

THE DEVIL'S HERALD

Avon Grove High School, West Grove, Pa.

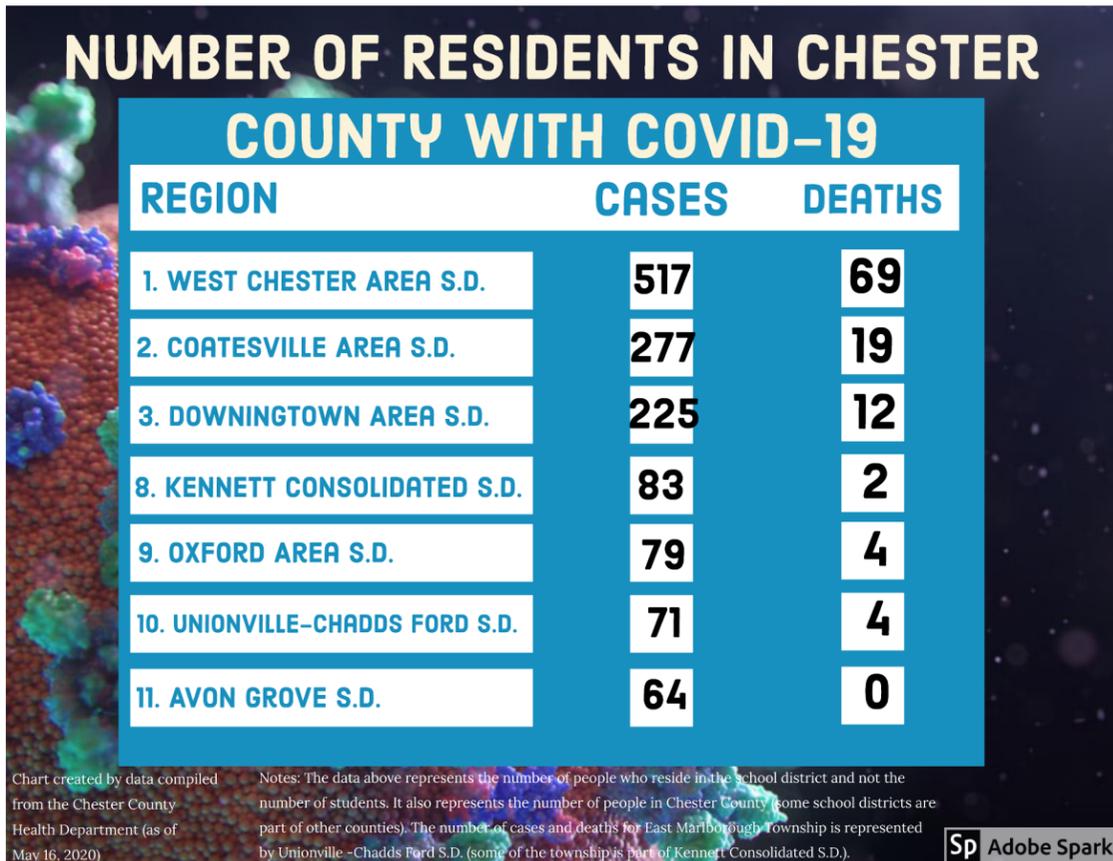
Friday, May 22, 2020

Volume 21 Issue 8

PANDEMIC

Ahead of the curve

Avon Grove residents have fewer coronavirus cases than most of county



By **Abby Osborne**
Senior Editor

Tom Wolf, the governor of Pennsylvania, seemed more optimistic than he did before.

On May 15 he announced that a total of 49 counties in Pennsylvania could ease shutdown restrictions and move into the "yellow" phase, which "allows most (but not all) businesses to reopen and puts limitations on social gatherings" as the *Philadelphia Inquirer* explains. These counties reside in northern, central, and western Pennsylvania, but not southeastern Pennsylvania - especially not Chester County.

Chester County still remains in the "red" phase (as of May 18)

which means that only life-sustaining businesses are allowed to be open and residents should stay at home except for essential trips. The counties under this label, presumably, are having greater trouble containing COVID-19, the current pandemic sweeping the globe.

When looking deeper, however, it seems the current situation in the Avon Grove School District (consisting of West Grove and Avondale Borough, Penn Township, Franklin Township, London Britain Township, London Grove Township, and New London Township) might say otherwise.

According to data from the Chester County Health

Department in conjunction with the Chester County Department of Emergency Services, the Avon Grove School District has a total of 64 cases of COVID-19 and 0 deaths which accounts for nearly 3% of Chester County's 2,163 total cases. Additionally, Chester County has a total of 220 deaths as of May 16.

