

The REDHAWK REVIEW



The standard criteria of college admissions is changing perhaps for good due to challenges presented by COVID-19. (Photo from the Princeton Review)

How College Admissions Have Changed Thanks to COVID-19

By River Kisler

In this strange new reality of a pandemic, everyone is uncertain about what the next school year will feel like. No one can know yet what far-reaching and unpredictable effects COVID will have on the future of education. But for one group of students, this uncer-

tainty is especially acute: Rising Seniors who are preparing to apply for college. The college admissions process can be stressful even in normal times, but with the added confusion of SAT and ACT tests being cancelled, some high schools switching to pass-fail grading models, and in-person interviews and tours becoming a thing of the past,

it's an especially trying time to be a college-bound student. But do not despair, because while it all seems bleak, many colleges are adapting to meet the moment by reevaluating dated admissions criteria and being forced to consider students based on merits beyond a test score.

According to Angel Perez, the CEO of the National Association for

College Admissions Counseling, "Colleges and universities are reinventing a process that hasn't changed in over 50 years in the span of a couple of months [...] and they don't have another choice." One major change is the decision by more than 1,240 schools, including all eight Ivies, to not require the SAT or ACT for incoming freshmen.

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PTHS Staff Teaches Through Coronavirus

By Melanie Bakin

Last March, the teachers at Port Townsend High School were forced to switch from file folders to Google Classroom, and from in-person lectures to Zoom classes. In June, PTHS announced a hybrid model where students would meet in the classrooms twice a week and at home for the rest. However, Dr. Locke, Jefferson County's Public Health Officer, and the Port Townsend School Board determined the hybrid model to be unsafe. Principal Ehrhardt said, "The goal is to minimize possible exposure of an infected person to others. With the way that high school students typically move around their classes throughout the day and all

the students they mix within those classes, it was deemed too risky to bring PTHS students back in our traditional high school model at this time."

Now, after Port Townsend High School has reevaluated and decided on an online learning model, teachers are once again altering their classrooms to best fit the evolving situation. PTHS teachers spent their summers planning and researching successful online teaching models. Ms. Dow said, "I feel much more prepared to do the very best I can in teaching remotely. I learned a lot with my students last spring, and I am keeping their feedback about what worked and what needed to be better in mind as I plan for this fall." Without a doubt, Port Townsend

High School teachers have put in numerous hours of hard work to make the online learning situation the best possible for their students.

Unanimously, PTHS teachers said that the worst part of teaching completely online is not being able to see their students in person. "I was heartbroken that school was not going to be fully-online for most of our students at PTHS. The best part of teaching is human interaction and being able to develop meaningful relationships with your students," said Mr. Stegner. Ms. Grace agreed, saying, "I have had some really hard moments trying to get my head around how to connect with my students when we aren't in the same room and how to teach a class on Zoom while also wearing a mask. All

the teachers I know really want to see their kids in person again and can't wait until it's safe."

However, in this time it's more important than ever to remember that all the staff and students are here to support each other. Mrs. Hageman summed it up perfectly: "We are all going to be learning a lot as we move through this together, and that's one of the most important aspects to me. I'm not alone and neither are my students. My colleagues and administration are here to support me, and I want my students to know that their peers and all of their teachers are here to support them. This is going to be a great year! Go Redhawks!"



Ms. Hageman has organized her work space to teach her zoom classes from an empty classroom this fall. (Photo by Amos Freeman)

Washington Vs. New York Response to COVID: Did New York Have a Chance?

By Willow Hoins

Out on the east coast, New York City sits mostly on islands. The five boroughs of Manhattan, Staten Island, Brooklyn, Queens, and the Bronx connect themselves by bridges, tunnels, trains, and ferries. No matter where you are, day or night, the city is alive and full and there is no escape from the 8.4 million people living there. From bumping shoulder-to-shoulder on the sidewalks, cramming like cattle in the subways on a daily commute, packing in elevators or crowded in offices and apartments, you cannot avoid contact. So when, on March 1st, 2020 when the first case of COVID-19 was confirmed in NYC, mass infection seemed inevitable. But could it have been avoided?

