

# Voice of the Highlander

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The student newspaper of Robert T. Hill Middle School in Dallas, TX.

## QUARANTINE EDITION

Editor's Note: The Robert T. Hill Middle School journalism students were asked to write personal stories about their experience in quarantine during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### My quarantine experience

By 8<sup>th</sup> grader Angela Tapia



When they announced that we would not be going back to school any time soon, I was devastated. I mean this was my

last year at Hill and I won't be able to fully experience it. I understand why it happened, this virus is very serious, and dangerous. And I do think it's better to stay home and be safe.

Being in quarantine didn't really change my life. Besides being at school, I was mostly at home all the time.

Even though being at home can be fun sometimes, I really don't like online learning. It's definitely not the same and it's harder to really learn what they're trying to teach. Besides doing schoolwork all I've been doing is watching movies and playing games with my family.

I really do hope this virus doesn't last long. It's so sad to see so many people suffering because of it. It is definitely scary to go places because you just never know who might have it.

I really do think it's better to just stay home during this time. It won't be easy to get past

this but with the help of everyone staying home and it not spreading.

We can get through this.

## Self-isolation in NYC

By 8<sup>th</sup> grader Demarion Wreh



When I first heard about the Coronavirus, honestly, I didn't take it to serious. I thought that the extra time we had off school would be great because I was going to New York and that would mean more time with my family and friends.

When I got to New York it had not been much fun because everything was closed. The only thing that was open was the parks and a few bodegas.

We decided to take a walk to the park, so boredom would not kill us. On the way there, by the Brooklyn Hospital Center, we saw trucks being loaded with bodies, it was devastating and very scary. I was so freaked out and I ran back home. I didn't think twice about leaving my cousin and

at that moment that's when I took it seriously. After that, I stayed in the house. I refused to go anywhere. I was so paranoid I was even scared of my own sneezes and coughs. I was really sick, so I was worried. Luckily, it was just a stomach virus.

I was watching the news, which is something I never done, and the NYC mayor was saying that half a million of New Yorkers will be unemployed and will have the coronavirus, which didn't make anything better.

It was finally time to go and I was actually very happy because I wasn't really having the time of my life there.

Fortunately, we were able to fly back to Dallas.

## QUARANTINE=BORED

By 8<sup>th</sup> grader Ian Marchand



On the day before spring break started, I figured that school would be canceled as well. I thought it would be the last time I'd be there. The Coronavirus canceled everything my family had planned. We were

supposed to go to New Orleans, and we kept the plan until the shutdown of our school, and eventually the lockdown of our city.

Quarantine started off okay. The first day I went to go play basketball with a friend, then I never left the house again.

I've been trying to just keep myself busy with random things. To make matters worse, my console broke about four days into isolation.

Recently I've just been watching shows and listening to albums. I am not really too worried about groceries or toilet paper. My dad goes to the store once a week and grabs what he can, and we do not need 10 packs of toilet paper and 40 packs of paper towel. People who do that are just overreacting.

Personally, I just want it to be over with. I want to go out again and do the things I used to do. I am a little worried of my dad catching the virus. My mom is pregnant, so she just stays home. My brother and I are not allowed to leave, and for my dad he is the only one who leaves the house.

To make things worse, at the time I am writing this, he just left for a business trip to San Antonio.

In the future, I hope to be out and thriving again.

# Quarantine sucks

By 8<sup>th</sup> grader Victoria Kenny

I was upset and sad when school got canceled because I miss my friends.

Seems like we're getting more work to do online than the work they actually give us at school.

Nothing changed because I wasn't going to do anything for spring break except for school to start again.

I think its dumb and people really need to stop leaving their houses to jog and stuff. They should just, like, run around your house. We're going to be like this until August because of them.

Nothing has changed much except this is making me eat more and become even more lazy. I miss seeing my friends every day because texting them can get boring. To me, it's just so depressing at my house because it's really small and I literally have nothing to do.

I like being on my laptop. It is cool and all, but I do get bored of it after a while, believe it or not.

