When We Lost 'Normal'

It’s been 17 weeks since the global coronavirus pandemic hit Santa Clara County with its first COVID-19 cases and 10 weeks since California instituted shelter-in-place orders, confining residents to their homes. Since March 12, Harker has adjusted to the new reality of Zoom classes, physical isolation and an uncertain future.

Yet despite the hardships, the community has come together in new (virtual) ways to get through this crisis.

One year ago, spirit week in full swing, students decked in white, green, black and gold packed the stands of the Zhang Atrium and auxiliary gym for AP exams. The senior class donned their black and green gowns, in preparation for that long-awaited cap-tossing moment.

Now, in May 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has brought on a new reality. Our usual schedules—going to school, speaking with teachers and meeting friends—have vanished. Instead, we have classes and talk to friends over Zoom—a constellation of faces blinking on our screens. The future, including whether school will reopen in the fall, remains uncertain.

Due to the pandemic, the upper school has been closed for 69 days; Santa Clara County has sheltered in place for 64 days. People rarely leave their houses. When they do, they wear masks and practice social distancing, maintaining an invisible 6-foot barrier of isolation. Instead of sitting in a rush hour traffic jam on 280, people stand in lines for hand sanitizer and toilet paper at the grocery store.

This is our new normal. This is life under a persisting global pandemic.

Continued on page 2
Graduation postponed, fall return to campus uncertain

Continued from front page.

Beginning May 28, construction, outdoor businesses and some outdoor activities in the Bay Area can resume with social distancing guidelines. Gov. Gavin Newsom authorized California to begin Phase 2 of a four-stage plan to reopen. While many states have lifted some or all lockdown orders, the California State University system and several other colleges are planning for remote fall classes.

Though it remains uncertain when students can return on campus, the upper school has adapted classes, events and activities to our new reality.

Students have been taking 45-minute online AP exams this and last week. Students planning for remote fall classes.

While many states have lifted some or all distancing guidelines. Governor Gavin Newsom announced June 29 that some indoor businesses and some outdoor activities will be allowed to resume.

Road to 2020: COVID-19 impacts voting, Democratic field narrows

In its first ruling in a pandemic-related case, the Supreme Court decided on April 20 that the deadline for absentee ballots to be counted for Wisconsin’s presidential primary election would not be extended.

The Democratic National Convention announced April 2 that it would postpone the Democratic National Convention, which was scheduled for July 13-16 in Milwaukee, to August 17-20.

The Democratic presidential field has narrowed as presidential candidates Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) and Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) suspended their campaigns on March 5 and April 8, respectively, making Biden the presumptive Democratic nominee.

I could not be more happy. Good news do continue to mount a campaign that cannot win and which would interfere with the important work required by all of us in this difficult hour,” Sanders said in a video announcement.

Adjusted End-of-Year Schedule

Monday, May 25

Memorial Day – No School

Tuesday, May 26

3:30 p.m. Virtual Athletic Banquet

6:30 p.m. Virtual Awards Ceremony

Wednesday, May 27

6:00 p.m. Virtual Baccalaureate

Thursday, May 28

Senior Pick-Up Day

Friday, May 29

6:00 p.m. Virtual DECA Banquet

7:00 p.m. Virtual Senior Showcase

Monday, June 1

Special schedule / Finals review day (All periods – 40-minute classes)

Tuesday, June 2 – Thursday, June 4

Finals exams for grades 9-11

Monday, June 8

Pick-Up Day for juniors only

Tuesday, June 9

Pick-Up Day for sophomores only

Wednesday, June 10

Harker Blood Drive at Blackford Gym

Report cards posted for grades 9-12

Thursday, June 11

Pick-Up Day for freshmen only

CORRECTIONS FROM ISSUE 4

Page 3, “Senate acquits Trump”: Donald J. Trump (left) took office Oct. 10, 2018. The year was not shown in the caption text.

Page 4, “Impacts of coronavirus”: Anjali Chetty was credited as “upper school biology teacher.” Her official title is Science Department Chair.
Be brave:

On Jan. 24, Harker journalism can its first story on the coronavirus outbreak, reporting 1,287 worldwide cases. Over the few months we watched — and then tuned reporting — as the virus traveled around the world, creeping closer and closer to home in what felt like a hyperreal sci-fi movie.

It still seemed distant, but we took precautions, double checking guidelines morphed around us. Then, nearly two months ago, everything turned upside down.

On March 12, a 14-day period wound down, we found out that school would be canceled and that we would be learning remotely until at least spring break. That date has since been moved to the end of the school year. With Gov. Gavin Newsom laying out guidelines, we waited in expectation for Phase 2 of reopening as we move into June.

We’re on the wrong side of the movie screen now, and we’re scared. Fear is natural in such uncertain times. The United States COVID case count is at 1.47 million as of May 17, with 2418 of those within Santa Clara County. The fifth-largest extremity in the world, has come to a grinding halt with Gov. Newsom’s shelter-in-place directive, now extended until the end of May. The fear of a second wave in the fall looms over us, along with uncertainties about the possibility of an effective vaccine.

Concrete pillars we’ve always leaned on are flexing: prom canceled, AP exams held online as the headcount moved to December 2020. With our daily lives disrupted, Harker has emphasized efforts to connect, as young people like you, learned from past mistakes and figured out how to make things better.

So, we have to be brave in our own way: waking up every day, getting dressed, attending classes on Zoom. In a nationally broadcast graduation event on Saturday, former President Barack Obama said, “America’s gone through hard times before. That’s why this issue also includes a story about how to help your community. We are here to support you, when you need us.”
Flattening the curve: COVID-19’s impact over time

Jan. 21
First case of COVID-19 in the U.S.