New York State: population of approximately 19.45 million, nearly 450,000 cases, over 32,000 deaths. Washington State: population of

approximately 7.62 million, nearly 80,000 cases, over 2,000 deaths as of September. Clearly, Washington's numbers, including its mortality rate due to COVID-19 fall far below those of New York. New York's higher mortality rate is due in part to the fact that thus far almost every hospitalized patient in New York had an underlying condition, making their immune systems especially susceptible to Coronavirus.

However, the states also differed notably in their initial responses to the virus. Washington immediately let its health departments take the lead, while New York's politicians remained the decision-makers.

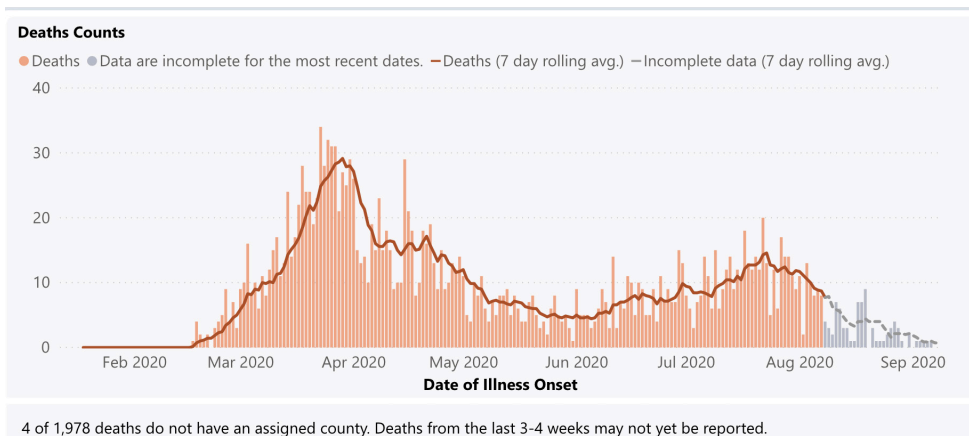
Dr. Francis Riedo, the hospital director at Evergreen Health in Kirkland, Washington, credits better communication in the West Coast's response. Whether it lies in conversations on the floors of hospitals between doctors and nurses or in Governor Inslee's Western State Pact, commu-

nication about the virus has been key. Personal accountability by businesses was also fundamental. Healthcare departments don't have the power to shut down companies like Amazon, Facebook, and Microsoft, yet several of those corporations made changes anyway. Businesses were better able to project how the pandemic would affect them based on the updates that the healthcare system provided and consequently had their employees work from home so as to avoid the majority of contact risk.

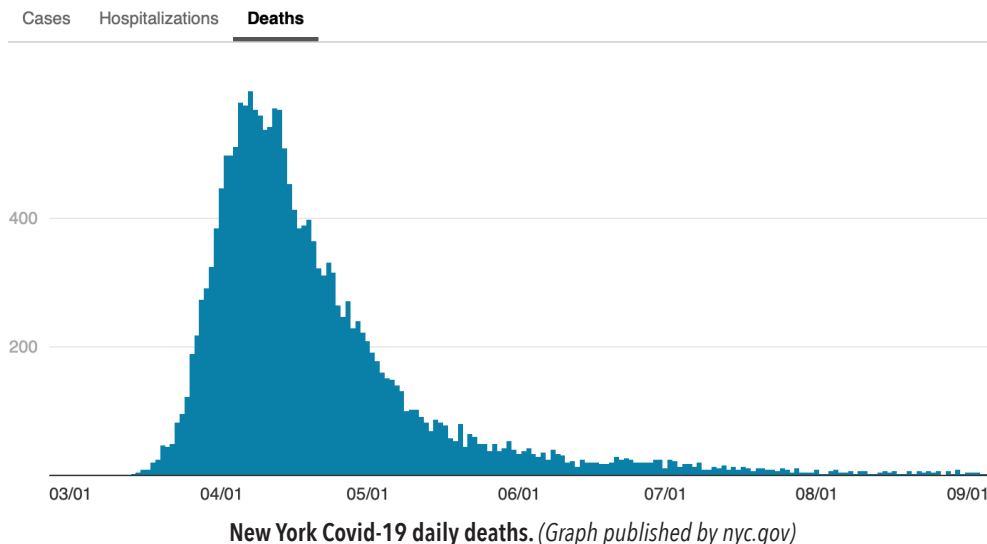
New York, however, was slower in that crucial communication—mainly because New York's governor, Andrew Cuomo, and New York City's mayor, Bill de Blasio, could not see eye-to-eye. It was not until New York's top two health care officials threatened their resignation that de Blasio finally gave way to a stay-at-home order.