Looking at the data, it seems as if the number of cases within both the AGSD and Chester County are increasing, but the rate is slowing down - a trend the *Daily Local* says has occurred "lately."

In order for a county to be considered to slowly reopen, or move to the "yellow" phase,

SEE COVID-19 PAGE 5

CLASS OF 2020

Faculty says goodbye to seniors

By **Brody Colon**
Special to *The Herald*

With the abrupt closure of school buildings in March, teachers and administrators were unable to personally say goodbye and extend their best wishes to the senior class.

On March 12, 2020, students unknowingly walked out of the high school for the last time this school year. For the freshmen, sophomore and junior classes, they will again stroll through these doors and be greeted by AG administration, teachers and staff. The seniors, however, will not get the chance to walk the halls as an Avon Grove student.

Just as the Class of 2020 was robbed of the last months of their senior year, the administration, teachers and staff were also robbed of their chance to formally say goodbye.

In years past, the end of the school year was an exciting time: prom, senior recognition days for sports, senior breakfast, senior walk.

Teachers and staff would take this time to say goodbye to the students with whom they have spent the past four years and built relationships. Graduation marks the end of not only a student's time at Avon Grove, but a teacher's time with their beloved students.

Just as the loss of the school year is difficult for the Class of 2020, it is difficult on the teachers and staff as well.

Erika Sanzia, a former teacher and writer for EducationPost.com, recently wrote, "There are so many reasons why this upheaval is so hard for students and the adults who love them. Saying goodbye is hard. Not being able to say

goodbye might be harder." While those who have educated and cared for us over the past four years may not have had the chance to say goodbye in person, they would like to take the opportunity to do so now.

Dear Class of 2020,

This school year is ending in a way none of us could have ever imagined. During these challenging times, you've experienced disappointment and frustration, but your strength and resilience has helped you move forward with hope for the future. As the end of your senior year approaches, your hard work and determination will be celebrated in nontraditional ways, but celebrated nonetheless. I encourage you to continue on your path to success by demonstrating that you are indeed well-prepared to create and define your future. Congratulations and best wishes!

Respectfully,

M. Christopher Marchese, Ed.D.,
Superintendent of Schools

Congratulations on this very important milestone - high school graduation! You have worked hard during your time in school and now you are prepared to take the next step in your lives. You will benefit for your entire lifetime from the skills and strategies you have learned both inside and outside of the classroom at Avon Grove High School. On behalf of the administration, faculty, and staff at Avon Grove High School, I want to extend our sincere congratulations on your graduation. We are fortunate to have worked with you and are very proud of your accomplishments. Best of luck!

Mr. Scott DeShong, Principal
SEE GOODBYE PAGE 2

PANDEMIC

Healthy and stylish

People use masks for safety and to express their individuality

By **Naomi Partridge**
Staff Writer

With over 70 days of quarantine over, face masks are being made for the new norm.

Along with social distancing and proper hygiene, face masks are the easiest, and most effective way to stay safe and flatten the COVID-19 curve. The Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention (CDC) are encouraging all to wear masks when out in public.

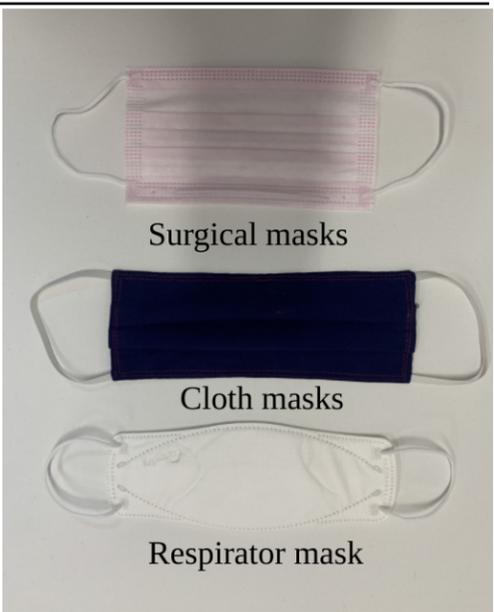
This virus is spread from person to person in a close radius of each other from coughing, sneezing and even talking. Therefore, the CDC has recommended the use of "simple cloth face coverings" to slow the spread of the virus.

Masks are just a precaution; they are not a substitute for

social distancing, but it protects nearby people from possible infection.

