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# Knightline

## COVID-19 = Spring Quarantine

Jason Woo  
Staff Writer

Spring break is always the week that people eagerly anticipate as they manage the chaos of the school year. It gives students another opportunity to spend time away from the stress and madness of the school year, allowing everyone to enjoy a final respite. Students can go on vacation, see family, or even just enjoy the peace and quiet of their own home.

However, since the COVID-19 outbreak began to escalate in mid-March, the government opted to initiate the shutdown of most non-essential businesses while advising people to stay indoors and stay home--apart from other people, no less. As a result, most people cancelled their plans for spring break either due to personal concern for the virus or because travelling had been rendered impossible.

The coronavirus, or COVID-19, began appearing in early January of this year. Many paid no attention to the occurrences, possibly due to the fact that the cases only seemed to surface in China; personally, I thought it was just another scare that would briefly run its course.

Little did anyone know, though, the virus had most likely spread much earlier than January and had originated in Europe rather than China; moreover, the advent of more prevalent testing sites has revealed but a certain percentage of the myriad number of cases. As of April 23, there were close to 900,000 confirmed cases in the United States and over 47,000 deaths. Understandably,

because of the highly contagious nature of the coronavirus, all nonessential businesses and schools have closed, the latter resorting to online video sessions to maintain operations.

The pandemic has, of course, affected DC students as well. Fellow junior Jack Dill was planning to visit New Orleans for the majority of break, with intentions of visiting colleges and furthering the school selection process. As were most people's plans, this was cancelled. Jack reflects, "It was disappointing of course, but it's for the best. It is indeed impactful for my college application process, as it will be difficult without any visits possible to really get a feel for the schools." Indeed, acknowledging the weight of the pandemic and withholding personal interests for the sake of public health is the right thing to do.

Unfortunately, most people blew off the warning signs of the virus, making the subsequent onslaught that much harder. In fact, junior Corin Sacks admits to being one of these people: "I was one of those optimistic people. I did have my doubts, but my inner sense knew that the spread would be a lot more than it already had been."

Nevertheless, the coronavirus should not be able to completely depress our community, provided that we stay mentally and physically strong during the pandemic. Just as Corin recognizes the importance of caution, he also says, "My goal wasn't convincing people that we would still have school; it was giving them hope. It's terrible what is going on, but your situation is what you make of it, so be positive and stay healthy as best you can."



First-year journalists (top right clockwise) Z Nekoumand, Reed Roberts, Jason Shaw, and Jason Woo are finding ways to cope with the quarantine.

## My Life In Quarantine

Jason Shaw  
Staff Writer

March 14, 2020 was the day it all started: the day when the people were forced to social distance due the recently discovered coronavirus.

Before COVID-19, life was pretty normal at Delaware County Christian School. I could have fun with my friends and enjoy playing in the gym or even outside on the field. Learning was much easier because I enjoyed a closer level of interaction with teachers, which was very helpful. On weekends, everything was fine. I could go to the gym, to

the park, and even visit my friends or families. I would have at least some form of human interaction with people outside and wouldn't have to watch my distance from others. My life outside of school and at home were fine--that is, until March 14.

When the stay-at-home rule was put in place and the quarantine began, it was a nightmare. Not only did I have to avoid going outside as often, but our school switched to online school (also known as distance learning). My first exposure to distance learning was pretty bad; the teachers sent an overwhelming amount of emails, the times and schedules were changed, and the level of interaction between teacher and student dipped.

As a result, what I do for school is mostly dependent on me because there isn't a teacher

in person to look out for me and tell me what's missing. It's all up to me to control the level of effort I put in to do my homework and the level of attention that I give to my classes.

Also, at home, it feels as if I'm trapped in my own house. I can't go to the gym or go to stores with my friends. Instead, I spend most of my time in school and working out at home. However, what's important is that even though I'm stuck at home and can't do much, there is still a positive outlook out of all of this. I can spend more time with my family, strengthen my relationship with the Lord, and find ways to better myself as a person.

Personally, despite the drawbacks of distance learning, I see time like this as an opportunity to focus on myself and improve in any way that I can.

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## Learning at a Distance

Reed Roberts  
Staff Writer

In the past two months, the world has changed due to the Covid-19. With the government mandating social distances, schools are no longer able to meet in person. As a result of this, schools across America have shifted to digital education, commonly known as distance learning. In late March, DC began such a program.