Combined with the chaos of New York's communication, the city's population comprises over 50% minority groups, with 29% being Latinx. Meanwhile, in Seattle, about 65% of the population is white. Minority and marginalized groups have been shown to be disproportionately affected by Coronavirus, and this demographic disparity may also have played a role.

By nature of demographics, New York may have been behind from the start. Even with New York City gaining priority for ventilators, setting up countless temporary hospitals, and receiving thousands of Personal Protection Equipment for its healthcare workers, it's possible the numbers and densely populated areas were too much for any amount of preparation to beat.



Washington State Covid-19 monthly deaths. (Graph published by Washington State Department of Health)



Suicide Prevention Month:

The stresses of life have been greatly amplified by the effects of COVID-19 on our school year and society, as well as by recent political movement and unrest, natural disasters, and the plethora of other challenges we've faced within the last several months. In light of this, and recent community events, we'd like to share a list of resources to help anyone struggling with their mental health, compiled by the PTHS counseling staff. With this, we'd like to remind our readers to check on their friends and family, and to stay connected to the community at PTHS.

To make an appointment with the school based counseling clinic, contact 360-379-4609 or msmith@mcschoolcounseling.org.

Students can also reach out to Discovery Behavioral Healthcare. Crisis services are available on a walk-in basis from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, please call first 360-385-0321. The crisis line is available 24/7 call 888-910-0416. You may also contact the National Crisis Line: 1-800-273-8255 or Text the word "HOME" to 741741.

-The Redhawk Review Team

Making Online Learning Work for You

By Grace Wentzel

Staying focused at home is difficult. What with little siblings running around, the inviting kitchen just a few steps away, and the sheer lack of “it’s learning time” vibes that one might have experienced while sitting in a hard plastic chair connected to a cramped writing surface (shoutout to Gambill’s chair-desk situation), it is hardly the ideal classroom. But now we must make it work, because, for the foreseeable future, home is where the learning is.

Now, time to find a quiet and peaceful work environment that supports productivity. The bare necessities include a power source, sufficient lighting, and supplies for each class. Make your space feel personal and happy, but don’t overcrowd. I am notorious for this, but piles of books do more to take up physical space than help me to read

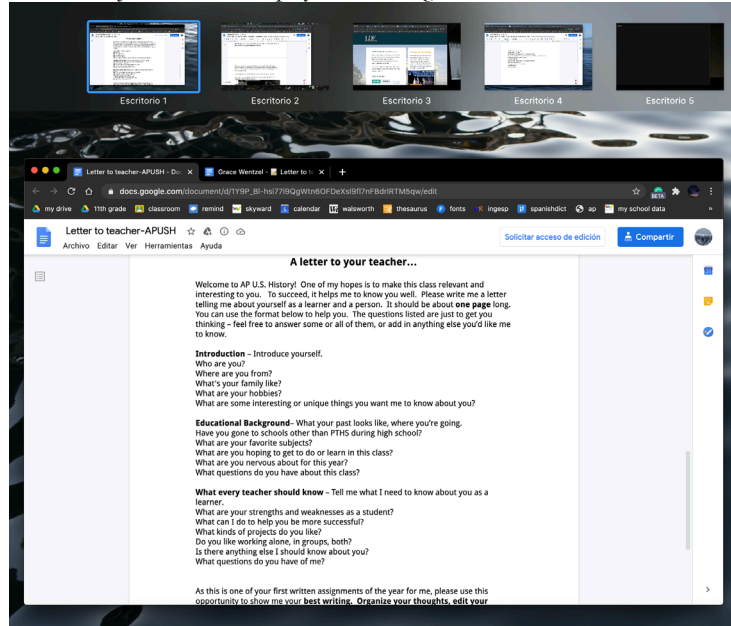
them. A clean surface each morning equals room for an open textbook for U.S. History and a sketchbook for art class when they’re needed: transform the space a little for each subject.

