ Eric Ries, “Pivot, don’t jump to a new vision.” Start Up Lessons Learned. Retrieved from <http://www.startuplessonslearned.com/2009/06/pivot-dont-jump-to-new-vision.html>. June 22, 2009.

Afterword

Invitation for Community Participation

Same Storm, Different Boats: Documenting the Living History of the COVID-19 Pandemic

One day, historians will research the significance of the COVID-19 pandemic. Students will learn about this time in history classes in school. Documentaries will be made about the challenges and triumphs of this major crisis. Years from now, the students who were children during the pandemic may share their experiences as adults to children who were too young to remember or were not born during this time. So much of what will be remembered and learned from the pandemic will come from what everyday citizens document about this time of uncertainty. Everybody experienced the COVID-19 pandemic differently.

We invite you to share your experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic so that future generations can learn about this time in history!

Scan the QR Code to share a video about your experiences during the pandemic on our FlipGrid!



Scan the QR Code to share a written memory about your experiences during the pandemic on our Jamboard!



We hope that our stories inspire you to reflect and share your experiences, as we all lived through the Same Storm, yet traveled in Different Boats.

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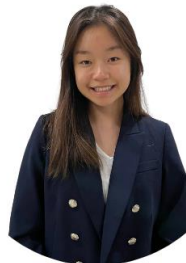
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SAME STORM, DIFFERENT BOATS

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Leadership**
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