



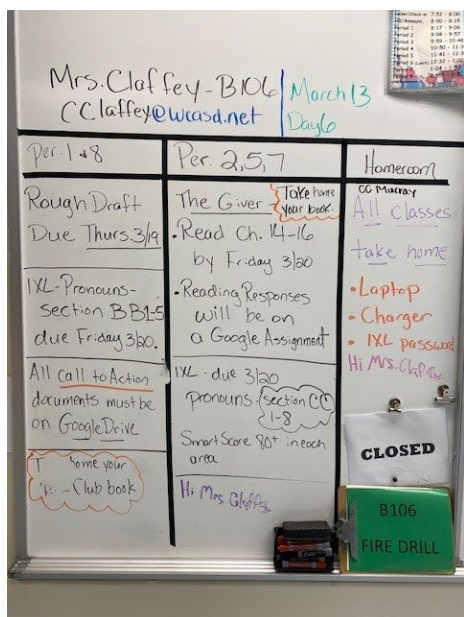
Falcon Flyer

Fall-Winter 2020-21

Remote-Hybrid-Cyber Edition

Published by the students of Stetson Middle School

Covid-19 Perspectives - Ups & Downs of school life in a pandemic



*By Leah Ambrosine (eighth grade), Liz Flood (sixth grade),
Jillian Silver (seventh grade), Sam Scheerer (seventh grade)*

On March 13th an immense group of students received the announcement that school will be closed temporarily for two weeks due to a global pandemic. Little did we know that 10 months later we would still be at home sitting behind a screen trying to learn new things and keep our grades up. Online school has many ups and downs and we will give tips from students and teachers on how to stay productive behind a screen. Wi-Fi is one of our biggest struggles as students when we are trying to log into a Zoom but all we see is a circle going round and round representing it is loading. We are so grateful for our understanding teachers that know what is going on

and how to help.

Having a quiet place in your house to learn and focus is very important while we are hybrid and cyber. You can set up a desk or a table to work. If your bedroom is the place in your house where you can focus the most, set up a table there and start working. If you can find somewhere outside of your room to work, I would recommend doing that so you do not spend an excessive amount of time in your room.

Interview Q&A

Interviewees: **Mr. Graham** (7th-grade social studies teacher and boys lacrosse coach), **Mr. Froio** (former Stetson boys lacrosse coach and Henderson teacher), **Mrs. Claffey** (Seventh grade English teacher and Falcon Flyer Advisor)

1: What is it like to do your job in a pandemic

“We have to adjust to this new lifestyle as it comes. It is challenging, but I hope adjusting will get better by spring, especially with teaching and in-school learning. We will be keeping masks on, maintaining social distancing, and keeping the CDC’s orders.”- Mr. Graham

“It is more challenging for me as a teacher than as a coach because I need to be more aware of the situations my students are in (ex: if they are changing classes). As a teacher and a coach, I need to be flexible and check-in with students and families as often as possible. - Mr. Froio

“It is always changing. The only certain thing is that things will change. It makes me focus on what is most important for the students to learn, so I am constantly reminding myself of that.” -Mrs. Claffey

2: What tips would you suggest keeping yourself and other people from struggles? (ex: tired eye syndrome, boredom, trying to catch up on school assignments)

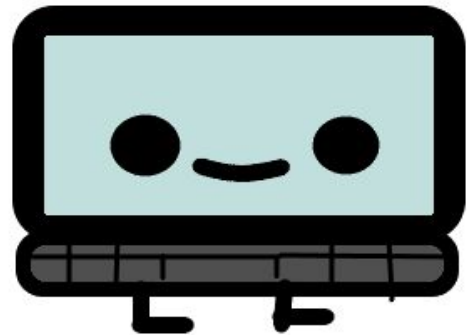
“We will have optional mask breaks following safety precautions so that might help give a break for the students. Teachers and coaches will try to make classes and activities more engaging for our students.” -Mr. Graham

“It is important to have a unique and creative lesson if possible. We will try to get rid of having the same routine over and over again. Now we just need to keep a positive attitude and good perspective.” - Mr. Froio

“Being organized with your schedule and time and writing down what you have to do is very important. Use a calendar and have friends and people you can trust to HELP you out.” - Mrs. Claffey

3: What would you suggest to new students?

“It's important to make connections with other students to be acclimated and feel like part of the community.” -Mr. Graham



“To keep communicating with your teachers and to not be afraid to join a club, sport, sit next to someone you don’t know and make some new friends.” - Mr. Froio

“To not be afraid to email your teachers.” - Mrs. Claffey

10 organization and motivation tips

1. Try many different spaces in your house to find the learning area that is best for you
2. Organize a planner, agenda, or some sort of calendar that helps you to remember information and assignments
3. Have a notes journal or make a section in each of your notebooks for notes in each class
4. Use a tool that helps with your learning style (tactile, visual, auditory)
5. Use Chrome Extension Sites to help you feel organized and prepared
6. Take breaks during school (if you have one between classes, or are allowed to take one)
7. Wear blue light glasses to prevent headaches and tired eyes.
8. Email teachers for small group dates during the check-ins period. Ask any questions that you may have.
9. To focus, light a candle, listen to calming music, get headphones/earbuds to block out background noise, or write down any things that you are worried about or need to remember and take care of them later
10. Join a small club or group that lets you be with your friends and relieve stress. (sports, arts, study, other)

4: What changes would you look to make if we have to go back to school/spend another year online?

