

4 feature. UPS & DOWNS of quarantine

"During quarantine I had a lot of time to focus on my mental health, and it has changed for the better."
- freshman Taylor Rogers

"I repainted and redecorated my room because I finally had the time to brighten up the space."
- junior Ashlyn Reynolds

"[During quarantine], I learned that my family can't be so wasteful with things."
- freshman Caden Sherwood

"It was a lot easier for me not to eat without having school lunch every day."
- freshman Hailey Hines

"Summer of 2020 was the toughest thing I've ever gone through. Every day without people outside my family was torture."
- junior Connor Sigmund

Read one freshman's opinion on block scheduling at www.hudsonpiratepress.com ONLINE

Coping with COVID

by junior Caroline Mitchell

Going back to school is always an adjustment. But during the pandemic, it's been even more challenging, especially for some at HHS.

Heart & Lung Condition

Junior Manie McNamee has had heart and lung problems his whole life. The coronavirus pandemic isn't making it any easier for him.

His heart condition is called Transposition of the Great Arteries (TGA), and it is quite rare. The doctors aren't sure how the coronavirus would affect him if he were to catch it... and they don't want to find out.

As for his lung defect, no one knows exactly what it is- no doctor has ever seen it before! His doctor doesn't want his breathing to be obstructed with the rarity of his lung condition; they simply have no idea what might happen if it were. That's why McNamee is the only student at HHS who isn't required to wear a mask.

McNamee says that the biggest challenge he faces is not being able to go out in large groups of people like a normal teen would. On the other hand, he also says that he isn't going to let this time of uncertainty bring him down.

"I'm just going to try and live my life," said McNamee, "I don't want to live in fear because of it."

Partially Deaf

Ag teacher Dennis Deppe is deaf in his right ear. He says that he has the most difficulty in large groups of people where there is excessive background noise. As a result, he often relies on lip-reading to understand people.

He says that without being able to read lips due to people wearing masks, he can have a hard time



Dennis Deppe

communicating with and understanding those around him. He admits he was apprehensive about what his class would be like when school started back up again, but luckily his students have been understanding of his condition.

"We work through it," said Deppe, who may ask someone to repeat something if needed. In turn, his students gladly do so while making an effort to speak more loudly.

Pregnant

Nicole Davis, the 5-12 band teacher, is currently going through her first pregnancy during the COVID-19 pandemic. Because of her pregnancy, she is even more at risk.

If she were to contract COVID-19, she would have an increased chance of becoming hospitalized or being put on a ventilator.

Davis has been taking a lot of precautions with the threat of these potential dangers. She doesn't go out into public much, aside from school.

"I (even) order all of my groceries online!" said Davis, who opts for dates at home with her husband.

But when she does go out, she always wears a mask.

Davis said that the biggest challenge for her has been the denial of visitors at her doctor's office. Because of this, her husband who is in the army reserves and could be deployed at any time, is not able to go with her to her appointments.

This has been especially hard for her since this is her first pregnancy. Either way, she is excited and is due around Valentine's Day.

Learning Remotely

Of the 768 students in the district, 56 chose to learn remotely this semester. Senior Sami Bauler is one of the 17 high school students that made this choice.

Bauler says that she chose to do online learning because she didn't want to put her health at risk by being at school for eight hours every day.

"One thing I miss about regular learning is spending time with my classmates and friends," said Bauler. She does say, however, that remote learning has given her more time to spend time with her family.

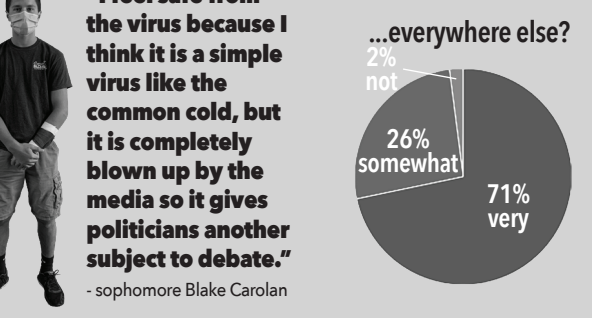
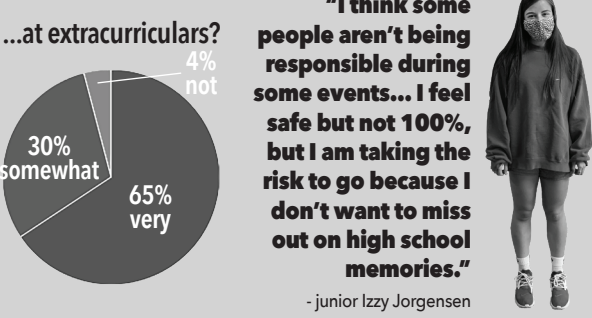
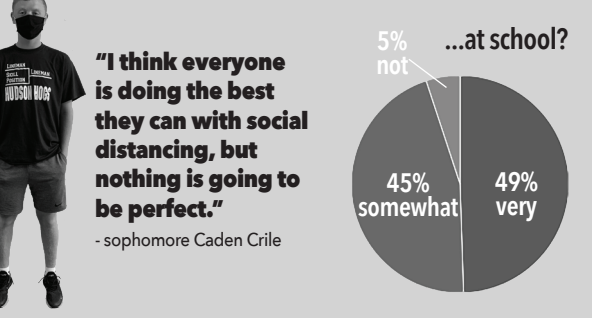
Said Bauler, "I feel like I made the right decision doing remote learning."