Jan. 25
First case of COVID-19 in California

Jan. 27
First case of COVID-19 in Santa Clara County, as determined by later studies. The first case was originally thought to be on Jan. 31.

Jan. 30
World Health Organization (WHO) declared a “public health emergency of international concern.”

Feb. 28
A Santa Clara County woman became the second person in the U.S. to contract COVID-19 without traveling to other countries or being in contact with a known sick person. A resident of Solano County became the first case in the U.S. on Feb. 26.

March 4
Governor Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency in California.

March 9
The first death from COVID-19 in Santa Clara County was a woman in her 60s. She was the third case in the county.

March 10
Santa Clara County banned gatherings of 1,000 people or more.

March 12
All four of Harker’s campuses closed for students after a parent of a non-teaching staff member in the upper school, whom that staff member lives, tested positive for COVID-19.

March 16
The Santa Clara County Public Health Department announced a “shelter-in-place” directive in place until April 7, joining five other Bay Area counties. The Dow Jones had its largest point drop in history, losing 2997.10 in a day.

Sources: Santa Clara County Public Health Department, California Public Health Department, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Design by Eric Fang
Harker community donates money, meals and masks to combat COVID-19

To help combat COVID-19, members of the Harker community are coming together to organize donations of money toward relief funds, masks to homeless shelters and meals to health care workers.

The upper school collectively raised $11,030 in a drive called Come Together Against COVID, organized by the Associated Student Body (ASB) council and class councils for each grade. All proceeds went to the Silicon Valley Strong Fund, a relief fund for residents, businesses and nonprofit organizations severely impacted by the pandemic.

“Our goal in organizing Come Together Against Covid was two-fold: to provide relief for those in our broader community who are struggling, and to bring together the Harker community during these difficult times,” ASB Treasurer Evan Cheng (12) said.

Student council launched the fundraiser on May 6 with a video in advisory featuring a personalized message from San Jose mayor Sam Liccardo encouraging Harker students to participate. To incentivize student participation, student council released fun videos made by members of the Harker community when certain donation milestones were hit.

Student council also partnered with Medical Key Club and Key Club, organizing a donation drive of homemade face masks for homeless individuals, who are unable to socially distance.

“We realized that a lot of people want to actively help out with fighting coronavirus beyond staying at home.”

It was difficult for us [Key Club] to figure out how we would continue working on the club’s goals when we can’t meet or hold any fundraisers really, and we realized that a lot of people want to actively help out with fighting coronavirus beyond staying at home,” Alicia Xu (12), vice president of Key Club, said.

“Everyone’s helping in their own way. [This] was just the way I could help,” Will said.

Upper school parent Cindy Liu noticed another problem facing health care workers—many are so busy treating COVID-19 patients that they have no time to cook. Liu worked with two other Bay Area women to create Meals with Love, which partners with local restaurants to bring meals to staff at local hospitals.

“We reached out to whomever we could find and told them we were trying to [bring] support at least twice a week to those ICU [intensive care unit] or ER [emergency room] sections. We started fundraising over the phone on April 5, and within three days we already received over $8,000. It was amazing,” Liu said.

**Ways to Help**

- **Donate to the Silicon Valley Strong Fund** at bit.ly/sanjosestrong.
- **Learn to make homemade masks at tinyurl.com/jp24Bua**
- **Donate to a charitable organization providing direct relief to the COVID-19 pandemic at tinyurl.com/ubecefe**
- **Make plastic parts for face shields for health care workers and donate them to Maker Nexus at makers.nexus.com/covid**
- **Donate to Meal with Love at bit.ly/donate2MWL**
- **Check in on neighbors and friends**
- **Donate to food banks like those on page H in the housing package**
- **Check handsontobayarea.org/covid19 for more volunteer and donation options**

*Cases are plotted on a logarithmic scale, which better shows rates of growth. Steeper curves indicate higher rates of infection.*

**DONATION DRIVE** San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo commends the upper school’s Come Together Against COVID Donation Drive in a video address.

**MEAL WITH LOVE** Medical staff from High- land Hospital in Oakland hold up thank you signs after receiving a delivery from Meal with Love, started by parent Cindy Liu.

**PRINT TO PROTECT** Will Yashar’s (10) 3D printing machine churns out a mask structure for health care workers treating COVID-19 patients in local hospitals.

**Eric Fang, Nicholas Wei & Sally Zhu**

editor-in-chief and reporters

March 19

Newsmen announced a statewide shelter-in-place order, restricting non-essential travel and activities.

March 25

Newsmen issued a 90-day waiver of mortgage payments for Californians by over 200 banks and credit unions, including Wells Fargo, U.S. Bank, Citigroup and JPMorgan Chase. Newsmen also announced a 60-day moratorium on foreclosures and evictions.

**HOMEMADE** Campus librarian Lauri Vaughan sews a mask from fabric scraps. She and a friend have donated over 1,000 masks to food banks and Harker’s drive.

March 31

Bay Area shelter-in-place orders extended to May 3. Essential businesses were required to implement social distancing, and most construction and use of shared outdoor recreation areas were banned.

April 13

Upper school students participated in a virtual spirit week for the first time, with various events and dress-up days organized by the Harker Spirit Leadership Team (HSLT). Monday was Pajama Day, Tuesday was Fandom Day, Wednesday was Neon Day, Thursday was Throwback Day and Friday was Class Day.

The week’s score results were announced Friday, with juniors in fourth place, seniors in third, freshmen in second and sophomores in first.

April 22

To decrease screen time for students and teachers, all upper school online classes were canceled in observance of the 50th annual Earth Day following a webinar at 9:30 a.m. Members of the community were encouraged to unplug and spend time outdoors. The website last week’s first 45 minutes and featured speaker Michael Doshi, who addressed plastic pollution in oceans.