Portions of 38 states, including New York, Maryland, Michigan and Pennsylvania, now have face-covering

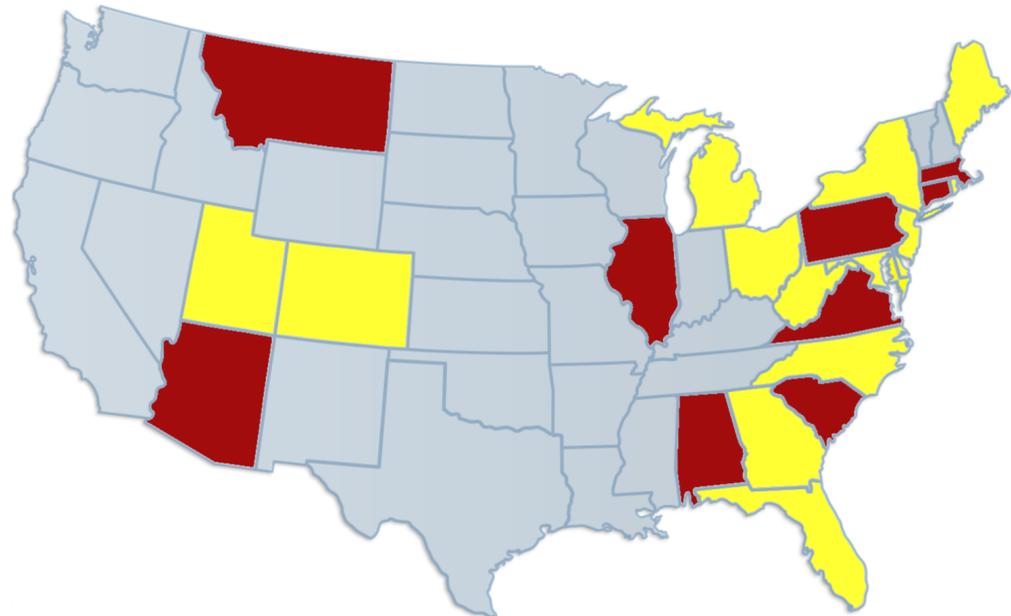
SEE MASKS PAGE 5



Avon Grove Class of 2020

- Alabama**
University of Alabama
Rachael Hassiepen
Olivia Shearon
- Arizona**
Arizona State University
Jada Demsky
Samantha Nuzzaci
Alexa Yoder
University of Arizona
Keira Christensen
- Colorado**
Colorado State University
Camille Fancy
U.S. Air Force Academy
James Chastain
- Connecticut**
Quinnipiac University
Taylor Lea
United States Coast Guard Academy
Rhys Whitehouse
University of Hartford
Aidan Duda
University of New Haven
Matthew Cordell
Yale University
Isabella Paoletti
- Delaware**
Dawn Career Institute
Rachel Doyle
Delaware Technical Community College
Maria Diaz
University of Delaware
Brian Barrett
Skylar Johnson
Dheeraj Pedada
Cole Walker
Karlee Wickline
- Florida**
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
Olivio Simpkins
Edison Zheng
Florida Southern College
Anastasia Danucalov
University of Florida
Macie Nguyen
James Russell
University of South Florida
Taylor Nienaber
University of Tampa
Ryan Cunningham
Logan Luhowy
Luke Talham
Dayton Walraven
- Georgia**
Georgia Institute of Technology
Brayden Reaney
Savannah College of Art and Design
Ahraya Phouthavongsa
- Illinois**
DePaul University
Grant Bailey
- Maine**
University of Maine
Devin Coffey
- Maryland**
Stevenson University
Julia Kushnerock
Towson University
Connor Lewin
United States Naval Academy
Sydney Paglia
Washington College
Alexis Barnhart
- Massachusetts**
Harvard University
Brayden Orpello-McCoy
- Michigan**
Central Michigan University
Lucas Folkert
University of Michigan
Jackson Muller
Emma Roberts
- Montana**
Montana State University
Zoe Filbert
- New Jersey**
Rider University
Adrianna Barnett
- New York**
Clarkson University
Abigail McLaughlin
Culinary Institute of America
Mikayla Ellick
Institute for American Musical Theatre
Allyson Morris
New York University
Kayla Fineza
- North Carolina**
East Carolina University
Jeffrey DeVoll
Gillian Klemaszewski
High Point University
Jamie Perkins
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Megan Schleiniger
- University of North Carolina School of the Arts**
Elyse Scalia
- Ohio**
Miami University
Jacob McDonald
- Pennsylvania**
Automotive Training Center
James Akhtar
Jordan Reeves
Chris Zamores
Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania
Brody Colon
Michael Curran
Aidan Skinner
Bucknell University
Audrey Stephenson
California University of Pennsylvania
Daniel Crew
Clarion University
Anna Butler
Delaware County Community College
Matthew Bender
Sarai Bernal Lopez
Odett Cruz
Kole Johnson
Andrew Odell
Humberto Ramos Jeronimo
Anthony Rodriguez
Mary Russell
Nadya Twyman
Alexander Zurl
Dickinson College
Jessica Beauchamp
Drexel University
Justin Lengel
Dylan Myers-DeMarco
Gia Tranchitella
Duquesne University
Abigail Dornisch
Kaylynn Hawkins
Jasmine Rivera-Salinas
Jacob Schroder
Eastern University
Lauren Kelly
East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania
Savannah Kohler
Hannah Lamme
Franklin & Marshall College
Marin Lynch
Gettysburg College
Lorraine Abinteh
Kody Clausius
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Hayden Balback
Emma Beatty
Michelle Brumbaugh
Kimberly Ciriaco
Maxum Green