“Everyone is trying to get off of the online system, add engaging things/activities, and be on top of the academic curriculum.” -Mr. Graham

“Our new hybrid system is really strong because we meet with students and their families as often as possible. It’s better when everyone is being flexible, especially right now.” -Mr. Froio



“I would stay with things that we are doing now like maintaining and having students turn on their screens off of zoom or participate in the class.” -Mrs. Claffey

5: Even though this pandemic has been difficult, what are the “silver linings” for you - have you had any positive experiences?

“I feel like it has opened up my ability to use different kinds of technology. It isn't my strong suit but being forced to learn it has helped.” - Mr. Graham

“This has been a tremendous growth point for all of the teachers. It isn't what I normally do, but being sympathetic to the students and the parents, and knowing that I have the support of the staff helps to get rid of the challenge.” - Mr. Froio

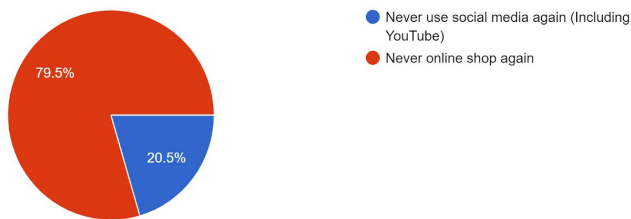
“I have learned to focus more on what is most important such as family and learning about myself. I am also growing an herb garden.” - Mrs. Claffey

“WOULD YOU RATHER” SURVEY RESULTS

By Aine Harner and Gabby Kahng (seventh grade)

We released a survey where participants had to answer a few “would you rather” questions. We were wondering how people would respond and wanted to compare the statistics. 166 students and teachers responded in total! It was surprising to find that there were questions with results so split, and some with sides much more dominant. We counted all responses between November 11th, to December 2nd, and we hope to have gotten as many as possible!

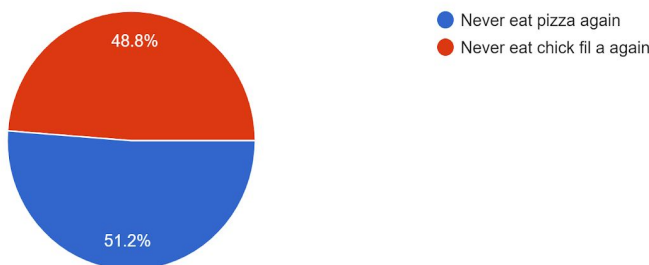
Would You Rather...
166 responses



Question 1 - Never use social media again (Including Youtube) OR Never online shop again. In this instance, the answer with the color red, never online shop again, was noticeably dominant over the option in blue, which was to never use social media again.

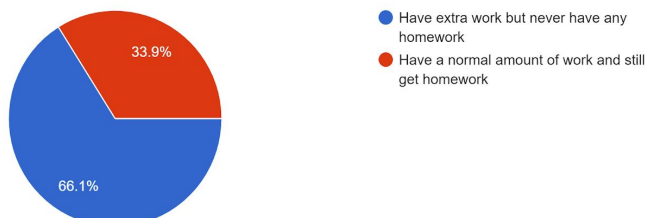
Never online shop again: 79.6% of votes
Never use social media again: 20.5% of votes

Would You Rather...
166 responses



Question 2 - Never eat pizza again OR Never eat Chick-Fil-A again. These two choices seemed hard for this one was pretty split, but the majority chose to never eat pizza again.
Never eat Chick-Fil-A again: 79.6% of votes
Never eat pizza again: 20.5% of votes

Would You Rather...
165 responses



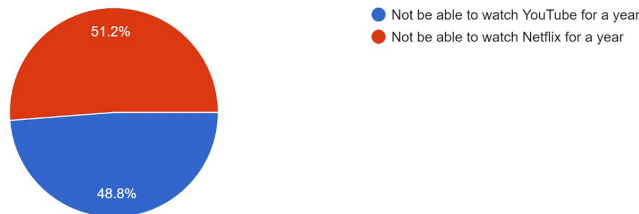
Question 3 - For question three, we asked if you'd rather have extra work and no

homework, or a normal amount of work and still be assigned homework. The option to have extra work, but no homework won with about $\frac{2}{3}$ of the votes.

A normal amount of work + homework: 33.9% of votes

Extra work and no homework: 66.1% of votes

Would You Rather...
166 responses

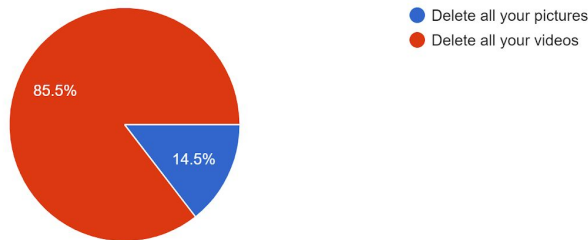


Question 4 - This was another question with pretty split results. While it was close, not watching Netflix for a year won by a little over 2 percent.

No Netflix for a year: 51.2% of votes

No YouTube for a year: 48.8% of the vote

Would You Rather...
166 responses

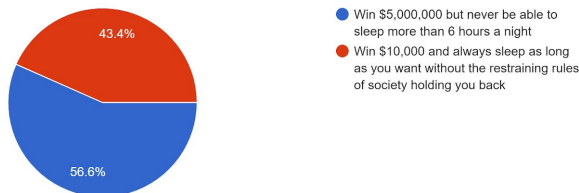


Question 5 - Here we asked if you would rather delete all of your videos, or all of your pictures. The vast majority of people said they'd rather delete all of their videos.