April 27

The six Bay Area counties who originally announced shelter-in-place orders extended restrictions through May. Beginning May 4, the restrictions allowed construction to resume and some outdoor businesses, outdoor recreation areas and childcare facilities to reopen.

May 11

Upper school students began taking AP exams, which were modified to an online, 45-minute, open note and open book format in light of the pandemic.

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As she gently presses on the strings with one hand, Arissa Huda (9) strums her acoustic Hohner guitar with the other, saying, "I don’t have to think when I play: I can just do it on my own, because I have this muscle memory, I just know where my fingers are." Arissa recently discovered a new activity, learning to make her own pieces. Currently, she’s working on a scarf, designed with the colors of her friend’s college.

"During the quarantine, I got bored of doing the normal things I was doing, like watching TV,” Aditi said. “I was looking at the screen all day, so I decided to do something new that was creative and that could also take my mind off things.” After finding some old string and needles, Aditi dove into this new hobby, asking her sister for help when she needed it. She’s found that it’s been really simple to learn, online, and that something you can do without thinking about it. She’s found that it’s been really simple and something you can do without thinking, which has been especially helpful and soothing during the past few weeks.

"I feel like it really enhances my focus and my main tasks,” Aditi said. “It’s a great stress-relieving mechanism for me – one that I wouldn’t have started if there wasn’t this quarantine. But I think I’ll definitely continue [even past quarantine].”

Gabriel Yang (10), on the other hand, has recently gotten into cooking. With his older sister home and ready to share her favorite recipes, he had been improving his skills and making dishes all through spring break.

"I was really bored over the break, and my sister came back from college,” Gabriel said. "She just really wanted to teach me a lot of the recipes that she’s learned.” Gabriel and his sister look together online for YouTube tutorials and videos with recipes, exploring the foods they enjoy. Most of their creations have been successes, with only a few bumps along the road.

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"A lot of my classes are being let out early, so if it’s 11:45 [pm]... I can go out biking. I’ll go around my neighborhood... and just enjoy being outdoors.”

"We made some pretty easy and simple desserts, like soufflés, pancakes and peanut butter cookies, things like that.”

Cooking has helped to relieve the boredom Gabriel has been experiencing over spring break by occupying him with tasks and by bringing him some delicious food.

For some, like Shounak Ghosh (10), physical activities have quickly become new parts of their daily lives. Shounak recently started BMX biking, a style of biking that specializes in jumps and tricks. He learns by watching online tutorials and by building small ramps with cardboard boxes and wooden planks. Then, he moves onto real-life courses, in the streets of his neighborhood.

“When you’re just walking down the street, there are a variety of obstacles that most people don’t notice,” Shounak said. “But when you have a bike, you start to notice that you can hop onto and off of this curb, and hop onto and off of this bench... little things you can play with and just have fun with it.”

Although he falls frequently and faces difficulties when learning new tricks, Shounak still thinks that BMX biking is worth it. And now that school has moved online, he has a lot of time to practice.

"A lot of my classes are being let out early, so if it’s 11:45 [pm] on a B/D day, I can go out biking until 1,” he said. "I’ll go around my neighborhood and bike and just enjoy being outdoors.”

Visit harkerquiltia.com for full article.
The following memoirs were submitted by TALON yearbook reporters. Each story reflects an aspect of quarantine that the reporter has encountered.

### Euphoria

*Anoushka Buch
TALON Student Life & Conservatory Editor*

Right now, in Advanced Graphic Arts, each member of our class of six is creating a promising, self-assigned project; the direction each of us goes in is completely up to the artist. Originally, I’d planned to do a photoshoot with a friend for the work, but the shelter-in-place order destroyed any hopes I’d had of procuring either a model or a setting. My photography usually centers on the presence of other people: my portfolio is chock-full of faces that aren’t my own. That’s true for a lot of photography—street, environmental, and traditional, among others—you’ll rarely see the artist’s face in their own work. In quarantine, we just have ourselves.

So I used my time in isolation to see if I could do it all: be both model and photographer. By wrapping my desk lamp with colored tissue paper, I was able to create golden lighting, and I even used a stack of old AP and SAT prep books to create a makeshift tripod. Using the self-timer feature on my camera, I was able to create a photoshoot using only myself.

I ended up doing three shoots to represent three emotions: determination, melancholy and euphoria. Each one took me close to three hours, but I learned that I didn’t really need anything besides myself—I could do my own makeup, create my own setting and pose for myself.

Forcing myself to adapt to this situation broke down a barrier I’d always subconsciously held. On my own, I could make tiny changes until I had it the way I wanted. Knowing now that I could do it all on my own in just a couple of hours is a good feeling to have, like I have art just sitting in the corner of my room, waiting to be brought to life. Visit harkeraquila.com for full article.

### Hiking in the woods

*Anika Mani
TALON reporter*

Surrounded by the tall, lush green redwood trees, I stroll through the empty woods. The sun peeks out of one of few clouds in the sky and warms the crisp air. Swarms of bees buzz, and a soft breeze rustles the leaves producing the familiar sound of spring that I have not heard in a while. It’s the perfect day to take a break from electronics and enjoy the natural atmosphere. Time seems to fly as we continue exploring the vulnerable wilderness. Rarely anyone leaves their house due to the outbreak of COVID-19 across the Bay Area and the U.S. at large, so, there for my brother, father and I have the whole nature preserve to ourselves. Wild-life takes the opportunity to come out, and I see more creatures than I ever have before. Small critters scurry across the dusty path, while birds chirp loudly.

My father suggested that we go on a hike in the nearby hills one day to occupy ourselves during the shelter-in-place order. Since our spring break plans to travel to Florida were canceled and I was stuck inside my house watching Netflix, a small hike seemed like a huge opportunity.