With students and faculty working from home, there are many changes in the daily life of the DC community. Admittedly, adapting to distance learning has been difficult. Basements, kitchens, and living rooms have suddenly become classrooms. Students and teachers are now relying heavily upon technology in order to communicate and

learn. Although the transition is challenging, this new way of life is becoming more and more familiar each week.

While there are many challenges with distance learning, there are numerous positive changes. For example, without sports and group activities, there is now more time to spend with family, read a book, or learn a new skill. Also, students don't have to wake up as early. "I like being able to wake up later and get more rest," stated sophomore Owen Cook.

Despite the pandemic, there are many things to be grateful for. Most importantly, DC has been blessed with great teachers who are able to help their students adapt to change while also having to adapt themselves. Of particular importance is that they are posting assignments, links and class times on FACTS and Google Classroom.

"I like that my teachers are helpful with giving us directions and helping us get our work done with reminders," noted junior Abbi Heacock. "Distance learning can be frustrating, but the teachers are doing a great job helping us navigate through it."

While the DC community continues to adapt to distance learning, there are many traditions that remain. Classes are still able to meet, and students are still able to learn in a Christian environment. In April, DC was even able to come together to worship in a virtual format during all-school Easter chapel.

Although the future may be uncertain and classes can't meet in person, DC continues to move forward to prove that even the coronavirus can't stop education from happening.

# God Amidst The Virus

Sydney Shaw  
Staff Writer

“The sovereignty of God is all-encompassing and all-pervasive. He holds absolute sway over this world,” says John Piper, pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota, for 33 years.

The world sparked into panic when a disease COVID-19 was discovered and deemed the “Coronavirus.” According to John Hopkins Medicine, “COVID-19 symptoms include cough, fever, shortness of breath, muscle aches, sore throat, unexplained loss of taste or smell, diarrhea and headache. COVID-19 can be severe, and some cases have caused death.” Indeed this pandemic is highly contagious, for which a vaccine has not yet been created. Thus far, the only way for people to protect themselves from the virus is through prevention, which involves staying home when sick and wearing a cloth face covering when going outside.

It appears that COVID-19 first appeared in Wuhan, China during December of 2019. Although health officials are still uncovering the exact source of this new COVID-19, early hypotheses indicated that it may be associated with a seafood market in the aforementioned area. Reports are that some people who visited the market developed viral pneumonia caused by the new coronavirus. Furthermore, a recent study in 2020 notes that the individual with the first reported case became ill on December 1, 2019, a case which had no link to the seafood market. Investigations are ongoing as to how this virus originated and spread.

While the world is consumed with this pandemic, how does God want Christians to respond? To begin with, some people believe that the Coronavirus is prophesied in the Bible. They turn to Luke 21:11, which reads, Jesus says that one of the signs of Christ’s return would be pestilences: “And there will be great earthquakes in various places, and famines and pestilences; and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven.” (KJV)

The word *pestilence* is defined as a plague or disease, such as The Black Death and Ebola. Could the Coronavirus and these other plagues indeed be the signs of Christ’s return?

Even with this in mind, Christians must know not to fall into panic like the rest of the world but to hold steadfast onto God and to trust in His plan. Despite the stressful and scary times, God always prevails. According to Jeremiah 17:7-8, “But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.”



Graduating journalism staff include (clockwise from top) John Finnell (4 years); Belle Evans (2 years); and Sydney Shaw (3 years).

# Comfort Zone

John Finnell  
Editor

Heart pounding, head spinning, adrenaline pumping--one might think I was about to sprint the 100-meter dash in the Olympic Games. Instead, I stood up for a casual presentation in front of a few more than a dozen of my fellow sixth-grade classmates.

Up until freshman year, I was never the person to go out of my way to talk to people or involve myself in activities that were not required; if something was foreign to me, you could count me out. Moreover, if I did not already know somebody, chances are I would not approach them.

Consequently, I missed out on friendships and experiences that can never be re-lived. I often told myself that I would do things differently tomorrow or the day after; but, as I continued to repeat that promise, days, weeks, months, semesters, and years passed by.

I cannot pinpoint a singular moment in time where revelation struck and I began to step outside my realm of confined activity; the transition was gradual. The culmination of my parents’ pushing, classmates’ commendations, and self-searching led me to take a

step in a direction other than school work.

Eventually, I found outlets that offered me genuine enjoyment such as journalism, Junior Achievement, RED team, track and field, robotics, and golf.

While I am no William Shakespeare, Mark Cuban, Vincent Van Gogh, Usain Bolt, Elon Musk, or Tiger Woods in my respective activities, I still greatly enjoy the time I have spent in each. Having met new people, experienced new things, and learned through experience, I only regret participating in the extracurriculars so late.

