

Making our voices heard

Students travel to D.C. to push for more childhood cancer research

> The Capitol building stood tall as they marched toward it with candles in hand. The candles represented much more than light – they represented the children lost to cancer. As each parent spoke the name of the child they had lost, those attending CureFest echoed the name. “[The candlelight service] was my favorite part because I believe that everyone should be remembered and not forgotten. I think it impacted others by showing them how many children have actually lost their lives to childhood cancer and that’s time for a cure,” Jack Land (11) said.

CureFest is an event held to give a voice and a face to childhood cancer while using social activism to make childhood cancer research a national priority. People from more than 44 states attended the annual event held at the National Mall in Washington, D.C., including a group of students who went to the event for their late friend and classmate, Bree Brown.

“I want to help people just like Bree. These children deserve so much more. I am very thankful I was able to meet and learn everyone’s story,” Sophia Paz (11) said.

The students all agreed that their biggest accomplishment was knowing they were making changes.

“I’m making a difference by spreading awareness of pediatric cancer,” Caitlyn Whobrey (11) said.

Though CureFest was a nationwide event, activism can be seen in the community, even at SHS itself. Clubs and local organizations, such as EMPOWER, Youth Grantmaking Council, SADD, Student Council and Key Club, are keen on making a change. Students who participate in clubs and events said it is not only beneficial to the community, but it helps give them a voice.

“Our voices were heard [at CureFest], and we got the chance to stand up for something we believe in,” Sydney Paz (11) said.



Photo by: Sophia Paz



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Photo by: Sophia Paz

> Jack Land (11), Sydney Paz (11), Caitlyn Whobrey (11), and Sophia Paz (11), top, travel to Washington, D.C., on Sept. 23 to make their voices heard about finding a cure for childhood cancer.

> Sophia Paz (11) and another CureFest participant, above left, walk around the National Mall in Washington, D.C., to speak out about prioritizing research for curing childhood cancer.

> The group, above, shows their posters in front of the photo wall at CureFest.

> Caitlyn Whobrey (11), Sydney Paz (11), and Sophia Paz (11), left, walk the streets of the nation’s capital in honor of their late friend and classmate, Bree Brown.

How did you **find** your way through your AP test?



> “The hardest part was hitting the start button. After that, it was easy. It was very simple and a lot more stress free than I expected it to be for an at home AP exam.”
- Brooklyn Watts (10)



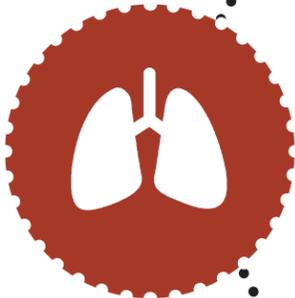
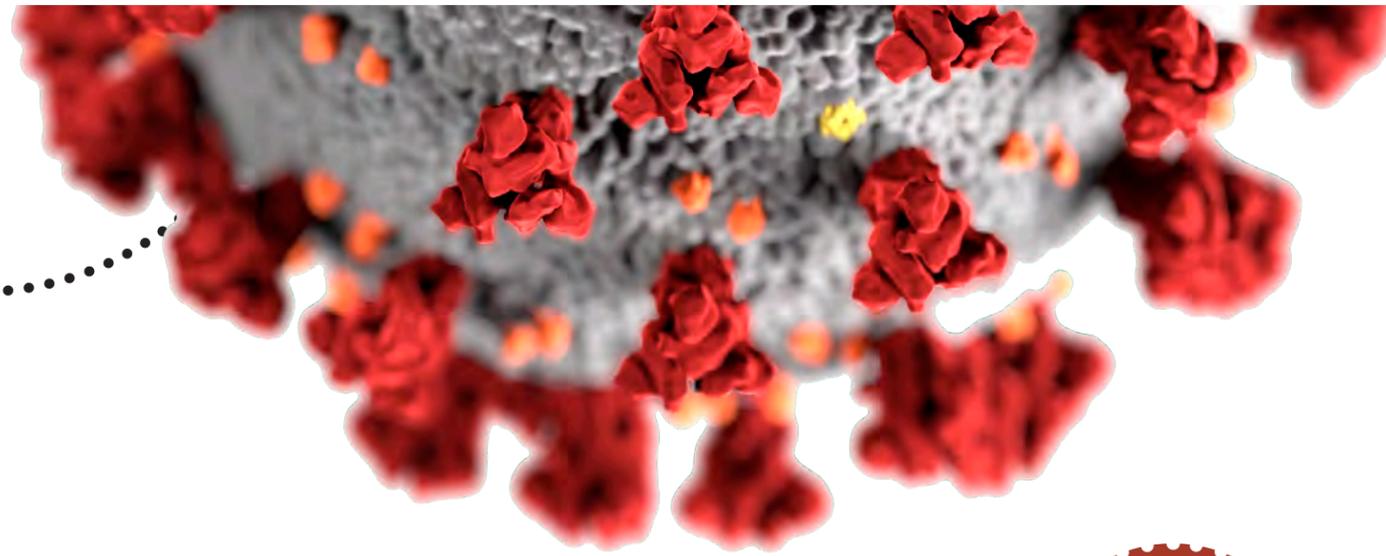
> “I think that trusting in my capabilities really helped push me through. Trusting that I could apply what I learned and practiced is what helped me get through my first test.”
- Lara McGlothlin (10)