Hiking is a family tradition: whether we are away on vacation or right outside my house, my family and I frequently explore our surroundings. Due to our busy lives, we do not spend much time together and we like to spend the rare occasions where we are all together in nature. Visit harkeraquila.com for full article.

### A game to remember

*Lavanya Subramanian
TALON reporter*

Being quarantined during spring break prohibited me from doing my usual vacation activities, such as hanging out with friends and going out to eat at my favorite restaurants. So instead, my family suggested we start a game night tradition. Along with Melbourne, a family-favorite card game that involves players attempting to reach the goal of 1000 miles, we also played Pictionary, Codenames and completing two puzzles.

Originaly, the idea of a game night didn’t entice me. I had never been a huge fan of board games, preferring to curl up in a blanket reading a good book or having a movie marathon. To me, game nights seemed like a futile attempt by my parents to force family bonding and prevent my incessant Netflix binge-watching. And in a way, it was exactly that.

What I didn’t expect was to be completely invested by the second night. As the last days of spring break approached, I found myself wishing for more game nights, and not just because of how much fun the games were.
Note from the editor

Hi Harker! I’m Saloni Shah, and I’m the Editor-in-Chief of Harker journalism’s signature project, Humans of Harker. The project aims to discover the collective story of our senior class: their experiences, their life advice, the reminiscences about the past and their hopes for the future. We want to honor the Class of 2020 and celebrate together. In this spirit, we will be mailing a Humans of Harker magazine to every family during late May that includes the seniors’ photos, quotes and answers to some of their senior survey questions. We hope that you will take the time to know and appreciate the stories of our graduating class. You can find the full profiles on our online website, harkeraquila.com

Celebrating the SENIORS

The class of 2020 is on its way out the door, and with us goes a cacophony of memories from the last four years. Let’s take a look back at the last four years:

In terms of national news, Donald Trump was officially elected president on Dec. 19, 2016. By graduation, our class will have had not one, but two presidential elections occur during our time as high-schoolers. The class of 2020 also discovered the meaning of becoming socially-aware citizens, attending the annual Women’s March, the March for Our Lives, the Global Climate Strike and more.

On-campus, our class also achieved many milestones. 2017 marked the year where we reveled in our new post-freshman status, and the year when the annual Homecoming Eagle painting and the spring rally dances became some of our strong suits. Junior year began the college grind. The year was full of ups and downs but ultimately prepared us to become seniors. The 2018 year began with senior sunrise, where more than 160 students gathered on Davis field at 6 a.m. to watch the sun rise over the Rotshchild Performing Arts Center and all the buildings of the upper school campus. For many, this was the beginning of new aspirations, as well as the beginning of the end (or perhaps, the end of the beginning).

We have had to deal with unprecedented events in our time here. Our years here at Harker are probably its rockiest yet. Without our long-awaited end-of-year events, we missed the “normal” experiences of Harker seniors. No prom, No Laguna Beach. No May Graduation. While our senior year and the usual milestones that mark it have been taken from us, the last four years haven’t all been for naught. We’ve grown and changed as friends, as students, and as human beings. There’s nothing we cannot do.

With the class of 2020 on its way out the door, let’s take a look at some memorable moments from these last four years, starting from August of 2016 all the way to May of 2020.
WHEN
SHELTER IS
UNAFFORDABLE?

On March 16, Bay Area officials in six counties announced shelter-in-place directives, mandating that residents only leave their homes for essential purposes. But what does sheltering in place look like in the Bay Area, one of the most unaffordable housing markets in the U.S.?

"When people don’t have jobs or their hours are cut, it makes it harder for them to pay their rent," Los Angeles Times Housing Reporter Liam Dillon said. "It’s almost like the coronavirus poured even more gasoline on an affordable housing crisis that was already raging."

The shelter-in-place order highlighted the fact that over 34,000 people in the Bay Area don’t have a stable place to shelter in, making up the third-largest homeless population in the U.S.

"Folks who have been living on the streets for a while are more likely to be facing underlying health conditions or be more medically vulnerable than existing residents," said David Low, Director of Policy and Communications at Destination: Home, an organization working to end homelessness in Santa Clara County. "Certainly there are also folks who have a hard time physically staying distant from other people."

While federal, state and local governments have put in temporary protections to stop evictions and house the homeless, the pandemic may have long-term effects as the U.S. enters a recession and affordable housing construction slows.

"There are evictions moratoria in place right now, but those moratoria will expire in the coming months," Dr. Renee Elias, Executive Director of the University of California at Berkeley Center for Community Innovation, said. "We may actually see more displacement once shelter-in-place requirements are fully lifted."

Still, some housing experts are hopeful that the pandemic may call attention to the housing crisis and inspire changes. "If we make good policy changes that support residents through this crisis, [COVID-19] is going to have very little effect on gentrification and displacement!", said Kathleen Wortham, Health and Housing Senior Associate at the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, a public policy organization. "But if we don’t support those in our communities who may be one paycheck away from losing their home, then it will absolutely exacerbate our issues."

Like pouring on gasoline:
Bay Area’s pandemic response complicated by ongoing affordable housing crisis
‘Missing middle’ in crisis

Bay Area’s rising rents and high home prices unsustanable for teachers

For six years, chemistry teacher Andrew Irvine, 39, lived in a single-family home in Willow Glen, San Jose. He and his wife moved in when they were in their early 20s, and the mortgage was affordable at the time. “I would love to be able to stay here after retirement,” Irvine said. “I love California. I don’t think I can afford to, and that saddens me.”

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“The convenience of being that close to school was tremendous, especially at a time in my life when I needed it.”