Without question, stepping outside of my comfort zone was the best decision I have made. Without making the transition, I do not know who I would currently be or what more I would have missed.

If I were to give new high schoolers one piece of advice, I would tell them to try as many things as possible. If they do not like something new, move on to something else. With that said, waste no time next year in stepping outside of your comfort zone because I assure you that no matter how uncomfortable the initial push is, the ensuing experience or lesson is worth the effort.

# AOC: An Irrepressible Voice

Belle Evans  
Staff Writer

In 2018, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez became the youngest woman to serve in the United State Congress. She was sworn in as New York’s 14th District’s representative at age 29, after working as a waitress and bartender for years. Today, she is famous and known by most Americans, even those uninterested in politics.

Representative Ocasio Cortez (AOC) was raised just outside the Bronx in Yorktown, NY and had family living in the Bronx whom she often visited. From a young age, AOC saw the stark differences in opportunities people had based on their zip codes. After high school, she attended Boston University, where she worked for Senator Ted Kennedy and saw firsthand the heartbreak families endured after being separated by ICE. These experiences led Ocasio-Cortez to organize the Lantinx Youth in the Bronx, as well as across the country. She then became the Educational Director of the National Hispanic Institute; in this role she helped Americans, DREAMers and undocumented youth in community leadership and college readiness.

In 2008, just before AOC started her sophomore year at Boston University, her father died of lung cancer. This forced her family to sell their home, and AOC began working extra shifts waitressing and bartending. Nevertheless, she graduated from Boston University with a degree in Economics and International Relations.

In 2018, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez beat ten-term incumbent Joe Crowley, drawing national attention. Since her swearing in as a congressional representative, she has introduced several pieces of legislation, most notably the Green New Deal, which outlines the framework for a comprehensive plan to combat climate change by creating millions of high-wage jobs in new green industries, thereby transitioning our energy system and building new infrastructure.

Ocasio-Cortez has become known for her candidness and passion as well as her habit of sharing the events of Congress with the public, usually via Instagram, where she has 4.3 million followers. She is very open about what is going on in the House of Representatives, often hosting live Q&A’s on Instagram and answering questions from her followers. Ocasio-Cortez is never afraid to tell the whole truth, even when it might frustrate other members of Congress.

Without a doubt, AOC’s most admirable qualities are her passion and unwillingness to give up. Often, after politicians have been elected, they begin to falter in their stances and look for what they see as a more reasonable approach. AOC, however, has stayed just as strong in her beliefs, never doubting that what some call her “radical plans” are completely possible. She continually points out that the laws that she wants to pass are successful in many other countries, and America could pass and enforce them fairly easily, with no harm to the economy.

In addition to her large base of supporters, she has also gained many critics. They will often highlight Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez’s waitressing and bartending and present it as evidence that she is unqualified to serve in Congress, but she always takes pride in her past, saying that working class people aren’t any less valuable than their senators and representatives.

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez is a true representative of her district, one who comes from a working-class family and has even won an election with no special handouts, unlike many politicians. Despite all her fame and influence, AOC has stayed true to herself and to her constituents.

“I wake up every day and I’m a Puerto Rican girl from the Bronx, every single day.” - Alexandria Ocasio Cortez.

# Life Without Sports

Z Nekomand  
Staff Writer

The life-threatening virus known as the Coronavirus has taken over the world and is affecting everyone. The result: no school, no friends, no public interaction, no sports.

It started at the time of year for major sporting events: the middle of March. College basketball conference tournaments would have been kicking off, and two weeks later would have been the NCAA tournament. NBA and NHL regular seasons were coming close to an end and would have been heading to playoffs. MLS had just kicked off its 2020 season. Soccer, Europe's biggest sport, has been shut down indefinitely.

As an athlete, it has been hard not to be able to watch sports, let alone not being able to play them. I've always been on my feet. Sitting idly has never been my forte. But, at the same time, it's hard to work out and practice by myself constantly. Without my team and my motivation, my life playing sports just isn't the same.

While coronavirus has kept everyone at their houses in quarantine, athletes have not stopped entertaining their fans. Recently, an NBA 2K tournament was held with 16 NBA players engaged in this game. This tournament was broadcasted on ESPN, and, in my opinion, was interesting to watch. A virtual basketball tournament playing the game of Horse was also held recently with NBA stars such as Trae Young and Zach LaVine, which proved to be very entertaining as well.