WHERE TO NEXT?



THE CLASS OF 2020 CAN BE FOUND IN 23 STATES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA NEXT FALL.

Note: Over 200 respondents to the Guidance Department Senior Survey gave permission to have this information published.



- Kutztown University of Pennsylvania**
Joseph D'Ambrosio
Isabel Garcia-Zurita
Petyon Johnson
Aidan Simons
Roman Tillman
Madison Turner
Lebanon Valley College
Maximus Paschall
Lehigh University
Andrew Nole
Lock Haven University
Sydney Skrzypiec
Millersville University of Pennsylvania
Tyler Cave
Jack Reilly
India Smith
Lydia Zona
Neumann University
Madison Lipford
Vivian Marquez Beltran
Pennsylvania College of Technology
Julio Ocampo
Jared Sycalik
Pennsylvania State University
Altoona
Cole Morgan
Miranda Neely
Pennsylvania State University
Brandywine
Sean DelVecchio
Brisa Luzzi Castro
Dana Palmer
Pennsylvania State University
University Park
Kira Balcavage
Julie Colarusso
Andrew Delaney
Rachel Donten
Hailey Eastburn
Amy Fox
Joseph Hetrick
Shelby Knightly
Luke LeSage
Ashley Murphy
Caydon Norris
Josh Pandak
Amanda Peirson
Zachary Pine
Shane Reith
Sydney Rundle
Caroline Short
Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania
Kevin Castelluccio
Whitman Daly
John D'Ambrosio
Maxwell Leclerc
Erin Parkinson
Jackson Scheck
- Joshua Wilson
Temple University
Zach DeVice
Dillon Dosenbach
Riley Flinn
Emily Hart
Jackson May
Jose Ortiz Ayllon
Hayley Pousson
Dorian Schmaltz
Kayla Stenta
Caitlin Tickman
Max Waechter
Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology
Chris Chopko
Liam Cook
Faith Dusseau
Ryan Goodwin
Louis Sasso
Universal Technical Institute
Michael Almanza Aguilar
Ronald Mejias Toro
University of Pittsburgh
Danielle Caprarola
Jasmine Cardino
Andrew Davidson
Shannon Donahue
Katelyn Enache
Zoe Frantz
Ricky Gomez
Sarah Hottenstein
Laura Kephart
Connor Rayner
University of the Arts
Kieran Eustace
University of the Sciences
Sarah Gillespie
Walnut Hill College
Tyler Bacinelli
West Chester University of Pennsylvania
Valerie Butler
Alexa Cimabue
John Jarusik
Patrick Jones
Allison LaPearl
Abigail Lehr
McKenzie Lopez
Taylor McCrossan
David Sabella
Julia Smith
Jeffrey Vande Poele
Widener University
David Waters
Judah Woodard
Williamson College of the Trades
Matthew Gallagher
Wilson College
Rachel Brywka
Julia Woerner
York College of Pennsylvania
Mitchell Conrad
Garett Keen
Nathan Riddell
- Michael Russo
- Rhode Island**
University of Rhode Island
Kailey Mitchell
- South Carolina**
Clemson University
Victoria Chiusano
Luke Manolescu
College of Charleston
Liliana Basciani
University of South Carolina
Matthew Walsh, Jr.
- Utah**
Brigham Young University
Tasha Anderson
- Virginia**
Christopher Newport University
Shane Kelleher
George Mason University
Chaitra Shankar
Hampton University
Kaelin Salley
James Madison University
Amanda Delgado
Penelope Scheck
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Thomas Savory
- Washington, D.C.**
Catholic University of America
William Baker
Georgetown University
Shania Fan
George Washington University
Abby Osborne
- West Virginia**
West Virginia University
Martin Campagna
Kennedy Hawkins
Ellie Jacquet
Matt McLaughlin
Chris Stout
- United States Military**
Noah Davis
Steven Luke
Anthony Selden-Santiago
- Workforce**
Grant Adler
Brandon Borcky
Veronica Castaneda
Bryan Esparza
Hector Esquivel
John Furia
Graviel Sanchez-Guzman
Vincent Savarese