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**WHERE TEACHERS LIVE**

**AVERAGE COMMUTE TIME TO HARKER FOR TEACHERS:**

- **33 minutes**

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**WHERE STUDENTS LIVE**

**AVERAGE COMMUTE TIME TO HARKER FOR STUDENTS:**

- **22 minutes**

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"I don’t know what happens when cities become literally unlivable for the people they need to make the cities run."

- Upper school visual arts teacher Trish Ludovici

Visual arts teacher Trish Ludovici lives in Oakland with her husband, who is also an artist. Despite having rent control, Ludovici worries about whether it will be sustainable for them to stay in the Bay Area long-term. "With student traffic and no parental assistance, Ludovici and her husband are finding it difficult to save up for the high cost of homeownership in the region." If "our house got sold, I don’t know that we could afford to rent another place in the Bay Area and save any money towards owning anything," Ludovici said. "So then you have to do the math, right? Is it better to take a job somewhere that pays you less, but you save more money and you can afford a house later on? I don't know."

**LEAVING THE BAY**

According to a local loan officer who has helped over 75 Bay Area teachers get mortgage loans approved, homeownership gives teachers a much better chance of being able to continue teaching where they are. Monthly mortgage payments are fixed for a number of years, while rents typically increase every year. But owning a home in the Bay Area isn’t a possibility for most teachers. According to the senior loan officer, in other parts of the nation where home prices and wages tend to be lower, teachers may be on an equal footing with other buyers. Here, teachers face competition from buyers with a lot more income and a lot more cash.

For Harker production manager Brian Larsen, 52, who has taught at Harker since $2,497, while median household income increased by just 51 percent from $76,730 to $115,862. On Jan. 1, California enacted statewide rent control. AB-1482, the Tenant Protection Act of 2018, limited annual rent increases to 5 percent but only applies to units at least 15 years old. Before AB-1482, Bay Area cities differed in the amount of rent control they had, if any. Some teachers, like Irvine, faced rent hikes of over 20 percent in a year. Many upper school teachers chose to live farther from school in areas that limited rent increases. "Our rent when we were in San Jose was jumping by huge amounts whenever they wanted to raise the rent," said theater teacher Jeffrey Draper, who moved to San Francisco 17 years ago and started teaching at Harker 20 years ago. "I think it would be really a challenge for us to have stayed in a region without rent control."

Draper said that he “lucked into” an apartment in San Francisco with a three percent per year cap on rent increases, which has protected him from rent hikes in the city. Currently, he pays $2,000 per month in rent, while his neighbors pay $5,506.

One of the trade-offs is the 45-minute commute, assuming that Draper leaves at 5 or 6 a.m. to beat the morning rush. It’s “not an amazing apartment, there are things we complain about, but because we have rent control, it’s too expensive for us to move, so we’re sort of stuck with it,” Draper said. "Luckily we’re happy.”

The insecurity that comes with renting in the Bay Area means that many teachers live with the anxiety of potentially having to one day leave the region or give up teaching altogether.

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**The Push to Build**

With prohibitively expensive housing costs near the upper school, administrators have to consider the housing barrier when recruiting and hiring highly-skilled teachers. “Housing might be the number one factor [in new teachers’ decisions to come here], and it didn’t used to be that way,” Keller said. “I remember my first year here [in 2007], I went to New York [for a teacher job fair], and I was interviewing teachers for days. It didn’t matter where they came from, it just wasn’t a big deal. Five or six years ago it became a big deal.” According to Head of School Brian Yager, while it’s become harder to attract people from outside the Bay Area, Harker still recruits through a national network of consultants. But the school has become “cautious” about recruiting teachers outside of the Bay Area, according to Keller. While the constraints on recruitment haven’t impacted the quality of teachers here, Keller said, it has limited the diversity of perspectives that teachers bring to the table. "I think Mrs. Keller and I bring something different to San Jose because of where we’re from [in Virginia]." Keller said that “diversity" might not happen.

Visit harkerquila.com for full article.

Does housing cost factor into whether upper school teachers will continue at Harker in the next 5 years?

**The Push to Build**

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What kind of housing do upper school teachers live in?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Housing</th>
<th>Percent of Teachers Surveyed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dorm</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rent</td>
<td>97.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Where Teachers Live**

- **10%**
  - Of upper school teachers have lived in housing rented out by Harker
  - Out of 40 teachers surveyed

**Where Students Live**

- **27.5%**
  - Of upper school teachers have lived with a roommate to save on housing costs while at Harker
  - Out of 40 teachers surveyed

**Average Down Payment in San Jose**

- **$2,497**
  - Median monthly owner costs in Santa Clara County

**Average Down Payment in San Jose**

- **$257,000**
  - From March 17th to March 18th
  - Source: Realtor.com

**What impact do their commute have on upper school teachers’ overall satisfaction with their jobs?**

- **Slight Impact**: 20%
  - Large Impact: 22.5%
  - Moderate Impact: 23%
  - Large Impact: 20%

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[Image of a map showing the locations of Harker's campus and the Bay Area, with distances marked for commute times.]
‘Who belongs?’

Development and displacement change the face of Bay Area communities

20.1% of students are seeing gentrification in their neighborhoods (out of 194 students surveyed)

Google and Facebook each promised $1 billion to build 20,000 new homes each in the Bay Area.

San Jose has become an “advanced gentrification area” with a demographic considered moderate to high-income.

Since 2015, 42.5% of teachers are seeing gentrification in their neighborhoods (out of 40 teachers surveyed).
In elementary and middle school, Simren Gupta (12) often visited a Chinese restaurant down the street from where she lived in Sunnyvale. The restaurant had been around since before she was born.