Delete all of your videos: 85.5% of votes

Delete all of your pictures: 14.5% of votes

Would You Rather...
166 responses

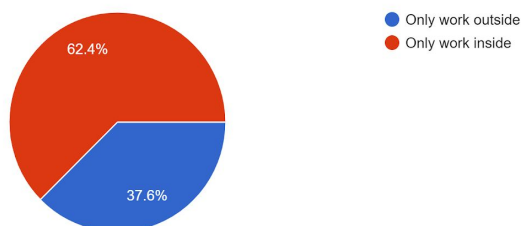


Question 6 - For this question, most people would have preferred to win \$5,000,000 but never sleep more than 6 hours a night.

Win \$10,000 + sleeping as long as you want: 43.4 % of votes

Win 5,000,000 + sleep 6 or less hours a night: 56.6% of votes

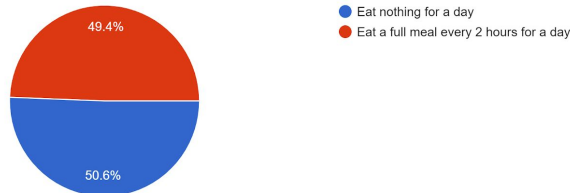
Would You Rather...
165 responses



Question 7 - 62.4% of people chose to only work inside, over only working outside.

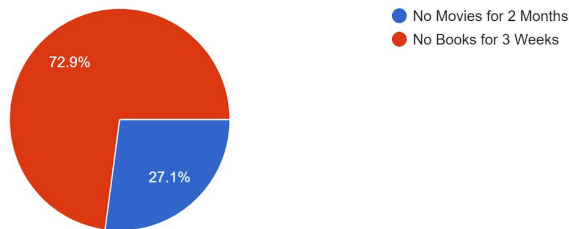
Only work inside: 62.4% of votes
Only work outside: 37.6% of votes

Would You Rather...
166 responses



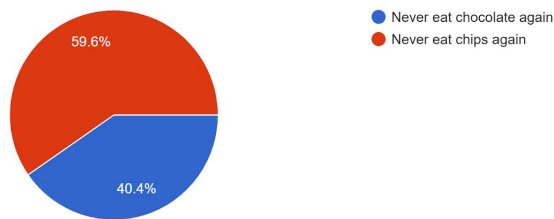
Question 8 - This was another split poll, with 50.6% of people saying they'd rather eat nothing for a day. **Eat a full meal every 2 hours: 49.4% of votes**
Eat nothing for a day: 50.6% of votes

Would You Rather...
166 responses



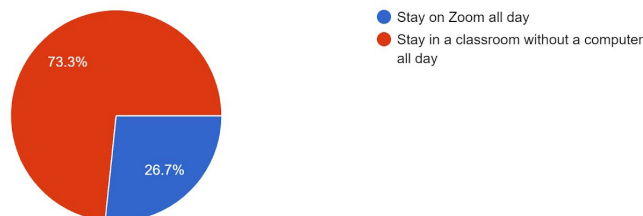
Question 9 - The majority of people said they'd rather have no books for three weeks. This option won quite prominently. **No books for 3 weeks: 72.9% of votes**
No Movie for 2 months: 27.1% of votes

Would You Rather...
166 responses



Question 10 - By about 10 percent, the option to never eat chips again, won over never eating chocolate again. **Never eat chips again: 59.6% of votes**
Never eat chocolate again: 40.4% of votes

Would You Rather...
165 responses



Question 11 - Finally, the majority of people chose to stay in a classroom without a computer all day. **Stay in a classroom without a computer: 73.3% of votes**
Stay on Zoom all day: 26.7% of votes

Cyber School: Tips & Tricks for Comfort and Organization

By Haylee Arabia (seventh grade, WC Cyber)

Let's face it, cyber school is a big change. With your bed and phone nearby, not even mentioning trying to work with siblings in the house, it can be a bit of a struggle. Luckily, there are some easy ways you can adapt to your new school environment!

Setting Up

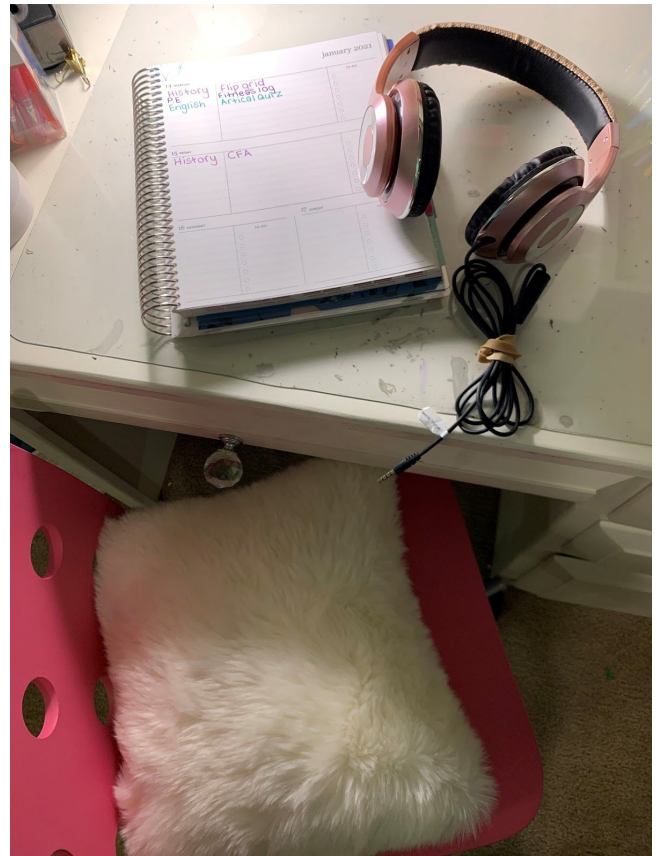
Your bed might be comfortable, but you're more likely to zone out or lose focus by laying in it. But really, who wants to sit in a hard kitchen table chair for hours on end? One thing you can do is get a seat cushion! You can put these on your chairs for comfort while remaining in a good posture. You can make your own [using this link!](#) Or, you can find a cheap cute one on a store like amazon! [Like this one here!](#)