> “I was a little nervous because it was my first AP test, but the instructions and websites were really easy to follow. I felt like Mr. Sims prepared us really well for what to expect.”
- Abby Doriot (10)

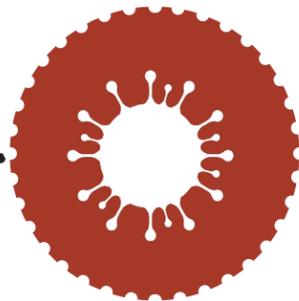
Changing our course

A timeline of events during the COVID-19 chaos



Jan. 7, 2020

> The World Health Organization identifies an outbreak in Wuhan, China, as a new coronavirus. Symptoms include respiratory failure, pneumonia, dry cough, fever, and shortness of breath. Two weeks later, the U.S. confirms its first case in Washington state.



Feb. 11, 2020

> The WHO announces the disease caused by the new coronavirus will be known as COVID-19. The "CO" stands for corona, the "VI" stands for virus, and the "D" stands for disease.



March 6, 2020

> Indiana State Department of Health confirms its first case of COVID-19 in the Indiana after a Marion County resident traveled back from Boston for work. Gov. Eric Holcomb declares a state of public health emergency.



March 11, 2020

> The World Health Organization declares COVID-19 a global pandemic. A pandemic is an outbreak of a disease across a large area or worldwide. The last pandemic in the U.S. was in 2009 with the H1N1 virus.



March 13, 2020

> The last day of classes occurs for face-to-face instruction at Scott County School District 2. After Gov. Holcomb announces new guidelines, the school district announced all spring sports and extracurricular activities would be suspended indefinitely.



May 20, 2020

> The last day of eLearning for the school year. Prom is canceled. Graduation is set for a two-day event, June 5-6. A senior parade is scheduled for June 7. The senior scholarship and award winners are announced by video.



April 2, 2020

> The state closes all K-12 schools for the rest of the year. IHSAA cancels the spring sports season.



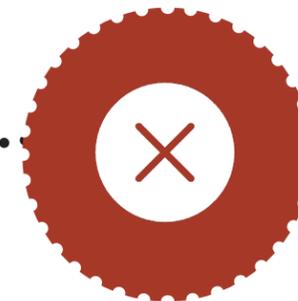
March 23, 2020

> Gov. Holcomb issues stay-at-home orders for all non-essential workers until April 7. The order is extended several times until being lifted in phases starting May 4.



March 20, 2020

> The Scott County Health Department confirms its first case of COVID-19. By the end of the school year, two months later, the county will have 103 confirmed cases.



March 19, 2020

> Gov. Holcomb extends the state of emergency until May 1. All public and private schools in the state are ordered to close. State standardized tests are canceled.