It’s not just about the physical

resources— an organized browser, Google Drive, and desktop are also essential. Organizational apps like Pocket, a place to save reading material such as articles to read later, are great tools to utilize. There are

many out there that make life online just a bit easier, solving slight issues you might have never noticed before but certainly appreciate not having to deal with.

In the end, it’s all about making it work for you. Everyone learns differently, so experiment with different solutions. Be gentle with yourself. Prioritize mental health, recognizing that teachers are available to help and adjust to your circumstances if things come up. Remember, in the past we’ve been able to leave our school environment physically and mentally every day at 3 pm. Now, at 3 pm, we’ll just close the Zoom window and stay in our houses for the majority of the time between then and the next Zoom meeting in the morning, continuing to complete assignments. There’s been a significant change in the emotional distance we have from our education, and we all should appreciate that we deserve a break every once in a while.

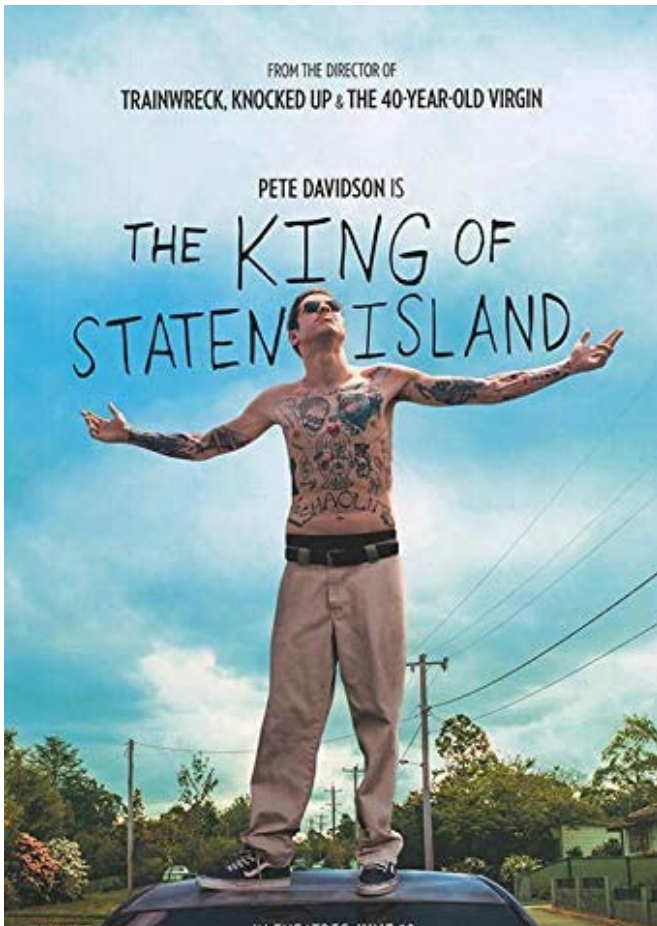


Utilizing different windows to keep tabs separated by subject or even assignment keeps your online work compartmentalized. (Photo by Grace Wentzel)



Switching locations for an outdoor Zoom, study session, or reading break in the sun can be a great way to add some variety into your learning environment and let yourself have some fresh air. (Photo by Grace Wentzel)

Cinematic Review



The King of Staten Island

By Finn O'Donnell

Released earlier this summer, *The King of Staten Island* brought me a much-needed return to a much simpler time. The movie follows Scott Carlin (Pete Davidson), a 24-year-old high school dropout coping with the death of his firefighter father through copious marijuana use and tattoos. His group of bum friends stuck in Staten Island aren't doing him any favors and limit his aspirations of becoming a tattoo artist with his own shop. Living in the home of his mother Margie, (Marisa Tomei), surrounded by the trauma of his dad's passing and having taken no concrete steps to heal his emotional wounds, Scott is shocked when his mother begins dating another firefighter, the moustachioed Ray (Bill Burr). The film takes difficult

topics like poverty, drug use, and mental health head-on, but the tone stays light and humorous through Davidson's, Tomei's, and Burr's biting back-and-forth.

