

# COVID-19, CEO OF CANCEL CULTURE

**COVID-19 LED TO ONLINE LEARNING, ALTERED AP EXAMS, CANCELED SPRING SPORTS AND IMPACTED STUDENTS AND FAMILIES | content and design by catherine mccarthy and illustrations by catherine mccarthy and marni stein**

On March 11, the World Health Organization categorized COVID-19 a pandemic. With this new title, the coronavirus reached a level of global impact, canceling plans and temporarily closing schools. Cases popped up across the nation in the most populated states first, which included Florida.

## DISTANCE LEARNING

On March 17, Governor DeSantis announced all Florida schools closed until April 15. Orange County Public Schools then declared the county to begin distance learning on March 30, where students can do their school work at home.

## ONLINE SCHOOL *began* MARCH 30

In order to make online learning a reality, teachers created online training sessions and recorded instruction videos for students.

“The district has also prepared many webinars for teachers to participate in 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 internet 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 as they are providing free or discounted internet to families during this crisis,” Turley said.

## TESTING

For students enrolled in AP classes, their exams transformed from a traditionally three hour paper exam including a multiple choice section, free response section and occasionally an essay section to a 45 minute online exam students take at home. In addition, the state canceled all FSA testing.

“I think College Board made this decision because they were trying to make it easiest for students to be able to still take their AP exams,”

junior Olivia Caperton said.

Students’ attitudes differed in terms of response to the newly announced exam strategy,

## STANDARDIZED TESTING *canceled*

bringing stress or acceptance.

“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 Draven Ashley said.

This instant impact on the team led to the cancellation of athlete’s 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 Senn, Ethan Bozeman and L’Wren Johnson became similarly affected by the coronavirus. The virus’s cancellation wake made it impossible for the team to celebrate senior night and travel to the Ransom Invitational in Miami.

“I don’t know what is next and if our teams will play again this year, but I do know these three seniors are ready to use the lessons learned in the pool as they move on into life,” water polo coach Michael Martinac said.

## IMPACT AT HOME

The coronavirus continued to impact every aspect of students’ 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 because of [the coronavirus],” senior Jacob Greene 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 is 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’s going to have a good recovery but it makes me realize how careful we should be with this and how much it can and has effected us,” freshman Julia Yroa 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] 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 Boone’s campus as a student again.” McFall said.

On March 24, principal Dusty Johns announced the cancellation of Prom and Grad Bash.



“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,” Martinac 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 would consider ‘a right of passage,’ such as Grad Bash and prom. It’s hard to stay selfless 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.

## TROUBLE in paradise



photo courtesy/Gracie Abbuhl

## STUDENTS ON SPRING BREAK CRUISE AS COVID-19 BECOMES A PANDEMIC

When sophomore Riley Abbuhl and junior Gracie Abbuhl returned from their spring break vacation on a Carnival Cruise to the Bahamas, their family became swamped with COVID-19 news and to a transformed community.

“We had no internet [on the cruise] so we didn’t really know what was going on when the huge outbreak started,” Abbuhl said. “When we got back home we found out that school was canceled [and] stores were closing. It was just a lot of information to receive that was built up after the four days we were away.”

Due to traveling outside of the country, Abbuhl’s parents also became impacted.

“Both of my parent’s works made them quarantine for two weeks,” Abbuhl said.

Despite the concern of the virus, Abbuhl’s family remained healthy.

“I’m just glad everyone in my family is healthy and safe during this time,” Abbuhl said.

## JUST ROLL *with it*

### TOILET PAPER SHORTAGES STRIKE THE STATE

As concern of the coronavirus rose in the community, people flocked to stores including Walmart, Publix and Target to try and snag

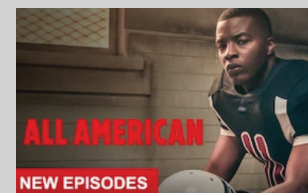


toilet paper and other necessities.

“I was going around to all different stores in the Orlando area to find paper products like paper towels and toilet paper on March 19. I was in disbelief that the shelves were completely empty and finally realized how serious the pandemic was becoming,” freshman Katelyn Yoham said.

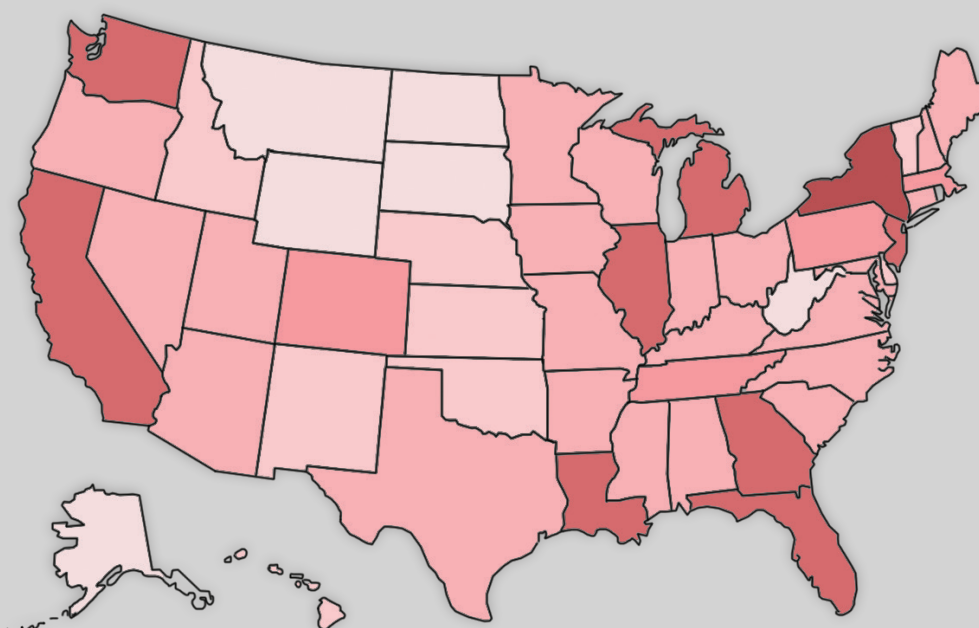
## WHAT’S STREAMING IN QUARANTINE?

STUDENTS WATCHED THEIR FAVORITE SHOWS ON NETFLIX



**91%** OF STUDENTS **STREAMED**  
TV SHOWS IN QUARANTINE

\*111 students polled on March 25



CORONAVIRUS SPREADS ACROSS THE COUNTRY, GREATLY IMPACTING STATES WITH HIGHER POPULATIONS

- 5000 or more people infected
- 1001-5000 people infected
- 501-1000 people infected
- 101-500 people infected
- 51-100 people infected
- 1-50 people infected
- 0 people infected

\*according to the CDC as of March 25

“I have switched to online instructing [for my job at Mathnasium], teaching students through a webcam,” junior Jeremy Claire said.