March 16, 2020

> Students start eLearning at home until March 20. Starting March 21, students would take an extended spring break until April 13 as teachers work April 6 to April 10 prepare for the extended eLearning instruction. Online access is a challenge at home due to the lack of consistent internet infrastructure. However, all students have Apple devices because the district has a 1:1 learning environment.

Detouring OUR plans

With three-quarters of the school year complete, students found they had to detour their plans after a global pandemic shut down face-to-face instruction, spring sports, spring break travel plans, FFA Ag Day breakfast, prom, the musical, the color guard season, dance recitals, and life as students know it. The majority of the world's population spent its time indoors, in quarantine. Students turned to their screens as they had to complete school through eLearning and to communicate with each other as they dealt with the loss of all the spring activities they held dear. While the world was on hold and students detoured their plans, graduation – while different from its typical format – continued its tradition, and students and families found new ways to celebrate the milestones and achievements of the journey despite the challenges of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) brought.

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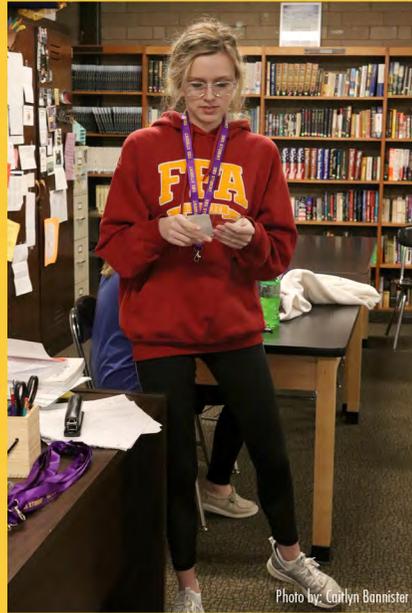
1. After the last day on March 13, the halls of SHS remain empty of any students due to the governor's stay-at-home orders. Custodians spent the time without students cleaning and disinfecting the building. (Photo by: Sara Denhart)
2. To honor the Class of 2020 during the pandemic, school officials put signs in the yards of seniors. Noel Welch (12) poses next to her sign wearing a mask and a Friends-themed shirt about the quarantine. (Photo by: Todd Pulliam/Pulliam Photography)
3. Riya Bhula (12) walks through an empty McClain Hall for graduation on June 5. With the limit on public gatherings, each student was limited to eight guests and went through their ceremony individually. (Photo by Sara Denhart)

Learning to love lanyards

> The Scott County School District 2 administration implemented a new lanyard policy for students district wide. On Jan. 30, teachers handed out purple SHS lanyards and a identification card to each student during advisory. The identification cards have a barcode on them that link to the student's lunch account, library account, and printing privileges. Per the new policy, students must wear lanyards with their identification cards attached during school hours.

"The lanyards will improve campus safety. We do our best to protect our kids while they are here. With 800 kids, a lanyard and badge give us another layer of identifying staff and students for safety reasons," said Chris Routt, SHS principal.

> Jenna Buckner (10), right, assembles her new lanyard and identification card given to her during advisory on Jan. 30.



> Kaydence Brown (10), above, looks at her new identification card, which has a barcode, her name, and her school picture on it. Students are not permitted to wear their own lanyards, but they could decorate their school-issued lanyard with buttons and pins as long as students complied with the guidelines.

After hearing the policy from advisory teachers, students asked questions about the new lanyards and identification cards.

> Putting on his new lanyard, Hunter Breeden (10), right, clips his identification card to the lanyard's metal hook. "The ID cards make getting lunch easier," Breeden said.

> Alexis Caudell (10), far right, receives her identification card from her advisory teacher, Mrs. Bray's desk.



How did you find your way through lanyards



> "I found my way through lanyards by just wearing them because it was a rule. They didn't bother me that much, and I didn't see a reason to argue. Even though I did forget mine quite often."

- Tylynn Judd (9)



> "I didn't think they were a problem from the beginning unlike other kids that thought they were unnecessary. I thought they were a useful source of security."

- Mia Collins (9)



> "I didn't hate wearing it, and by the end of first period, I ended up not noticing it was there."

- Avery Lytle (10)