Ricketts: "No one has had a senior year like you and I hope no one else ever will"

GOODBYE FROM PAGE 1

Class of 2020,

It seems like just yesterday that you came "up the hill" from Fred S. Engle for your 8th grade tour of the high school. Now you are graduating and off to the next chapter in your lives. As your assistant principal, I can honestly say you have been one of the best groups of young men and women I have had the pleasure of working with. It saddens me how unfortunate it is that our time together was interrupted. I can only imagine how you feel having the last few months of high school taken away from you. For me, when spring arrives and the clock is winding down on another senior year, I look forward to watching you enjoy Avon Grove spring activities, sports, prom and discussing with you what your

plans are for the future. With that being said, I'm hoping that you and your families can find a way to make the best of these very bizarre times.

In the years to come, focus on hard work in your chosen career pathway. You are all bound for greatness. I will miss you guys!

Mr. Gary Benasutti, Assistant Principal

To the Class of 2020:

From the bottom of my heart, I'm so deeply saddened and sorry that our school year is coming to a close while we remain in a stay-at-home order. Like you, I never could have imagined this is how your senior year would come to its end. Please know that each day I'm thinking of you and hoping you are all making the best of these

unfortunate circumstances. Despite how things are currently, I still have no doubt that you are well prepared for the next steps in your life. I wish the Class of 2020 nothing but success, health and happiness in your future. Remember, you are all AG family. When it's safe to do so, don't forget to come back and visit us. I remain optimistic that we will all meet again at Prom in July and have a big celebration! I know Mr. Benasutti is ready to get his dancing shoes on!

Your Activities & Athletic Director,

Ms. Vanessa Robtison

To the Avon Grove Class of 2020:

Before this pandemic even began, your senior year was filled with ups and downs and hard fought battles, which you handled with grace and maturity

at each juncture. Even though you lost your "Class Pride Day," you will always be remembered as the group that started a new, stronger, arguably more acceptable tradition with the Senior Sunrise, but I know that's an argument I may never win!) As the year continued, I had the opportunity to get to know so many of you through Powderpuff, where we struggled together through frigid temperatures for that promise of delicious, warm Italian food when it was all over, which leads me to Mr. Avon Grove. Honestly, I was most nervous about this one but it turned into something I will never forget. I think we can all agree, we had an amazing group of participants this year and if I were able to, I would have crowned every single one of you "Mr. Avon Grove 2020."

Maybe Ricky will share the crown... maybe not.

At this moment, it may seem like you've lost more than you can ever get back but it is just that: one moment. Your lives will be filled with adventures and accomplishments that all will be celebrated with the pomp and circumstance that they deserve. I do not mean to undermine your current suffering but rather mean to encourage you to look to the future. As a teacher, I genuinely hope that I have had an impact on you. Without a doubt, you have had an impact on me. As your first-year senior class advisor, I can't tell you how much I've enjoyed getting to know each and every one of you and am so glad that I took this opportunity when it was presented to me. As you move forward with your lives, never

forget your AG family, and when you're feeling nostalgic and want an extra senior shirt, let me know, I've got plenty.

With Love,

Mrs. Ashley Penn, Class of 2020 Advisor

Congrats to the Class of 2020! I feel honored to have worked with many of you, whether as a student on my caseload, or through work on your career portfolios. AG is honored to call each of you one of our own. Pursue what you love, as that passion will drive you to make your dream a reality. All my best to the Class of 2020, as you embody the definition of true resilience. #AGPride #AGProud #WeAreAllInThisTogether

Mr. Scott Searfoss

I am so sad that I will not get to see and say goodbye in person to our seniors. It was a joy to get to know you, and to play some part in shaping your futures. I am excited for each and every one of you to move on to your very bright next steps! I wish you all the best, and while you move on, I stay here, so if you ever need anything, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Ms. Elaine Markowitz

I have watched many of you grow from freshmen to seniors while some of you I just got to know this year. It's been a tough year with many unforeseen challenges, but I have watched you rise to the occasion. I am very proud of the Class of 2020. In the wise words of Dave Matthews, "Turns out not where but who you're with that really

matters." School is made up of the people, not the building and I'm thrilled to have known this group of students who will go on to do great things!