When Simren started learning Mandarin in middle school, she practiced by speaking with the restaurant’s owners. Three years ago, the restaurant got a notice from the landowners that it would be shut down to make room for a new apartment complex.

“The restaurant is just one example of how Bay Area neighborhoods are changing. As rising real estate costs are displacing people and businesses, upper school students and students have noticed differences in their communities.

“Even around my house, local businesses have been shut down and replaced with big corporations,” Simren said. Bay Area cities find themselves juggling more big business growth in the economy, more housing for people moving in and more protection for current residents in danger of being displaced.

The COVID-19 pandemic may worsen the situation. As small businesses and lower-income households are likely to be hardest hit by the pandemic’s economic toll, more of them may be displaced in the near future.

At the same time, less money may be available to build affordable housing.

“In a lot of ways, the Bay Area is very resilient. However, at the same time, there’s a lot of ways in which we have not fully recovered from the financial crash of 2008. One of the things that we haven’t been quite as resilient is in home construction, home permitting and home entitlements,” Kathleen Wortham, health and housing senior associate at the Silicon Valley Leadership Group (SVLG), said. “It’s going to take a lot of work to make sure that we’re building up our workforce and political will to get housing built.”

With little open space left to build and complications like the coronavirus, development in the Bay Area walks a fine line between helping and hurting the communities around it.

“At first I was like, why don’t we just stop landlords from charging residents too much money, but a lot of landlords aren’t that wealthy as well and they’re doing what they can... It’s because the foundations of our housing system are flawed.”

JAI BAHRI (12)
WORKED IN SAN CLARA COUNTY SUPERVISOR JOE SIMITIAN’S OFFICE

THE-push-to-BUILD

In 2017, California Governor Gavin Newsom said 3.5 million new homes needed to be built by 2025 in order to meet the state’s housing needs. According to California’s housing department, new housing units have been built at the rate of 80,000 per year over the last decade, and each unit of subsidized affordable housing in California costs about $450,000 to build, making Newsom’s goal ambitious if not impossible.

“The shelter-in-place order has also slowed development. From March 31 to May 4, six Bay Area counties prohibited most types of construction. Even as restrictions were lifted and construction continued on May 4, the pandemic may have lasting effects on development and affordable housing construction,”

“The housing and real estate market can change so quickly that sometimes a month’s delay can cause developers to lose money,” Bay Area News Group Housing Reporter Marisa Kendall said. According to Wortham, some processes like inspections and permits may take time to move online to comply with social distancing guidelines, contributing to a slowdown in construction.

Other obstacles that predate the pandemic stand in the way. San Jose faces particular challenges as the “bedroom” of the Silicon Valley. More people spend the night in San Jose than work there.

“We’re the biggest city in this area by far, but 85 percent of our usable land is zoned for residential. That means that the city has to figure out how to pay for all the infrastructure, all the services, the parks, everything else that residents need to make a city livable just from residential property taxes, and it doesn’t work,” Elsbeth Handler, public information manager of San Jose’s Office of Economic Development, said.

Visit harkeraquila.com for full article.

BIGGEST BUILDERS

Some of the biggest contributors to the housing and real estate market are losing the most money at solving it.

In June, Google announced a $1 billion building plan, promising to build 20,000 new homes in the Bay Area over the next decade. In October, Facebook announced its $1 billion commitment to make room for 20,000 new homes in the Bay Area over the next decade. In October, Facebook announced its $1 billion commitment to make room for 20,000 new homes in the Bay Area over the next decade. In October, Facebook announced its $1 billion commitment to make room for 20,000 new homes in the Bay Area over the next decade.

“Google has envisioned their development as connecting East and West and North and South, making Newsom’s goal about reaching 5,000 new homes of mixed income levels in the next decade. In October, Facebook announced a $1 billion building plan, promising to build 20,000 new homes in the Bay Area over the next decade. In October, Facebook announced its $1 billion commitment to make room for 20,000 new homes in the Bay Area over the next decade.”

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“The OFFICE BULLDOZED Construction machinery digs up the parking lot of the former Vallco Shopping Mall in Cupertino. On May 7, a judge approved plans to convert Vallco into 2,402 housing units, half of which are below market-rate, and 1.8 million square feet of offices.

Visit harkeraquila.com for full article.

SO, WHO BELONGS?

Concerns of displacement and gentrification often accompany development projects like Google’s Diridon campus.

According to Victor Fulle, Senior Executive Analyst at San Jose’s Office of Economic Development, displacement can happen directly through rent increases or indirectly through changes to the community or the general economy.

Many are concerned the pandemic could worsen displacement.

“Small businesses have been hit real hard,” Kendall said. “[Many] were telling me they’re making 30 percent of their normal profit. They’re not sure if they’re going to be able to pay rent.”

Due to legacies of discriminatory housing practices, the danger for displacement is especially high in minority-majority neighborhoods that have historically faced disinvestment.

As people search for cheaper housing closer to the city core, they enter low-income communities, and landlords realize new tenants can pay more in rent than old tenants.

But the problem isn’t as simple as greedy landlords, as Jai Bahri (12) learned in his time as an intern in Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian’s office.

“At first I was like, why don’t we just stop landlords from charging residents too much money, but a lot of landlords aren’t wealthy as well and are doing what they can,” Jai said. “It’s because the foundations of our housing system are flawed.”

Upper school visual arts teachers Trish Ludovici and Joshua Martinez have noticed displacement creating demographic changes in their neighborhoods. Ludovici noted that recently, many older Black and Latino families have moved out of North Oakland and younger, white couples have moved in. Martinez said that since 2008, he’s seen 18 houses on his block in the San Francisco Mission District be renovated and sold and several families evicted.

“We had a huge Central American population in my neighborhood, and now it is predominantly upper-middle-class white Americans,” Martinez said.