While you're working, you probably want everything organized and in reach. I know I do! But you also might not want siblings getting all into your stuff by mistake. Here is a simple idea! Purchase a trifold, any size you would like. You can decorate it with your name, stickers, or whatever you'd prefer. You can attach light bins that you can find at the dollar store, which can hold pencils, markers, and anything else. Use pins to attach calendars to keep track of work, and even a clipboard to hold up papers! By personalizing your board, you can guarantee easy organization and the comfort of things you enjoy.

But what if I can't buy anything right now? Don't worry, I've got you. A magnetic cookie sheet can be a great idea if you aren't able to go shopping right now. Use fridge magnets to attach papers so they stay organized. It also doubles as a flat space for a laptop or print out.

Staying Focused

Now that electronic devices are available and in reach, it can be tempting to use them. But there are some ways to stay focused.



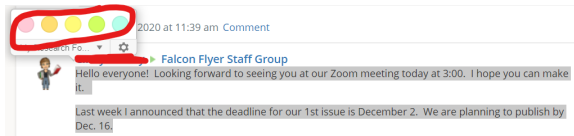
First is a simple game to keep yourself motivated. Have a parent or sibling hide your phone or device, and once you are done with the school day, you can look around the house for it. It'll keep you motivated, and looking forward to your free time afterward.

If you don't have anyone to do the game above with, you can always set timers. Timers can help you stay on track by giving you a goal to beat. Don't set the time too low or too high, as you can stress yourself out or rush your work.

As someone with two siblings, it's annoying to hear them all day long. Headphones can be really useful. Try picking out a 5 dollar pair of headphones, [Like these at 5 below!](#) Even try letting a younger sibling decorate their pair with removable stickers. They'll be excited to wear something they create, and you can work in peace.

Remembering Everything

Schoology can be a pretty tricky tool to navigate because every teacher organizes work differently. Something I would suggest is going through and writing down all the assignments you have to do for the day, and use it as a checklist. You can use a planner [like this one](#) to keep track of all your assignments. You can even just use a plain piece of paper! You can also add [Weava](#), a google chrome highlighter extension that allows you to highlight assignments, and documents. (See attached image).



It's definitely a challenge, but we can make it through, and especially with some of these tips to enhance your online experience.





What is going on in Armenia?

(And what can I do to help?)

*Reporting and photography by Alena Sinton,
7th grade*

Many people don't realize what is going on in Armenia. Right now, the nation is under attack by terrorists.

What and where is Armenia?

First, you need to know what and where Armenia is. Armenia is a country located in Western Asia, surrounded by Turkey, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Artsakh, and Iran. Armenia has only a population of 3 million people. An interesting and important fact about Armenia is that Armenia was the first Christian nation in the world.

Who is attacking Armenia, and why?

As we speak, Armenia is being bombed, and shot down by neighboring countries, Turkey and Azerbaijan. These countries are attacking Armenia for the land. And they are the terrorists who started the Armenian

Extra facts about Armenia

- The Armenian alphabet is one of the world's most complex and advanced alphabet.
- Mountain Ararat is a national symbol in Armenia.
- Mountain Ararat is also a place where people believe Noah's Ark is.
- Chess is apart of the curriculum in public schools, as chess is very popular in Armenia.
- Armenia has a lot of birds in the country! There are 359 species of birds .

Genocide in 1915.

They are planning on starting another Genocide, and it is time we stop them. Turkey and Azerbaijan are burning down crosses, churches, and anything Christian.

The people of Azerbaijan and Turkey want to take over Armenia's land. They are bombing, killing innocents, burning down churches, for more land.

Armenia has always been a poor country, and there are a lot of people in need, and many young lives at risk.

Imagine...

If you can't understand how important this attack is, listen.

"Imagine you woke up in your comfortable bed, and are having a great day. You continue on with your day, and go downstairs to make breakfast. As you are enjoying your breakfast, you hear knocking on your door. Your neighbors are standing at the door, with many frightened children by their side. They are telling you that you need to leave, and burn your whole house down."

This is exactly what is happening in Armenia.

And just a few months ago, the President of Armenia, Armen Sarkissian, gave an interview to the news.

He states in this interview,

"My nation doesn't need to prove anything to anybody. The strength of the Armenian Armed Forces and the spirit of the Armenian nation were showcased during the first war in Nagorno-Karabakh in the late 80s. So, it's not about a simple



Me at a protest in Washington D.C

calculation of numbers and quantity. We fight for our homes, our homeland, children, and the preservation of the Armenian cultural heritage of thousands of years. This is what some fail to understand.” The President explains how Armenia is **fighting** for their lives. How young children and orphans are left on the street with no family or food.

He says that Armenia will keep fighting, as we have done so for thousands of years. Armenia’s religion will always stay alive, and will proudly, and always be known as the first Christian nation.

What are ways that I can help?

There are many ways that you can help Armenia. We need to **spread the news** about Armenia. So, please try to send this information to friends and family. We are trying our hardest to save Armenia.