Like I said, I hate this online stuff cause we're getting more stuff to do than we actually do at school. The Zoom calls aren't as bad.

I'm not worried about the toilet paper or groceries. Why are people buying water and toilet paper so much? Is that going to solve the virus?

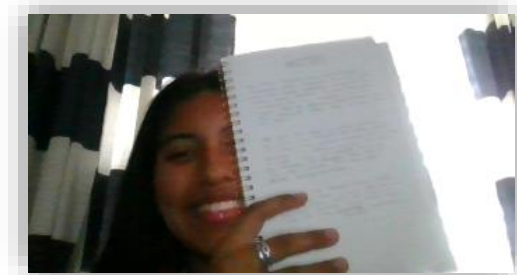
I'm hoping that school will start again. I always wished for no school, but I regret it now. It wasted half my day and I don't know what to do during that time now.

All of this will pass by just like with any other virus. I don't care if I get it, but it's not about me. I care if my grandpa and grandma get it because they're old and their immune system is weak. If I do get it, I'll go to the hospital, of course, and keep myself away from them.

I'll talk about my kids like "nobody saw me physically for a year". Anyways, I could rant on and on but i won't, so bye.

# The coronavirus

By 8<sup>th</sup> grader Savannah David



My first reaction to school being closed was happy and sad.

The virus definitely changed my plans because I was supposed to be in Las Vegas for a soccer tournament, but since all of this is going on, they cancelled it. My thoughts on the virus are that it is dumb, and it is not fair because it is killing innocent people's lives.

My life has had a major change. I miss my friends and family a lot. To be honest, I don't like online school because it doesn't teach me the way I like to be taught. Then again there are some pros and cons to online school. I usually take a

run, or play soccer outside, to pass the time, but that can get boring sometimes.

I hope the best for the people who have family or relatives that are facing this coronavirus. I hope that they can put an end to the coronavirus and find a cure for it.

## Everything online

By 8<sup>th</sup> grader Corlynda Malvern



My first reaction when school stopped was that I'm about to be bored at home. My spring break didn't change because I didn't have any plans. I think the virus might, or might not, stop

anytime soon. I hope it gets a cure soon.

I miss my first, fourth, second, and seventh periods at school. Online learning is cool because I get to stay home. To pass the time I either sleep or take a walk to the park because it gets boring in the house.

I hope it gets a cure sometime soon. Someone will learn about this one day and it's crazy how we all are living through this right now.

I don't know how my life will change due to this because it might, or it might not.

## Kaylon's life in quarantine

By 8<sup>th</sup> grader Kaylon Edwards

As we all know, due to the spread of Covid-19 Robert T. Hill Middle School has been shut down. It didn't really change anything I had planned for spring break. I kind of expected this to happen, so I wasn't surprised to hear the news at all and I went on with my day as normal.

My life hasn't changed much in quarantine. I'm not doing anything I'm not used to doing. The only thing I

really miss about school is talking to my friends in the school atmosphere. Online learning isn't a bother, but it is incredibly flawed due to students having more resources to cheat. I'm not worried about getting groceries because its relatively easy for me.

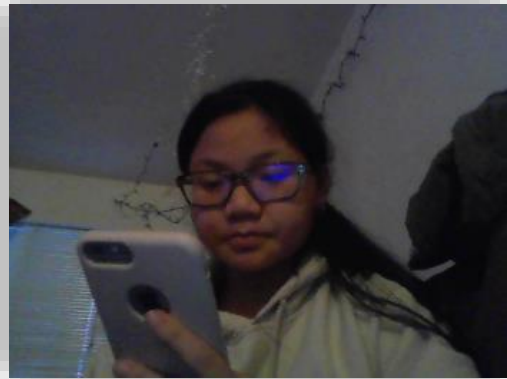
In the future I just hope that people don't overreact over a virus that isn't even as powerful as the flu. The coronavirus will die down soon as people stop panicking and work on something to fight it off.

People in my family will be safe because staying clean and buying toilet paper was already a part of our schedule. My future under health circumstances will be completely fine because I have a clean and healthy lifestyle.