Meanwhile, as sports have been shut down, stadiums and arenas have also been closed. As a result, many arena and stadium staff will be without paychecks until arenas are reopened. Fortunately, many athletes and owners have taken a stand and are helping the staff in need. For example, the Boston Celtics will pay game-night staff through the remainder of the year, while Pelicans No. 1 pick of the 2019 NBA draft, Zion Williamson, has agreed to cover all of the arena workers' salaries for 30 days. In a similar act of good will, Rudy Gobert of the Utah Jazz, the first player in the NBA to test positive for the virus, donated \$100,000 to different cities around the country and even donated 100,000 euros to his native France.

Overall, this pandemic has put the world in a state of fear and confusion, but athletes are helping make it a lighter, more positive atmosphere by spreading positivity and helping their respective communities.



Despite recently sustaining a concussion from a riding fall, fearless junior Anna Classon continues to compete in equestrian events.

## Horsing Around

Anna Classon  
Staff Writer

Being an equestrian is an incredibly rewarding and humbling sport. When done correctly, the sense of accomplishment is something I have never been able to match; moreover, the mistakes have served as valuable learning experiences.

"Anna can't live without riding," said my friend Connor. "She has been riding since she was really little and has met many good friends through it." Indeed, I have loved riding horses my whole life. Without a doubt, though, the hardest lesson riding has taught me is how to get up after a fall.

Falling is an inevitable part of the sport, whether equestrians admit it or not. The sport itself is very unpredictable, but that does not scare us in the slightest. True, some falls are more severe than others; some you can get back on immediately afterward, but some take months to heal. Not long ago, such a fall happened to me.

"After she falls, she seems more determined to get better and improve," commented my friend Taryn. "I think when she falls, it actually strengthens her love for riding, especially when she has to sit out for a while."

Recently, the horse I had been working with, Hugh, bolted out from under me after clearing a jump. I decided to do an emergency dismount, which means jumping off while he was running. As a result, I had a mild

concussion, as well as a bruised hip and tailbone, which forced me out of school for a week. This was really discouraging because like anyone who loves sports, I always give 110%. To put it bluntly, being sidelined stunk. This was easily my worst fall of the several that I have experienced over the course of my life. However, as I have learned, these falls also affect more than just the riders.

"It gets harder to watch or hear about these falls every time because the horses are bigger and faster now," my mom remarked. "Falls happen suddenly and sometimes violently."

From my mom's perspective, it's a hard sport to stomach." From my perspective though, I think that the falls and injuries have made me tougher, but the most difficult part is restoring my confidence.

"Anna has a good attitude towards riding, and she is clearly not afraid to get back in the saddle after falls," my dad offered. "She has learned to respect the dangers of the sport and sees the occasional fall as part of riding."

As one how has has been riding for nearly her entire life, I agree with Taryn's assessment that the falls only strengthen my passion for the sport.

My friend Jordyn sums up my love for riding with this quote: "Anna loves riding because the barn is a place where she can be herself. She can take out her emotions through riding and loves how rewarding it is."

# A Knight In Service

Daniel Olukanni  
Middle School Contributor

Senior Stephen Zimmerman can be found nearly everywhere on the campus as he helps the Athletic Department coordinate preparation for outdoor sports at Delaware County Christian School and monitors the Scorevision boards in the lower gymnasium.

According to Stephen, "In 9th grade, Mr. Elliott asked me to get a sound system for former DC Assistant Athletic Director Jake Godino to be used for the field hockey senior recognition ceremony during the Homecoming Weekend. Less than a month after Homecoming, the new scoreboards in the lower gym were installed."

However, Stephen did not begin his work as Scorevision monitor immediately. "It was not until my sophomore year, when both Athletic Director Mike Walker and Assistant Athletic Director Jake Godino were coaching basketball, that I really began doing most of the work on the scoreboards," he added. Furthermore, Stephen is involved in all phases of tech at DC. Although he does not play any sports, he enjoys watching basketball.

Connor Transue, an 8th-grade student who is also in tech, compliments Stephen: "I really enjoy his sense of humor. His jokes during long days of tech are really enjoyable." While Connor and Stephen do share some similarities, they are different as well. "Stephen does the logistics in tech, and I do the stuff for theater. Stephen and I are similar in some aspects; we both enjoy tech." While Connor doesn't really think he can take Stephen's role when the senior leaves, he admits that he really enjoys chapels, plays, and what tech does.

"Stephen is smart and knows what he's doing," says Tommy Goneau, another DC 8th grade student. While Tommy, like Connor, doesn't believe that he could take Stephen's role, he does like to build sets for tech.