High school English teacher Jennifer Erslund, who also teaches Hawk-eye Community College classes, helps senior Sami Bauler after class. Bauler comes to the high school for her three college classes: Western Civ., Oral Comm., and Composition. The rest of her classes are through the state-wide online learning platform Edgenuity. All voluntary off-site learners like Bauler are overseen by at-risk administrator Jeffery Bell.

photo by sophomore Jessie Bergmeier

How safe do we feel...



Growing Guidelines

If a student tests positive for COVID-19 and another student sits near him/her in 1+ classes...

Hudson Schools
The positive individual must quarantine for 10 days and be symptom-free for 24 hours. Anyone who is considered a close contact is required to quarantine for 14 days.

Union Schools
The positive individual would be out of school for 10 days. If a student is determined as a close contact, he/she would be placed in quarantine for 14 days from their last contact.

Cedar Falls Schools
The positive individual would return to school after 24 hours symptom-free and at least 10 days after symptoms began. Any close contacts would return after a 14-day quarantine.

If a student is sent home not feeling well...

Hudson Schools
The student and siblings in the district are isolated pending health results. If tested negative, they may return to school after 24 hours symptom-free. Non-tested students are treated as a positive case.

Union Schools
It would be handled like any other illness, but the school nurse would follow up with parent(s) to monitor the student. If they are exhibiting symptoms of COVID 19, it would be noted and followed up on.

Cedar Falls Schools
Students and staff members should remain home when sick. Anyone with 1+ high-risk symptom or 2+ low-risk symptoms should stay home and are advised to seek an evaluation by a health care provider.

Quick Definitions:

Positive Individual: a person with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19

Close Contact: anyone who has been within 6 feet of a positive individual for 15 consecutive minutes where at least one of the parties has not been wearing a face covering that covers both the nose and mouth

More Details: click on "Return to Learn" at hudsonpiratepride.com to find current information and more policy specifics

Koop's Collegiate Consult

• Look into different colleges and set up virtual visits

• Explore different college's websites; sometimes they have Google Earth views of campus as well

• Ask current college students about their experience at their college of choice

• Visit the campus and town to get a feel for the area

• Participate in upcoming Zoom meetings offered through the high school guidance office

Make it count

by senior Jetta Colsch

How I've missed all the faces of my fellow classmates (though I can only see 1/3 of them now). I know it's been tough, and by "it," I mean everything. We missed out on junior prom, junior job shadow, junior Pirate Term, and countless opportunities in sports, music, and more. And on top of that, we've been locked in our houses, away from our friends, in a nightmare we can't see the end of.

As we try to become the senior leaders we know we need to be, it's hard not to look back on everything we didn't get to do that would have prepared us to take on this role- one we don't quite feel equipped to fill.

But what's even more difficult is to think that we still have seven months left of navigating through the unknown, constantly improvising and forever on our toes as we practice being flexible and adaptable.

But that's all we have. Seven months.

Only seven months left in a school we've been going to for over 12 years. We've spent all that time as the underdogs, and we've worked hard to make it this far, to finally be on top, to be the seniors. But that title also comes with a task- to lead. So, instead of looking back, we need to speak up through our masks and show everyone how to make the best of our situation.

Think about everything we've done just to be here. Every squirt of hand sanitizer, every disinfectant wipe, every space we leave between us: it's all evidence of us fighting to be here. We are not only fighting for our education but to stay connected as well.

Senior year is so much bigger than another high school dance or another day at a lunch table, in a classroom, or with a teacher. Senior year is a time to connect, not only with ourselves but with each other. No one has had a senior year like ours, and that can only make us stronger.

So, while it feels as though this pandemic has ripped so many things from our fingertips, it's truly just put them in our hands. It's our decision how to deal with everything thrown our way, and we have a choice to make every day about how we live our lives.



page designer: senior Jetta Colsch

COVID confessions

"It was difficult to go without my friends every day. I felt empty without having them around." - junior Sophie Schneider	"I couldn't lift as much as I wanted to because gyms were closed." - senior Carter Swope
"I didn't like being without bread because it's my pride and joy." - sophomore Ryan Peck	"I struggled with sugar out of stock because I like to bake which wasn't possible without it." - freshman Grace Barber

mask UP



"I like wearing my cheer mask because it's soft."
- junior Eva Barfels



"I'm used to wearing [bandanas] for field work in Mexico."
- senior Roberto Verastegui



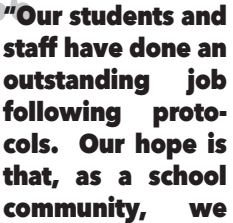
"I like the gator masks because they are really easy to breathe in."
- sophomore Ben Holton



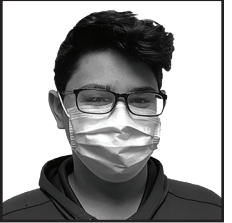
"I like wearing the Hudson Pirate mask because it looks cool."
- sophomore Zach Mills



"[Face shields] feel better to breathe in, and everybody can see my actual face."
- senior Kyle Johnson



"Our students and staff have done an outstanding job following protocols. Our hope is that, as a school community, we are able to encourage each other to follow the guidelines."
- 7-12 principal Jeff Dieken



"I like disposable masks because I don't have to wash them."
- sophomore Zach Young