Currently, I have been protesting. I have been going to New York, Washington D.C, Philadelphia multiple times, to wave our flag and spread the news.

The picture to the left shows me at a protest in New York City. →

And, here are some links the Armenian community would love for you to use:

<https://www.armenianfund.org/>

<https://www.soar-us.org/>

<https://armenianwoundedheroes.com/>

These links support Armenia tremendously. Please take your time to read more articles, and understand the pain that innocent Armenians are going through.

Thank you for taking the time to read this article.

2020 may have cancelled a lot of things, **but it WILL NOT cancel Armenia!**



Consider this:

A Call for Indigenous Peoples' Day

By Bridget Casey, 8th grade

Since colonization, the Indigenous people of the North and South American continents have faced severe injustice and oppression. Indigenous Peoples Day is a holiday recognized in a few of the American states, such as California, Nevada, and Tennessee, on the second Monday of October, but I am trying to make it a national level holiday, being celebrated rather than Columbus Day for numerous reasons.

For one, Christopher Columbus didn't discover the American continents. There were already people there, including the Inuit people in Northern Canada, the Lenape in Delaware, the Aztecs in Mexico, and many other groups of people native to the area. There is also evidence that the Vikings landed in North America in the 10th century, around 1000 A.D., nearly 5 centuries before Columbus. All things considered, he shouldn't be credited with "discovering" America at all.

Additionally, when he did reach America he brought with him devastation for the native people upon whose land he trespassed. With him he brought diseases that the natives weren't immune to, wiping out many of the communities. He forced many of the surviving Natives into slavery to serve him and his conquest of their land. At the time, the International



Slave Trade was starting to flourish, and he subjected them to extreme brutality and violence. Once he was in the "New World," as he called it, he ordered for many of the natives to be captured, writing in his journal that he thought they would make good servants, and sending them to the island of Hispaniola, but many died on the boat there. He enacted policies which forced natives into

labor for the sake of his profit, and when they revolted, he had many killed, and paraded their dismembered bodies around for the survivors to see.

Furthermore, he forced the natives to convert to Christianity and European norms, and to abandon their own cultures. He also dug up their land in search of gold and other valuable metals. The European settlers took their land, forcing them to go out west, deserting their native land. Today, very little native land is left untouched, with few reservations dotting across the country. Even so, the Indigenous people in the Americas today are still fighting to protect the land of their ancestors. An example of this is the Dakota Pipeline Protests in April of 2016. These protests were held by natives belonging to the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, who believed that the pipes would put the Missouri River (which is the water source for the Standing Rock Indian Reservation) at risk.

In the end, Columbus was a horrible person who doesn't deserve a holiday at all, let alone one that outshines the one that

acknowledges the sufferings of the people he massacred whose beautiful cultures he erased. Therefore, I believe that Indigenous Peoples Day should be a holiday recognized by the entire country of the United States of America, rather than just a handful of states and territories.

Over the course of the past few decades, more and more areas of the North and South American continents have begun to recognize Indigenous Peoples Day, although, depending on where you are, it might be under a different name, like First People's Day or Native American Day. However, most Americans are still unaware that the holiday even exists.

I have started a [petition](#), of which only 3 people have signed, on change.org for this exact reason. I am hoping you'll take time out of your day to sign it. If I receive enough signatures, I hope to bring this issue to the attention of the Senate.

Images courtesy of University of Colorado, Denver and Posterenvy.com



Among Us:

The New Biggest Quarantine Obsession

By Diya Lakshmanan and Christina Grisillo

Among Us is a game that has become really popular among people of all ages. It is now the latest obsession people have in the pandemic. From YouTubers to elementary school students, everyone enjoys playing the game and the multiple components of it. There might be some people out there that don't know



what Among Us is. This article will help you understand what Among Us is, and ways to win the game.... Whether it's as the **imposter** or a **crewmate**.

The Basics (General Information): The general concept of Among Us is there are **Crewmates** who go on a Spaceship to a base (the map) and complete **tasks**. The **Imposter** has to sabotage, vent, and kill all of the **Crewmates** before they are able to finish all of their **tasks**. There is a maximum of 10 players in a round, with a limit of three **Imposters**. **Tasks** are simple minigames that boost a **taskbar**, and once the **taskbar** is filled, the **Crewmates** win if the **Imposter/s** are still alive. There can be anywhere from three to 10 **tasks**, with a maximum of two common **tasks** (**tasks** all of the **Crewmates** have to do), three long **tasks** (**tasks** that require you to go to more than one room on the map), and five short **tasks** (**tasks** that are done with one room).



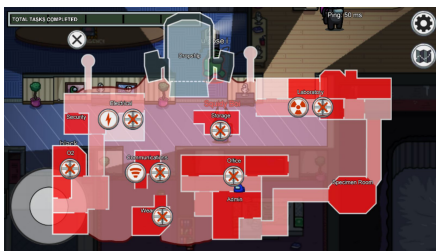
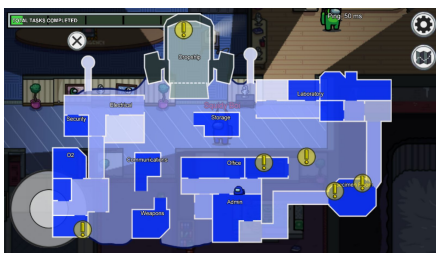
There are 3 maps to choose from: Mira HQ (best for a low amount of players), The Skeld (best for a medium amount of players), and Polus (best for a high amount of players). There are two ways to play: join/create a Public game (a game that people all around the world

can join) or join/create a Private game (a game where people have to enter a code to join). All rounds have a code, but if the setting for the game is Private, then entering the code is required.