Ms. Kristin Miller

I would like to thank the Class of 2020 for working hard and never giving up during an uncertain time. I would also like to say that the Class of 2020 will be one I will never forget. No one has had a senior year like you and I hope no one else ever will. In closing to the senior class, I hope to see you again in person, whether that is this summer or sometime next year. I have enjoyed your time at Avon Grove and Avon Grove is a better place having you here.

Thank you,

Mr. Matt Ricketts

Go forth and be brilliant!

Mr. Jim McCloskey

To the graduating Class of 2020:

What a year! I have cherished every minute with you, whether it was this year or years past. You are an extraordinary group of students, destined for great things! I wish you all the best in your future endeavors. "You're off to great places! Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting. So...get on your way!" -Dr. Seuss

With Love,

Mrs. Danielle Brennan

To the administration, teachers and staff of Avon Grove, on behalf of the Class of 2020, we thank you for the lessons in academia and in life, for every kind and caring word or piece of advice you shared and for being positive role

models and influences in our lives. Words cannot describe the impact you have made on the senior class these past four years. While we hope to someday verbalize this in person, we will miss you.

Cure your boredom with games, art, cooking

By
Eliza Flanigan
Column

I get it. You are here stuck at home, you can't leave the house, no in-person socialization, most of you can't go into work, we can't go into school. So what can you do?

Well, a lot more than you may think. This is a list that may help keep you busy and sane until life returns back to normal.

1. Have a Zoom call with friends and family. You can play games (like Pictionary or trivia) or just talk and catch up.

2. Create artwork. This can be a painting, a drawing, even a music piece, anything! You can use this time to improve and you can even give this artwork as a gift.

3. Get in shape. The internet is at your disposal. Look up healthy recipes and workout videos that require no equipment.

4. Read a book. Even if you aren't a reader, you will find a book you enjoy. Some of my recommendations are *Speak* by

Laurie Halse Anderson, *Unwind* by Neal Shusterman and *Project Semicolon* by Amy Bleuel.

5. Play board games and puzzles. I know for a fact you have some lying around that you haven't touched in years and even if you don't, there are online versions.

6. Listen to a podcast. You can be doing something else like cleaning, drawing or working while listening to any topic. Some great podcasts are *Simply Podlogical*, *Curious With Josh Peck*, *Part-Time Genius* and *TED Talks Daily*.

7. Listen to new music. If you always listen to one band or one genre, switch it up!

8. Watch television shows. This is my personal favorite thing on this list. Some great shows to try are *Tangled: The Se-*

9. Watch movies. Similar to TV shows, there are so many great ones out of there. Disney and Barbie movies are great to relive your childhood. *Ice Age* is good for something funny and light-hearted!

10. Perform some spring cleaning. Completely gut out your room, get rid of what you don't need or want and organize your room. You will feel so accomplished and be so happy with a new setup.

11. Bake and cook. You know that cookbook

you bought last year thinking you would cook more? Well, get it out, blow the dust off and use

it!

12. Create a garden. Growing your own fruits, veggies and herbs is so rewarding, delicious and healthy.

13. Start a journal. Write down your thoughts to remember the insanity of what is happening in our world right now.

14. Go for a walk. Get some fresh air. Bring a family member or a pet with you.

15. Go camping with your family in the backyard. Get a tent, some marshmallows and candy.

16. Have a fashion show. Try on your clothes, and see if you can create different looks or styles you would not have thought of.

17. Pamper yourself. Do a face mask, hair mask, or give yourself a mani-pedi. Relax with a hot bath. It's okay to treat yourself.

I hope this helps you cure your boredom. Remember, we are all in this together! Be safe!



SP Adobe Spark

ries, Supernatural, The Mandalorian, The Office, Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist, and Parks and Recreation.

PANDEMIC

COVID-19 falls short of past pandemics

By
Will DiBonaventura
Staff Writer

Despite the troubles and inconveniences forced onto civilized society by COVID-19, it's important to remember that, with the concern for public health taken into consideration, it could be worse.