I would be lying if I said that corona won't socially impact my life.

# Boring Days

By 7<sup>th</sup> grader Moo Paw



When the teacher told us that school would stop, I was happy. I said finally because the other school were closing.

My mind did change after spring break because it was boring, and I had nothing to do. It was also good because I don't like waking up early for school.

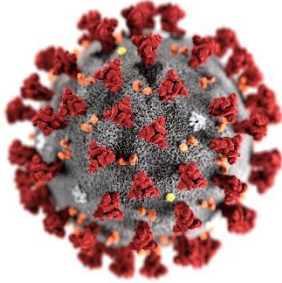
My life has changed a lot during quarantine because I used to hang out with my friend a lot. Now we don't even see each other. I would usually talk on the phone with my friend to pass time or sometimes I would watch a TV show on Netflix. I miss going to school, because it is boring at home.

What I think will happen with the coronavirus is that I think it will get to more people in the future. I am very worried that me or my family will get the coronavirus.

In the future, I hope they find the cure for coronavirus.

# My quarantine routine

By 8<sup>th</sup> grader Frank Cochran



When I heard that we were getting Chromebooks before spring break, in case there would be a COVID-19 threat, I was a bit worried. I am glad that school has decided to keep us home; we have immunocompromised kids and staff. We also have kids and staff with asthma. A school would also become a great place for the virus to spread, as there are many people.

Over spring break, I stayed with my grandparents. They had returned from Italy the week before. Since we had been in close contact with them when we picked them up from the airport, we would have already had the virus, and could not go out anyway. Fortunately, none of us got the virus. We stayed home and self-quarantined. We baked, cleaned, and read books. It

was fun. I even made black salt.

Quarantine is not that bad for me. I am socially awkward and usually keep to myself when I am not around people that I know. I miss seeing my girlfriend. We like to video chat and call to keep ourselves both safe. She is especially at risk because she has a bad immune system and gets sick easily.

I never thought I would say this, but I kind of miss school. I have way too much time on my hands now. To pass the time, I have been playing guitar and ukulele.

I think Coronavirus is a burden, but we must stay inside to keep ourselves safe. Getting groceries is kind of easy. We order them online. The big problem is that since more people are at home, they need more groceries, toilet paper, etc.

America was not prepared for this crisis. Most people use the restroom mostly at work where they buy industrial sized rolls of toilet paper. People at home only use the smaller rolls. The supply and demand balance are off now.

I really want Coronavirus to die down by September because that is when I get to see my favorite band's reunion concert.

I think the Coronavirus will spike, and then it will die down. We either need to get a vaccine, or get most people exposed in order to make it go away. The latter option will certainly kill many, but the rest that survive will be immune. We will all come out of this different than we were when it started. I think many businesses will switch to online, as it is cheaper to run. I think that it will also change our economy.

# Life changing

By 8<sup>th</sup> grader Jocelyn Shoumbert



When school stopped, I was so happy and excited because we did not have work for the rest of the school year and test but bummed because we had online work. It changed because what I had planned, all of it, got cancelled because of the corona. I hate it in my opinion because staying at the house all day gets boring.

My life changed by starting online school and life became boring and quiet. I miss talking to my friends and just being crazy with them. I do not like some people there because some can be fake, and it just causes drama.

When I do online learning at home I get distracted easily because all the stuff happening around me at my home and that is what I do not like being at my home. When I am home I usually facetime people to distract time and eat because I get hungry in the passing time.

In my opinion, the coronavirus is dumb, and everyone keeps taking everything from the store. I can never find anything I need because it.

In the future, I hope everything gets better and hopefully the virus stops or something that slows down the virus for it not to spread too a lot of people. I am also worried my family will get it because who would want their family member having this virus? This would not just change my life but everyone's future.



# Bored of being in a major historic event

By 8<sup>th</sup> grader Emely Rodriguez



As you probably know Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins has issued a shelter in place or quarantine since March 6.

Many of us are either bored or stressed out with online school. I didn't like this because I liked school and it messed up my softball season. I hate the coronavirus.