The film, however, is more than just objectively good; it's familiar and personal. Stories of trauma, self-medication, loss, and pain are common in so many parts of America, including Port Townsend. The film reminded me of many friends, family, and classmates living in the awkward middle of society: not doing terribly, but not in a "good" place. Weighed down by the smallness of their community, and surrounded by so many reminders of suffering. So while *The King of Staten Island* is a nice reprieve from the news, it tackles heavy emotional topics and can hit very close to home.



Do the Right Thing

By Finn O'Donnell

Set and filmed entirely on one street in Brooklyn, Spike Lee's *Do the Right Thing* follows Mookie (played by Lee), a young Black man, through rising temperatures and racial tensions on a hot summer day in New York.

Mookie works delivery for Sal's Pizza, an Italian restaurant on the block. But when Mookie's friends begin protesting Sal's racist son, Pino, and the lack of black celebrities on Sal's Hall of Fame wall, Mookie is caught in the middle. As the day progresses, altercations become more violent, eventually leading to the death of a neighborhood resident.

A widely controversial film, *Do the Right Thing* leaves audiences stuck in the middle of a question that seems more timely now than ever: When it falls upon the citizens to petition for a redress of grievances, what's the best way to go about it? Expressing righteous anger and directly fighting back against oppressors by any means necessary? Or taking the high road, building alliances with those who are trying to do the right thing but often don't know how? This is the question that Mookie struggles with throughout the film. Ultimately, it becomes an ideological question: should progress be pursued in the style of Martin Luther King, or via means described by Malcolm X?

A Summer to Remember

By Julia Neville

Oscar Wilde once coined a beautiful expression regarding the swift transition of seasons: “And all at once, summer collapsed into fall.” Wilde never could have anticipated this past summer, however. For many of us, adults and students alike, it never truly felt like

summer. With travel plans derailed, learning options everchanging, and, in many cases, visitations with extended family prohibited, the vast majority of us have been whittling our time away, yearning for some sort of normalcy, and missing all of life’s regularities. Nonetheless, while countless adjustments have been made that alter each person’s

visions of an ideal summer, many have taken advantage of their time off from school in ways personal and specific to them.

For Lia Poore, it was both liberating and extremely disappointing when her summer gymnastics practices ceased altogether. “One of the hardest parts of quarantine was the gym closing. Normally, I

have gymnastics from 9 am-1 pm four days a week, which kept me in town for most of the summer.” With her new spare time, Lia’s been traipsing up and down mountainsides with her sister and her sister’s boyfriend. Backpacking up in the mountains in Royal Basin and The Enchantments was a wonderful opportunity for the three of them, perfect and fitting for COVID. “Although we encountered other hikers, everyone was very respectful, wearing masks while passing,” Lia added.

Myka Briggs, a world traveler, usually spends her summers away from Port Townsend, so this summer’s agenda was quite a change of pace and scenery. “I’ve spent a lot of the summer locally, especially in the Olympics hiking and backpacking,” Myka noted. When asked if the altered plans made any difference in what constituted her summer, she replied, “Although this summer was different from previous ones, it still felt like summer to me. I was still able to hike and go camping, which are usual summer activities for my family. It of course felt different not being able to see friends as much.”

Our definition of summer has always been greatly reliant on expectations. We see to it that sights are seen, people met, new experiences met, and relationships cultivated—impressive ones, at that. Now that we have endured five months and counting of a global pandemic, it feels that much more riveting to swim in a lake or to sleep under the stars, and find the loopholes in what can and can’t be done as Coronavirus continues to spread. Conversations with friends, regardless of the platform on which they take place, have become increasingly invaluable and entire thought processes and perspectives have shifted perdurably. Perhaps this summer was never about the shortcomings in this mess of a pandemic, but was a test of our ability to compromise, prioritize, and unite—to appreciate even singular, conditional moments amidst a summer spun out of our control.