San Jose faces similar displacement pressures, as limited affordable housing is available.

“We need South San Jose, Almaden Valley, Willow Glen to open up their communities to being home for extremely low-income families,” Camille Llanes-Fontanilla, executive director of the community organization Somos Mayfair, said. “People don’t want low-income people in their communities, which reinforces the question, ‘Who belongs?’”

Visit harkeraquila.com for full article.
‘An epidemic situation’
Vulnerable homeless population hit hard by COVID-19 pandemic

As the Bay Area issued social distancing guidelines in response to COVID-19, many people experiencing homelessness found them impossible to follow. Overcrowded shelters and encampments are breeding grounds for the virus, and research from the University of Pennsylvania suggests that people experiencing homelessness are twice as likely to be hospitalized and two to three times as likely to die from COVID-19 compared to the general population.

"We know that folks who have been living on the streets for a while are more likely to be facing underlying health conditions or be more medically vulnerable than existing residents."

David Low
Director of Policy & Communications, Destination: Home

"We've been working to assist [the] homeless and unsheltered because both have a harder time practicing social distancing or other preventive measures," said David Low, the director of policy and communications at Destination: Home.

Destination: Home has been helping to open mass shelters and distribute sanitation supplies. On March 23, it also launched a $1 million dollar financial assistance initiative to aid families at risk of becoming homeless as a result of the pandemic. The organization received 4,500 applications within three days, with 10,000 households on the wait list.

Compass Family Services, an organization dedicated to helping homeless families in San Francisco achieve housing stability, has also stepped up to house the homeless. According to Anthony Carrasco, the external affairs and policy manager at Company Family Services, the organization is currently housing around 60 families in hotel rooms.

"Hotel rooms are far superior to live in than congregate housing shelters, because living in hotel rooms allows the homeless to actually social distance and follow shelter-in-place guidelines," Carrasco said.

But more remains to be done. A count conducted on Jan. 24, 2019 by the city of San Francisco reported 9,784 homeless individuals in the city, including people staying in housing shelters, jails and hospitals. According to Carrasco, this number is far higher now, as the coronavirus pandemic has forced many more tenants out of their apartments.

Carrasco thinks that one way that the government can help is to strike out rental debt for those affected by the coronavirus pandemic, noting that it is far cheaper to prevent a family from being homeless than to help a family off the streets.

The Bay Area already faced a growing homelessness problem prior to the pandemic. The latest point-in-time (PIT) count by city officials in 2019 estimated that over 34,000 people were homeless in the Bay Area, an increase of over 22 percent since 2017.

The actual number of people experiencing homelessness in the Bay is likely to be higher. PIT counts can underestimate these numbers by two to three times due to technical difficulties and seasonal differences in rates of homelessness.

As opposed to New York, which provides shelter to 95 percent of its homelessness population, the Bay Area suffers from a lack of affordable or government-subsidized housing. In 2017, 67 percent of the Bay Area homeless population was unsheltered. Even prior to the pandemic, San Francisco shelters already had all of their beds occupied, leaving at least 5,000 people in the city unserved.

What causes so many people in the Bay Area to become homeless? Destination: Home said it’s fundamentally because of a lack of affordable housing, particularly for low-income residents.

"When folks can’t find an affordable place to live, they become severely rent-burdened, spending more than half of their income on rent, utilities, and become just one emergency away from ending up on the street," Low said.

Most people in Silicon Valley become homeless after losing a job or experiencing a change in family composition, according to a 2019 Destination: Home study.

The best way for Silicon Valley residents to help, Low said, is to tackle the systemic driver of homelessness by advocating for more affordable housing units to be built.

"We need people to use their voice, show up to city council meetings, write the councillors while these decisions are being made to make sure that these developments are getting built," Low said.

Raising awareness helps as well. People experiencing homelessness often face dehumanization and stigma from other people in their communities who don’t know of or understand their struggles.

"We’ve just people who have happened on mishaps and stuff like that," Badu, who lives at the Interstate 280 off-ramp across the street from the upper school, said. "We’re no different than anyone."

From San Jose to Oakland to Santa Rosa, these are some of their stories.

Visit barkspquila.com for full article.

Bike trail for some, home for others: Life in

"This right here is Little Mama. She saved my life, and I saved hers. A lot of people don’t like us here, and I know that. But where are we supposed to go? A lot of shelters don’t even take dogs."

Cina Hone, 49
Lived on the Joe Rodota trail from August to January 2019 with her 12-year-old chihuahua. Heres friend had brought Little Mama to her on a night when she had planned to commit suicide.

"This highway (State Route 12) is horrible to live by. It subliminally puts people in a place where they don’t think they can be anywhere else. Like they’re criminals."

Stephens Williams, 59
Lives near the Joe Rodota Trail and visited friends there. Between finding his current house and being evicted from his home in Santa Rosa, he had been unserved for six months.
Bike trail for some, home for others

In 2019, according to city officials, there were 9,706 people experiencing homelessness in San Jose. The latest counts by city officials.

AROUND THE CORNER

A mattress and a shopping cart full of personal belongings sit on the sidewalk on Kiely Blvd., around the corner from the upper school. According to the latest counts by city officials, in 2019 there were 9,706 people experiencing homelessness in San Jose.

34,682 PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN THE BAY AREA

9,784 PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN SAN FRANCISCO

9,706 PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN SAN JOSE

SOURCE: 2019 POINT-IN-TIME COUNTS BY CITY OFFICIALS

I just wasn’t able to keep my house and moved back to a property on Stony Point Road but that got foreclosed.

It was hard hit after hard hit. Rent got really high after the [Tubbs] fire [in 2017], and I lost my roommate so I just wasn’t able to keep my house in Petaluma. I bought a motorhome and moved back to a property on Stony Point Road but that got foreclosed. Then my car got stolen.