My mom is one of those paranoid ones, so I can't go out at all. I was invited to a party I really wanted to go to, but my mom said no. I've been home for like two weeks without going out. I prefer staying home when I want to now. It's just annoying because I must.

I hope this all goes away quickly and that the economy

gets better also and that we can go out. I think half of the U.S will get it sadly, but most hopefully will recover.

Remember to stay safe, wash your hands, and remain distant of other people.

## Hillary's life in quarantine

By 7<sup>th</sup> grader Hillary Martinez

My first reaction when school was stopped was thinking that it was probably only for like two weeks. This affected my birthday. It really affected my birthday because I had a birthday party, and not all my close friends went because of the coronavirus.

What I think about the coronavirus is that it is just dumb. We had to cancel school. I know it is for a good reason, but it put my social life on pause.

My life in quarantine is just boring. I miss doing dumb things at school. I miss going to school because I could see all my friends. I don't really like online learning because I forget to do it and I don't like that

my grades are dropping because of that.

I pass time on my technology. I am not worried about not having enough groceries or toilet paper because we have a good supply of that in my house.

I'm hoping in the future that this virus will go away. I think that when summer comes around the coronavirus will calm down. I'm not as worried about my family getting it because they are taking good care of themselves.

This will change my life because people will have more precautions with their actions.

## Spring break fail

By 7<sup>th</sup> grader Ty'Liyah Smith



As you all know the world is in shock due to the Coronavirus.

When I first found out that our school would be closing, I was happy. I just thought it would be like the summer. Then I was told that we weren't allowed to do any unnecessary traveling. I hate the Coronavirus now. My quarantine has been very boring. I really miss my friends and going to school and such. I really hate having to do my schoolwork online because I don't really focus on it.

Instead, I spend my time watching Netflix and eating. It's been very boring at home considering I'm an only child.

I hope that this quarantine stuff will stop, and that people will stop dying. I believe that the scientist will find a cure soon and stop this virus from killing people. But at least we will be in our future children's history books!

# My Life in Quarantine

By 8<sup>th</sup> grader Breanna Bailey



As we are currently on quarantine regarding COVID-19. It has affected a lot of people and made a lot of changes, not only I'm the United States, but in other states and countries. One of the best ways to prevent the spread is to stay clean, as far as germs, and to stay in the house which is seemingly to be hard for a lot of people. Which I really hope that the people out there who are not caring and still doing what they want to do it's affected other people.

What about you friends and family that you touch? I just want everyone to be more careful and considerate.

This worldwide sickness has personally impacted me as a person as far as my schedule and the things I would normally do. I am still adapting to the online schooling, although it can get difficult and frustrating, not only me but every student out there should put in the effort. We should appreciate more that we are still able to learn some things even without being at school.

As far as the future, I would hope that this would be over soon so that all of us can start back living a normal life because who knows it can only get better or worse. Also, for all of those who are not taking this virus seriously to not be selfish. I really hope that doesn't cause more and more deaths.

## A day in my life in quarantine

By 8th grader Evelyn Vazquez

My reaction when school was halted well, I wasn't generally shocked, since I

knew it was going to happen sooner or later.

The covid-19 didn't generally demolish my spring break plans because my parents were truly turning out to be overprotective when covid-19 went to the U.S. They were not letting me out with friends, and they dropped our family plans to go to Mexico.

The coronavirus has changed how we work, play, and learn. Schools are shutting down, sports groups have been dropped, and numerous individuals have been approached to telecommute which is dismal.

My life has been changed considering quarantine. I generally remain at home now, and it gets boring. I miss going out with friends and going to the mall.

I particularly miss school. I miss my teachers and friends. Online school has truly gotten upsetting from the outset.

Things I've been doing to pass time is concentrating more on my art and binge-watching shows. I haven't generally been stressed over food because there's not going to be a food shortage anytime soon. I'm not

stressed over toilet paper because my family, despite everything, still has toilet paper left.

I'm trusting that later we will get a cure for covid-19 and everything becomes normal again. I feel that covid-19 will have a huge effect our future. Yes, I am worried over my grandparents, particularly my grandma, that is ill. She must be isolated, and I'm not extremely stressed over myself since I take care of myself. I have a good immune system.