Circled In:

Settings for the round (Kill Cooldown, Task Count, Etc.), Public/Private Setting, Customize your avatar and if you're host (see yellow), Chat, Code.

The Different Maps (Left to Right): Polus, The Skeld, Mira HQ, and then an **Imposter Sabotage Map** (For Polus). !'s are where the person playing's **tasks** are.



Crewmate Tips: If you are a **Crewmate**, then your number one goal is to get all of your **tasks** done. If all **Crewmates** complete their **tasks**, then the **Crewmates** win and beat the **Imposter/s**. After you finish all your **tasks**, then you should try finding out who the **imposter** is.

Tips and tricks:

- It's easiest to keep your map open while going to **tasks**, because then you know you're 100% going the right way.
- Watch out for the vents; you never know if there's a surprise attack
- Always make sure to have an alibi, and be aware of your surroundings for when there's discussion time.
- Go to Security, Vitals, or Admin if you finish your **tasks** early. It makes you not look suspicious (sus), and helps you figure out who the **imposter** might be (If you



see security cameras go on, a fun thing to do is a dance for them).

- When around other people in the game and if someone is doing a **task**, check to see if the **taskbar** goes up after they finish it (this is not always accurate because sometimes the **taskbar** glitches).

Imposter Tips: If you are **Imposter**, then you already know what your main goal is; to sabotage all the systems and kill all the **crewmates**. The best way for you to achieve this goal is by continuously sabotaging, pretending to do **tasks**/hang around in Security/Admin/Vitals, going along with other people and pretending to gain their trust, and then kill them when they least expect it.

Here are some tricks for you:

- If you're playing a game with more than one **imposter**, go along with them and pretend to do **tasks** with them. This way you'll have an alibi.
- Sabotaging the lights is the best way to kill people. Even though lights themselves don't kill the round in a certain time like O2 and Seismic Stabilizers, it's good because then **Crewmates** can't see anything. This makes them vulnerable and easier to kill.
- If you are in an area where there are security cameras, be careful of what you do if they are on and someone is watching them.
- If you have a hard time finding people to murder, then go to admin and check the Admin table to find out where people are and how many people there are in a room.
- Be careful of venting and the people around you; make sure the coast is clear when you vent.
- If you are **Imposter** with another person/other people and they are caught killing, venting, or the entire discussion is voting the other **Imposter** out, then you should too, unless there's any ways of saving them. It makes you seem normal and not sus, while still giving **Imposters** a chance to win.

Among Us has proven itself to be the game of quarantine and the Year of 2020. It brings people together in these difficult and uncertain times and provides a remote way to have fun. Anyone and everyone can enjoy it, so if you haven't already, download Among Us and join all the murders, **tasks**, and fun!

To Binge or Not to Binge

By Angelo Mesolongi (seventh grade)

(Issue #1)

This week on to binge or not to binge.....Adventure Time!!!

Adventure Time was one of the most popular shows on Cartoon Network in the early to mid-2010s and has been a huge influence to children's animation as a whole-- but was it ever good? While this is a very subjective question, I, Angelo the Great, will try to answer it looking at the start, the middle and the end

The Beginning



All shows have interesting beginnings and Adventure Time is definitely one of them. The show's first episode was "Slumber Party Panic." It definitely showed you a glimpse into a wacky post-apocalyptic world. There wasn't much depth at the time with most of the comedy relying on something insane happening like cannibalistic candy zombies or a magic shape-shifting dog. Although the first few seasons weren't the greatest, they led way to some extremely well-made episodes cartoon-wise.

The Middle

Although the first four seasons didn't try many new concepts or ideas that could translate into adult's lives and only relied on wackiness as a structure, seasons 4 and on did the exact opposite. Episodes like "Simon and Marcy," "Be More," and "Frost and Fire" really did an amazing job at showing kids different morals and lessons. Even if many of the episodes were limited to a child audience due to their nature, there were definitely many examples that stood out from the rest.

The Finale

I wanted to create this article to recommend shows to “binge” and a very large part of my and most people’s opinions derive from the ending. Adventure Time has one of the greatest, most climactic and satisfying endings ever created (in my opinion). Every character that we have grown to know is very relevant and plays a huge role in the last moments. I don’t want to spoil anything so I’ll let you watch it.



So is it binge-worthy?!

...

100%!

Although the beginning is a bit rough the later seasons really make up for it, the finale is amazing and extremely satisfying and with a new miniseries coming to HBO Max now is the perfect time to start binging.

Photo credit: HBO Max

The Cursed Story of Baba Yaga

By Sophia Pirone and Molly McCoy, eighth grade

Slavic folklore weaves you the tale of the ghastly sorceress, Baba Yaga. This grisly woman is known to be either a friend or foe to those who seek her out. Her purpose is clouded with confusion but anyone who's heard her story knows not to cross her path unless necessary. She is a great sign of taboo and fear for those of Slavic descent. If you're up for the fright of Baba Yaga, stick around as we give you the facts.



Background Information

Her nationality is Russian, but her legend is told in Ukraine and Belarus as well. After doing some digging, we discovered that Baba translates to grandma in some Slavic languages, perhaps describing her more maternal characteristics. Her role is detrimental to stories because she determines one's fate based off of the things they say and do.