The most notable early global pandemic, the bubonic plague, which spread across Europe from Asia like COVID-19, killed roughly half of Europe's population before subsiding in 1353.

The Spanish flu of 1918, which affected nearly one third of the world's total population, accrued a death count of approximately 50 million people before fading in 1919.

The Spanish flu was circulated throughout the world via contraction by soldiers returning from the battlefields of World War I. Its spread was made possible by malnutrition and the cramped conditions soldiers were faced with, according to LiveScience.com.

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), which has taken over 35 million lives since it first emerged as a worldwide pandemic in 1981, is the most deadly recorded virus. It is believed by researchers to have originated in West Africa in the 1920s.

As of this year, two people have been cured of AIDS, showing promising signs for the future of AIDS research and the possi-

bility that a vaccine may be developed.

In 2009, the swine flu pandemic, which began in Mexico, spread across the world affecting nearly 1.4 billion people and killing as many as 575,000. Unlike COVID-19, 80% of swine flu victims were under the age of 65, according to the CDC.

While complications from COVID-19 have been catastrophic for the economy, the mortality rate is considerably less than most other notable pandemics. This will make recovery quicker and easier, and ensure that daily conditions will return to normal.

However, until the spread of COVID-19 slows and everyday operations are able to return to normal, necessary social distancing procedures will remain in place.

"Social distancing really helps with slowing the spread of coronavirus and allows medical professionals to deal with less people coming in and out of hospitals, but it stinks that we are unable to go outside except for necessary reasons," said senior Connor Green.

Although social distancing isn't favorable as opposed to being able to meet with friends and family under normal circumstances, it's important to note that it's not entirely bad.

After all, it could be worse...

The mortality rate is considerably less than most other pandemics.

AG LIFE

Loading...loading...time for class!

The transition from face-to-face learning to distance learning has brought different experiences

By
Lucin Milestone
Staff Writer

Ever since the outbreak of COVID-19, countries have been closing their schools one by one.

On March 13, Governor Tom Wolf announced that all schools in Pennsylvania would be closed for 10 business days, effective March 16. This was extended to the rest of the year on April 9.

With this new update, teachers, students and their parents have had to transition to online school. For Avon Grove, this new way of learning has been a strange new experience.

Using the Schoology learning management system, teachers have been able to assign warm-ups, classwork and even tests. The strain of millions of students around the country trying to use Schoology at roughly the same time has been a difficult obstacle at times.

Even though schools have gone online, nothing can really beat the face-to-face experience where teachers can review their plans and students can have the opportunity to voice their concerns. This setback has been mitigated partially by Zoom video conferencing.

Teachers are able to publish a link and give a designated time for students to

engage with their teacher and peers.

Since the majority of students have school Chromebooks to access the internet, Avon Grove was prepared for this shift to online learning.

Online school is something that brings plenty of benefits and problems for everyone involved.

Students are able to sleep in and be more laid back now that there is no need to wake up early and go to school for seven hours and then participate in after-school activities.

Even though this is very helpful, students, especially seniors, have missed out and had to give up many plans and activities that they were going to participate in this school year.

An example of this is junior or senior prom, which many students were excited for and some had even bought their dresses or rented tuxes that they will not be able to show off this year. Seniors hope to have a prom in late July at the DuPont Country Club in Wilmington, Delaware.

While students get the benefit of relaxation, the experience of going to school and interacting with people is definitely something to be missed.

PANDEMIC

Masks can be used for safety and fashion

MASKS FROM PAGE 1

requirements while in public areas, according to CNet (as of May 11).

But, there are dozens of masks to choose from: homemade masks, cloth masks, respirators, and surgical masks.

Respirator masks such as the N95 are very effective. The N95 keeps out 95% of germs and is used almost exclusively by healthcare and other frontline workers.

Some masks have valves that allow air to be easily exhaled. However, the downside is that other people are more susceptible to the virus. These masks are not recommended for public use by the CDC because these masks are critically supplied for the nation's healthcare workers.

Surgical masks are designed to protect the wearer from large droplets, and splashes and are more readily available to the public than those with valves.

It is difficult to know if these are reliable because testing says it filters anywhere from 10 to 90 percent of pathogens. According to Healthline, surgical face masks and N95 respirators reduce risk or various respiratory illnesses in similar ways, despite the differences in filtration and fit.

While surgical and N95 masks

are in short supply, cloth masks are more accessible and reusable. The only mask that is actually recommended to the public by the CDC is a cloth mask.