I believe that this time I've been in isolation I will appreciate school more.

# Solitude

By 8<sup>th</sup> grader Andrew Sivess



Ever since COVID-19 (coronavirus) came to Texas, people have been living in solitude in their own homes.

While this affected most people's life, it didn't

affect me at all. In fact, the only way it affected me was by cancelling school, and a funeral, which is great because I didn't want to go to either.

Not much has changed for me, other than the fact I don't see people as often.

Online learning has also started, which can sometimes be overwhelming.

I get more time to play video games though, so that's cool.

The thing that worries me most is not having enough toilet paper. I only have three one-ply rolls left, and after that we must use napkins.

Hopefully this ends soon as I don't know how long I can deal with this. I rarely get sick, so I'm not worried about getting it. I'm worried about getting bored, but I know that when this is over, I'll be a pro gamer.

Also, if you have toilet paper, be grateful.

# I look forward to the day

By 8<sup>th</sup> grader Cody Fulenwider



Many people would do just about anything to have their spring break extended till the end of the school year. Now it seems like it will never end, and we will all always be stuck in the same cycle every day for the rest of our lives.

Hearing the news at first was like a dream come true, but as the days go by my opinion is starting to shift.

Not being able to see my friends has played a big role in how I think about this whole situation.

One thing is for sure, real school sure does beat online learning. Everyday seems like the day before including the meals that I eat. Rice, pasta and chicken in various forms

have become an overly frequent meal that I wish to take a break from. Also obtaining the necessities such as bottled water, toilet paper, cleaning supplies, and certain foods has become a challenge.

I look forward to the day when people no longer have to live in fear of becoming ill to the newly discovered coronavirus and hope that somehow something good will arise out of this terrible pandemic.

I look forward to the day when people don't have to cover their faces with masks, and I look forward to the day when doctors do not have to choose who wakes up and walks away.

Although that day seems far away, tomorrow that day will be just a little bit closer. Issues like this arise around every ten years, or so, and every time tears are shed, and graves are dug, but every time we get over it and come back stronger than we were before.

I believe that if we all take the necessary precautions and work together, we will get through this!

## My life in quarantine

By 8<sup>th</sup> grader Evaristo Hernandez

When I heard school was over, I couldn't believe it. I sighed a breath of relief and was concerned. It changed a lot of my plans for spring

break and the end of the year.

I wanted to be able to say bye to friends and finish out the year strong. Now I am stuck inside doing nothing but playing games and that does get boring after a while.

I feel the coronavirus is something to take seriously and the acts that are being taken will be thanked in the long run.

My life hasn't really changed since quarantine. I still do my work. I still try to exercise when I can, and basically just do me.

There are many things I am missing about school, mostly friends. You would be surprised on how much you miss them when they are taken away.

When I heard about the coronavirus, I wasn't really concerned about it, but as people started talking my view on it changed. Instead of trying to brush it off, I started to investigate way that I could keep myself and family safe.

I hope that soon that all this will be over, and we can go back to normal life. Although I have high hope about the future, I am almost certain that it will get worse before it gets better. I am not too worried for my

family. I feel that we are being safe enough to keep us from getting it. I feel that it won't have a big effect on my life as much as others.

# Quarantine check

By 8<sup>th</sup> grader Jaime Batista



Since the start of my quarantine, I thought I would have the time of my life, but I had just soon realized what would soon start to happen.

I should've known how serious this would've gotten so I could have prepared my mindset. Now my days just consist of waking up, brushing my teeth, doing my homework, playing games, and sleeping.

I don't know why I expected so much to come out of this "break," but I'm proud to say that I'm bored. I'm glad to be working in the enclosure of my home, yet after I'm done there is usually nothing to do. Though it's nice to be away from school occasionally.

If I had the option to go back to back to school without the risk of getting COVID-19, I would gladly come back. For now, I would say for everyone to stay home and wash your hands. Spreading the virus will only make it worse.

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