History

She is said to be either one woman or three sisters who go by the same name. Her hut can be found deep in the woods, encompassed by a fence of human bones and standing on two large chicken legs. Britannica.com describes her as "an ogress who steals, cooks, and eats her victims, usually children. A guardian of the fountains of the water of life...she can ride through the air—in an iron kettle or in a mortar that she drives with a pestle—creating tempests as she goes. She often accompanies Death on his travels, devouring newly released souls." Baba Yaga "helps or hinders" those who seek her out.

Appearance

Ancient-origins.net describes her as "skinny with iron teeth." Her nose is so long that it touches the ceiling when she lays down. She is unkept and distorted looking due to the poor living conditions in her hut. Baba Yaga often has wild and unruly hair, as well as yellowing, wrinkled, skin. Some tales claim that Baba Yaga only has one leg, but this has never been confirmed or denied.



You Decide...

Now that we have told you all you need to know about Baba Yaga, you decide whether she would make a fearsome foe or helpful friend. Thanks for stopping by, and remember, if you see a hut in the woods, it might just be Baba Yaga.

Sources en.wikipedia.org; www.ancient-origins.net; russiapedia.rt.com; www.britannica.com; www.vice.com; [Image Sources](#)

FINDING THE KAL QULATOR

By JUGAD SINGH (sixth grade)

Math, math, math. Decimals and fractions, x's and y's, I need help. 8×8 ? What is it? I click the 'panic button' for help in my constraining breakout room. The teacher comes quickly and releases me from the monster's grip. She tells me to try a Kal Qulator. I turn to ask her who the Kal Qulator is, but she has left. I go down the steps to my mom's office place.

"Hey, mom!"

She hisses for me to be quiet. She is in a meeting.

I open the door and breathe in the fresh air. OK, Kal Qulator, here I come.

I knock on the neighbor's door and they open it, to my surprise.

"Yes?"

"What is a Kal Qulator?"

"Why do you need a Kal Qulator?" he asks.

"I need to know eight times eight."

He laughs so hard I think his brains might come out.

"It's sixty-four!" He runs inside and throws a rectangular shaped object into my arms.

"And it's called a 'calculator', not a Kal Qulator."

I run back home, and to my dismay my paper is now overdue. I punch in the number 64 on my keyboard and click submit.

It is correct!

I look down at the Kal Qulator and smile.

"Thanks."



Meteor Showers & Other Astronomical Events

By. Bridget Casey, 8th grade

With how much is happening here on Earth, I doubt you gave the events of the atmosphere and beyond a second thought. I bet you didn't even know there was a meteor shower peaking in Philadelphia on the night of November 16th to the 17th. Because of this, I will give you a quick rundown of the (kinda) recent cosmic events. If you want to learn more about something I discuss, I suggest using a wonderful tool known as Google.

HUNTER'S MOON:

As most of you know, the moon on Halloween was beautiful. From around 5-7, the moon was huge, and cast off an eerie orange light rather than a crisp white-blue, as seen on normal nights. This moon was known as a Blue Moon, or a Hunter's Moon, which is the first full moon after a Harvest Moon.



METEOR SHOWERS PEAKING NEARBY:

Before this year, I assumed meteor showers were rare, but after more research into dates, they seem to occur once or twice a month. The ones mentioned below will/did peak in Philadelphia, meaning that was the best place to see them from.

Draconids: September 7-8, 2020

Orionids: September 20-21, 2020

Leonids: November 16-17, 2020

Geminids: December 13-14, 2020

Ursids: December 21-22, 2020

There are also ones in early 2021 on:

Quadrantids: January 2-3, 2021

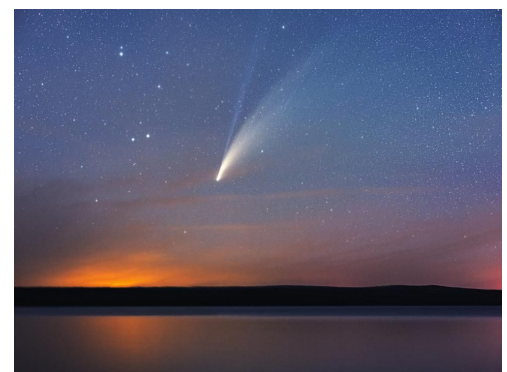
Lyrids: April 21-22, 2021

Eta Aquarids: May 5-6, 2021



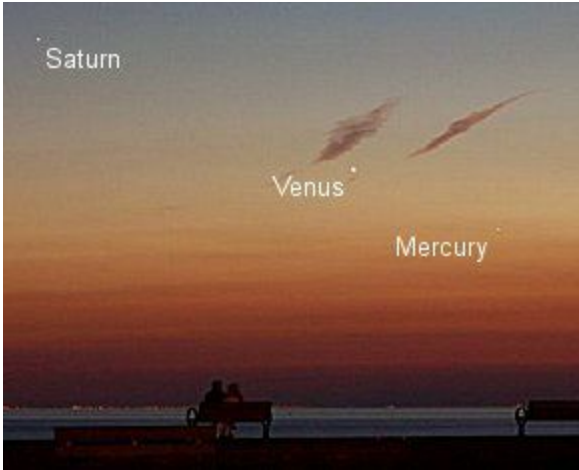
COMET NEOWISE:

Comets are a wonderful thing. As a child, you probably called them "shooting stars," and you still might make a wish on them every once in a while. Comets like Halley's Comet, which is arguably the most famous one, only come close to Earth once in a lifetime, and we experienced one in the dumpster fire that we call 2020. It was called NEOWISE, and completes an orbit every 4400AUs inbound. It has a 113 observation period and was observed 376 times. It was classified as a comet on March 31, 2020.



