In order to make online learning a reality, teachers created online training sessions and recorded instruction videos. “The district has also prepared many websites for those who participate to cover everything from beginning to advanced Canvas use as well as best practices for online instruction,” media specialist Kim Turley said.

With laptops issued to every student at the beginning of the year, students already held a digital device to use in order to work from home. Students, without in-person access became eligible for free wifi from Spectrum. “We are spreading the word for those who do not have wifi to contact local internet providers,” junior Daevon Ashley said.

This instant impact on the team led to the cancellation of athletes’ chances to excel. “Our seniors, Carolyn Brown, Christian Roberts, and Ethan Barnette were all projected to go to states but it was sadly taken away from them just a few weeks before their final meet,” Ashley said.

Under the circumstances, Ashley remained optimistic about the outlook of the team’s future. “Our Boone track and field team will come back stronger than before and will have a great awakening for other teams next year,” Ashley said.

Water polo team seniors, Samantha Sena, Ethan Boyer, and LWEEN Johnson became similarly affected by the coronavirus. The virus’s cancelation made it impossible for the team to celebrate senior night and travel to the National Invitational in Manhattan. “I don’t know what is next and our teams will play again this year, but I do know these seniors are ready to use the lessons learned in the pool as they move on into life,” water polo coach Michael Martinez said.

WHAT’S STREAMING IN QUARANTINE?

Seniors are waking up to not only their [water polo] senior night being canceled, but also their prom, Grad Bash and countless other opportunities for life long memories,” Martinez said.

This news affected senior’s mindset about the questionable remainder of the school year. “As a senior the coronavirus has taken away things most people would consider a ‘right of passage’ such as Grad Bash and prom. It’s hard to stay relaxed during this pandemic. When things we have been looking forward to for so long have been so quickly taken away. It’s a good reminder that things can change in an instant, so don’t take anything for granted,” senior Ann Stollenwork said.

Medical professionals and their families also encountered hardships with continuing daily life in the midst of the outbreak. “My mom is a nurse and I’m already anxious enough that she is working and exposed to the virus daily,” senior Taylor McFall said. “It doesn’t help when she can’t come inside until she showers and puts her scrubs in the wash and when she in inside, she has to sit in another room and is constantly cleaning her belongings and anything she touches.”

Students also learned of loved ones who contracted the virus, COVID-19. “My family friend has gotten the coronavirus. She lives up in new jersey and she hasn’t been hit very badly [and] she got to have a good recovery but it makes me realize how careful we should be with this and how much it can and has affected on,” freshman Jada You said. WHAT ABOUT THE REST OF THE YEAR?

Additionally, students felt nervous about the remainder of the school year. “Not only has this affected my senior year [but] it has made me question whether or not I’ll be able to go to graduation, have a graduation party, get to walk across the field for my lacrosse senior night, go to baccalaureate, or even step on stage to go to states but it was sadly taken away from me,” Ashley said.

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On March 24, principal Dusty Johns announced the cancellation of Prom and Grad Bash. “I don’t know what is next and our teams will play again this year, but I do know these seniors are ready to use the lessons learned in the pool as they move on into life,” water polo coach Michael Martinez said.

IMPACT AT HOME

The coronavirus continued to impact every aspect of student’s lives, from the sports they participated in to their life at home. “I work at Publix and it has been super stressful and nuts. My mom also lost her job during the coronavirus," senior Olivia Caperton said.

Students’ attitudes differed in terms of response to the newly announced exam strategy, STANDARDIZED TESTING canceled. “I personally don’t feel worried about [AP exams] because everyone else is going to be in the same situation,” Caperton said.

SPRING SPORTS

While education became affected, spring sport seasons postponed, impacting student athletes participating in spring sports. “Everyone was having a great time breaking personal records until we heard the news that we can’t participate anymore 12 hours before our metro championship meet,” junior Daevon Ashley said.

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This news affected senior’s mindset about the questionable remainder of the school year. “As a senior the coronavirus has taken away things most people would consider a ‘right of passage’ such as Grad Bash and prom. It’s hard to stay relaxed during this pandemic. When things we have been looking forward to for so long have been so quickly taken away. It’s a good reminder that things can change in an instant, so don’t take anything for granted,” senior Ann Stollenwork said.

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