I think [social services] should come to us and talk to us because a lot of times it’s hard for us to walk. We don’t have money to take the bus. I’ve seen a lot of people like that. Or their dog, Rocky. In 2017, Santa Rosa saw a 9.3 percent increase in housing prices, according to a county report.

Then my car got stolen.

My decision has always been to have a purpose for the food and not to just throw it in the trash. There’s a lot of people in need, and it is good, healthy food. I work on a desk, and I still have trouble focusing. Can you imagine working in an environment where everyone is talking, where you may not even feel completely safe? So how can we create an environment to allow people to feel more comfortable?

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Helping the unsheltered in San Jose

Where to volunteer or donate:

1. CityTeam San Jose, which runs a men’s shelter and another shelter for homeless pregnant women 18 & over. CityTeam also runs a dining hall and a learning and career center. cityteam.org/san-jose

2. Stand Up For Kids, which helps unaccompanied homeless and at-risk youth through mentoring and short-term housing. standupforkids.org

3. LifeMoves, which provides interim housing and support for homeless families and individuals in shelters throughout San Jose. lifemoves.org

4. My New Red Shoes, which provides new shoes and clothing to homeless or disadvantaged students and helps increase overall attendance and quality of education within underprivileged communities. mynewredshoes.org

5. Bay Area Rescue Mission, a nonprofit that serves hot meals and provides shelter and vocational training to people experiencing homelessness. bayarearescue.org

6. Compass Family Service’s fund to house homeless families in hotel rooms during shelter-in-place charity.gofundme.com/u/en/campaign/hotel-rooms-for-the-homeless-sf

7. Silicon Valley Strong, a fund to help residents, businesses and nonprofits affected by COVID-19 siliconvalleystrong.org

Where to donate food:

1. West Valley Community Services, which offers a weekly food pantry to families facing hunger crises. wvcommunityservices.org

2. Sunnyvale Community Services, which provides food aid, emergency financial aid and a weekend school food program. svcommunityservices.org

3. Ecumenical Hunger Program, a soup kitchen that serves dinner every Wednesday night at St. Francis of Assisi Church in East Palo Alto. ehpcares.org

4. Second Harvest of Silicon Valley, which provides meals to over a quarter of a million children and families every month. shfb.org

5. Martha’s Kitchen, a soup kitchen and a central kitchen that prepares meals for other sites. marthaskitchen.org

6. JW House, a community home that offers shelter and food to families who are undergoing medical problems and need a place to stay. jwhouse.org

7. San Jose Community Services, which provides shelter and assistance to homeless and underprivileged families. sjcs.org

8. Sunnyvale Community Services, which offers food aid, emergency financial aid and a weekend school food program. svcommunityservices.org

9. The Salvation Army, which provides shelter, clothing, food and other necessities to those in need. salvationarmyusa.org

10. St. Vincent de Paul, which offers food, shelter, clothing and other assistance to those in need. stvincentdepaul.org

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43. Sunnyvale Community Services, which offers food aid, emergency financial aid and a weekend school food program. svcommunityservices.org

44. The Salvation Army, which provides shelter, clothing, food and other necessities to those in need. salvationarmyusa.org

45. St. Vincent de Paul, which offers food, shelter, clothing and other assistance to those in need. stvincentdepaul.org

46. Second Harvest of Silicon Valley, which provides meals to over a quarter of a million children and families every month. shfb.org

47. Martha’s Kitchen, a soup kitchen and a central kitchen that prepares meals for other sites. marthaskitchen.org

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Despite passing by a homeless encampment just a few yards from the upper school gates each day, it’s been too easy for us as Harker students to avoid really seeing it. Despite hearing our teachers say they had to rush to make their 90-minute commute home, we weren’t really listening. And despite living in the midst of an affordable housing shortage throughout the Bay Area, we rarely talk about the situation unfolding right in front of our eyes.

From researching and reporting on the Bay Area housing crisis over the last 10 months, we’ve seen how the crisis is not only happening around us, but happening to us.

The housing crisis affects how much time we spend commuting and where we can afford to live, both now and in the future. It affects whether many of us will be able to return to the Bay Area after college. It affects what our local communities look like and what neighbors and businesses we interact with on a daily basis. Moreover, it affects whether our teachers can continue being our teachers and what they may have to sacrifice to do so.

To understand the myriad ways that the housing crisis impacts us and our communities, we interviewed over 60 people across the Bay Area, starting with our teachers, administrators and classmates and working our way outwards to realtors, property developers, researchers, city officials, mortgage loan agents, nonprofit organizations, lobbying groups, activists, volunteers, people experiencing homelessness and more.

What we’ve learned from these scores of conversations is that the situation is complicated, to say the least, and deeply personal.

Just as the crisis affects many different people in many different ways, there is no one-size-fits-all solution. Any progress will require the dedicated effort of diverse organizations and individuals across public and private sectors.

But these interviews have also reminded us that we can be a part of that effort, even as high school students.

We can donate our time, money and food to local organizations; write to our elected representatives to support affordable housing initiatives and public works programs; vote in local, state and national elections for candidates that support affordable housing; raise awareness through writing, advocacy and art; or simply become better informed about the issues impacting those around us.

We have the ability to shape the conversations on fair and affordable housing for everyone in the area. In journalism, we have a saying: ‘Comfort the afflicted, and afflict the comfortable.’

Through this package, we hope to share the experiences that have made the housing crisis so real and pressing to us, and to give a microphone to underrepresented voices.

We hope this package provides a step in what will be a long, comprehensive effort to call attention to the housing crisis and spark the dialogue that will affect real change at Harker and schools across the region.