THE GREAT CONJUNCTION OF DECEMBER, 2020:

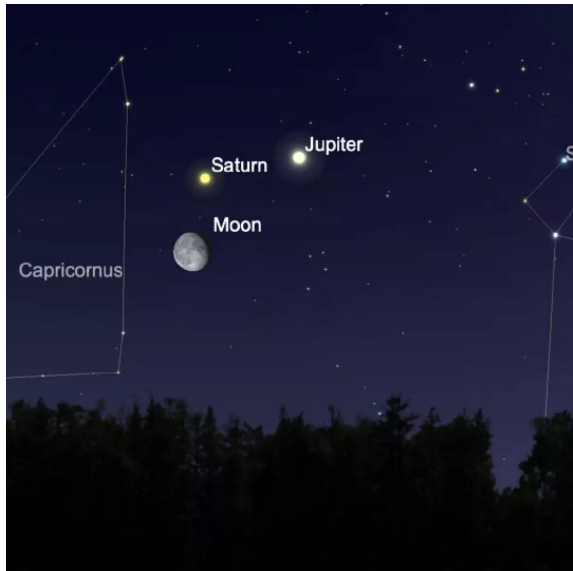
Now, I doubt you know what a conjunction in astronomy is, so let me try to explain it. A conjunction (symbol \sphericalangle) occurs when two astronomical objects or spacecraft have either the same right ascension or the same ecliptic longitude, usually observed from Earth. Right ascension (symbol α) is “the angular distance of a particular point measured Eastward along the celestial equator from the Sun at the March equinox to the point in question above the Earth,”¹ and ecliptic longitude “measures the angular distance of an object along the ecliptic from the primary direction.”²



The picture to the left is of a conjunction of Saturn, Venus, and Mercury that peaked June 25, 26, and 27, 2020. This conjunction is of Jupiter and Saturn, the two of biggest planets in our solar system, with Jupiter having a surface area of 23.71 billion mi^2 , and Saturn having one of 16.29 billion mi^2 , with the next biggest planet being Uranus, which has a surface area of 3.121 billion mi^2 . For comparison, Earth’s surface area covers 196.9 million mi^2 .

A conjunction of these planets only happens every 20 years, and the gas giants haven’t been this close to Earth since 1623. 1623 was also the year of the First Thanksgiving, and only 14 years after Galileo made his first telescope in 1619. It was also the year the word “insomnia” was added to the dictionary.

We experienced this astronomical phenomenon on December 21st around 45 minutes after sunset, facing Southwest. It appeared near the constellation Capricornus and the constellation Microscopium. While searching for planets, remember: stars twinkle, planets don’t. Planets often shine much brighter, as well, since their atmospheres reflect the light of the sun. Happy stargazing!



¹ From the Wikipedia article on right ascension

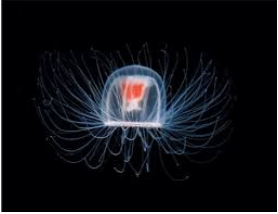
² From the Wikipedia article on ecliptic longitude

Creatures of the deep

Vol I.

By: Jane Goodwin (seventh grade)

Today's Topic: Jellyfish



Jellyfish can come in so many shapes and sizes and can be found all over the world! Some can be the size of your fingernail and could paralyze you with one sting, and some are so harmless you can eat them. Many are used as clues to unlock the mystery of our oceans. So today I'm going to talk about three unique species of jellyfish I think you'll find interesting.

Lion's mane jellyfish

The Lion's mane jellyfish, also known as the giant jellyfish, is one of the largest species of jellyfish known to man. Its tentacles can grow longer than 100 ft but it can only live for a year. It lives in cold waters like the Arctic and northern Pacific and Atlantic oceans. This jellyfish's diet consists of a variety of fish as well as zooplankton and smaller jellyfish. The biggest Lion's mane jellyfish ever discovered was in 1865 off the coast of Massachusetts with a bell size (A bell is the umbrella-like cover that holds the mouth) of 210 centimeters (7 ft) and tentacles 36.6 m (120ft) long.

Website:



The Immortal Jellyfish

The Immortal jellyfish is exactly what its name suggests. This jellyfish can not die of old age. Whenever it feels threatened, all it needs is a hard surface to land on and it can start its life cycle over again. At the very beginning of its life is just tiny free-swimming larvae, but when it's old enough it will attach to the seafloor and begin the aging process. Once attached it will start growing like a flower and over time the head of the



it

"flower" will detach from the rest of itself and form the jellyfish. These jellyfish are only about the size of your fingernail, so they eat small plankton and larvae that roam the water.

The Cauliflower jellyfish

The Cauliflower jellyfish is a species of jellyfish given their name because of their close resemblance of the vegetable. This jellyfish can be found mainly in the Pacific ocean, though it has been spotted in the Atlantic off the coast of south Africa. The Cauliflower jellyfish can grow relatively large with its bell size reaching a diameter of 1.5 to 1.9 feet. Much like the cauliflower, this jellyfish is considered a delicacy throughout China and Japan. These animals are also used for medical purposes all around the world.



Sources:

<https://www.britannica.com/animal/lions-mane-jellyfish>;

<https://www.discovermagazine.com/planet-earth/the-immortal-jellyfish>;

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/2018/10/jellyfish-species-reproduction-feeding-ocean/>

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Falcon Flyer Newspaper Club meets remotely on Wednesdays from 3-4 p.m. for writing, editing, photography and design. New members are always welcome. Contact Mrs. Claffey for more information.