“This was a safe option for a getaway vacation and was a highlight of the summer,” Lia Poore spoke of her trip to Royal Basin, as pictured above. (Photo by Lia Poore)

How College Admissions Have Changed Thanks To COVID-19, Cont.

This decision comes after concerns about COVID spread in testing centers, which makes it difficult for many students to take the tests. But the movement to get rid of SAT scores as a part of college admissions has been building for years in response to studies showing a correlation between SAT scores and wealth, race, and parents' levels of education. To compensate for a lack of test scores and irregularities in grading caused by COVID, many admissions officers say that students' recommendations and personal essays will be getting even more attention. Shawn Abbott, vice provost for admissions at Temple University, says admissions officers will have to "take a deeper dive into each file and dig deeper into each candidate." This is indicative of a trend that has been spearheaded by small liberal arts colleges for years, often called the character movement, that emphasizes looking at the character of students instead of their stats and scores.

In many ways, it feels like COVID may have accelerated a more

progressive shift in the way students are evaluated by colleges. The abandonment of the SAT, a de-emphasis on GPAs, and an increased focus on the qualities of students beyond these metrics are all signs of this. But it's not all good news. As education in general begins to rely increasingly on Zoom and the internet writ large, discrepancies in access to a connection are suddenly key, and with students forced to stay home, those with more stable home lives will certainly have an advantage. We can only hope that institutions of higher learning are able to recognize and factor in these new challenges to the admissions process. All of these factors make it very difficult to know what will come of this massive upheaval as it pertains to higher education. But one thing is for sure: This process, much like the world in general, will never quite be the same again.

The Redhawk Review

I hope you've enjoyed your peruse through this issue of the 2020/2021 Redhawk Review! This paper began two years ago as a senior project, and by continuing it this year I'm hoping it will become a regular and lasting piece of our school. It is written and produced by students, for students. It's aim is to both inform our student body about current events in our school and community and to provide an opportunity for students to get involved with journalism. We are always looking for more students to work with us, either as committed staff members or as contributors of single articles addressing topics writers are passionate about. We'd also love to work with students interested in creative writing, photography, or other art forms. If you're interested in journalism, or just in learning more, please let me know! We'd love to have you on board. We are creating this with the ideas and interests of students in mind, so feedback and thoughts for the future are always happily accepted! Thanks for reading,

Stella Jorgensen (360) 821-1578

Clubs at PTHS

By Maddie Hess

While a global pandemic has altered the average school experience, Port Townsend High School will be allowing students to explore certain interests remotely through clubs. Even from a distance, these clubs will require teamwork and provide a sense of togetherness and normalcy during these crazy times.

Unfortunately, this year's freshmen did not receive a proper introduction to the many clubs and activities previously offered at PTHS. Over the years, many underclassmen have found that clubs call for collaboration and creativity that strengthens relationships with peers and aids in the transition to high school. Even through a screen, club participation is a great way to connect with the community and build valuable skills. Cedar Elliott, a senior at Port Townsend High school, agrees that clubs are extremely beneficial for students. She explains, "Clubs have helped me feel more integrated with teachers and the other classes. They are a great way to get involved while also doing things you enjoy." Although activities will look a bit different this year, it is a great idea to at least test them out and discover new interests.

So far, it is unclear as to what activities and clubs will be offered this year. However, groups like the Redhawk Mentors and Students for Sustainability have already

planned on meetings remotely. The Redhawk Mentor group is a great place for freshmen especially to find information and suggestions about club opportunities. Likewise, the ASB can answer any club related questions. As teachers and students get settled into this school year, more updates will be posted. Here at the Redhawk Review, we will continue to meet remotely to publish issues, and invite new members to join us! As always, the Daily Bulletin, which can be found on the PTHS website, is the best way to stay informed. Freshmen especially - keep an eye out for club opportunities and see if anything sparks your interest!



Attention Readers:

As many of you know, changes due to COVID-19 have been occurring on a nearly daily basis. We have done our best to update information in this issue as our world and community situation changes, however we apologize for any information that may have changed over the course of the past week and several days. Thank you for your understanding! As always, we appreciate your continued support of our publication and thank you for reading it from the safety of your homes. - Redhawk Review Staff

Graphic design for this issue by Maya Dow