Although cloth masks and N95 masks have different purposes, both are intended to slow the spread of COVID-19. A cloth mask is worn to help protect others in case the wearer has the virus. Cloth masks tend to be less effective than their medical-grade counterparts, but the CDC says they are better than no mask at all.

Cloth masks are reusable, so they should regularly wash soap and water in the washing machine.

The wonderful part about cloth masks is the variety. There are masks to cater to just about everyone. There are smaller masks for kids, masks for sensitive skin, masks with filters, and they come in different patterns, styles, and sizes.

Additionally, some have implemented a "get one, give one" policy to help those in need, while others are donating a portion of or all of the proceeds to COVID-19 relief funds.

Today, you can get a cloth mask almost anywhere. With the demand for face masks growing everyday, brands have begun to make masks to profit during this

time. Clothing brands like Urban Outfitters, Anthropology, Old Navy and J. Crew have begun to make masks to supply their customers with stylish masks.

There are thousands of different shapes, sizes and patterns of masks on Etsy. They range from \$1 to \$20.

Etsy's landing page has become all about the mask, and the company disclosed that between April 4 and 6, people searched for masks on the site an average of 9 times per second, totaling more than 2 million searches.

Even Disney and the NBA are selling masks. Disney is donating up to \$1 million dollars to children in need. The NBA is donating all their profits from their masks to Feeding America.

Many fashion designers have begun to sell masks such as Proenza Schouler, Daneil Patrick, Giovanna, and Marta Scarpini. These designers are donating all proceeds to COVID-19 relief.

Masks are not a fashion accessory, but they do take up a fair amount of space on your face, so it's not surprising that people are looking for aesthetically pleasing ones.

There is also another alternative to cloth face masks. Some people are DIY-ing masks.

N95s, Surgical Masks, and Cloth Masks

Source: Massachusetts General Hospital Research Institute.

	Cloth Mask	Surgical Mask	N95 Respirators
CDC recommended for the public	✓		
Necessary for medical facilities & first responders		✓	✓
Protects against droplets	✓	✓	✓
Protects against aerosol			✓
Custom fit			✓
Loose fit	✓	✓	

There are three different tutorials in a CDC article, "Use of Cloth Face Coverings to Help Slow the Spread of COVID-19," that shows how to make your own face masks, with or without sewing. These DIY masks require 3 materials that you can find around your home and are easy to make.

In addition to physical distancing and using proper hand hygiene, many health experts consider the use of face masks to be a key measure in helping to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Although homemade cloth

masks aren't as effective at filtering out small particles as respirator masks or surgical masks, they offer more protection than not wearing any face mask at all.

The effectiveness of homemade face masks can be enhanced with proper construction, wear, and maintenance.

As people return to work and their normal day-to-day lives, continued use of appropriate face masks might help decrease the spread of the virus.

PANDEMIC

Chester County stays at home

COVID-19 FROM PAGE 1

the Pennsylvania Health Department said the county had to have "fewer than 50 new confirmed cases per 100,000 [person] population reported in the previous 14 days."

When comparing Chester County and AGSD, it poses the question: Why is the Avon Grove School District doing much better than many of the surrounding boroughs and townships that make up Chester County?

"I believe that Avon Grove School District has reported a lower number of cases than Chester County as a whole because we are in the southern region of Chester County, much farther from Philly, and we have been following social distancing guidelines and stay at home orders," said senior Zoe Frantz.

Many essential businesses have been implementing rules that have tried to abide by social distancing guidelines and minimize the spread of COVID-19. Giant, located in Jennersville, has designated shopping hours early in the morning for adults who are 60 years old and up as older

individuals tend to catch the virus and die from it at higher rates (in Chester County the age group with the highest number of cases is 80 and over with 409 cases).

Giant also has a strict policy where you have to be wearing a mask if you want to enter the premises (which is a Pennsylvania law), and they placed clear markers within their stores that mark a path for shoppers so there's less chaos and promotes social distancing. Additionally, they've created an app where you can scan your items as you shop and pay for it without getting in line, and if you need to be in line, they keep everyone six feet away from each other.

The Avon Grove School District has been out of session since March 13 and has switched to online learning. In efforts to socially distance, the awards ceremonies and graduation will be held virtually. Seniors are being filmed one at a time (at a designated time slot) receiving their diplomas, and the entire ceremony with speeches will be streamed on the school's website on June 8.

Dr. Marchese, the

superintendent, explained in an email that there currently is a plan on having an in person graduation at Avon Grove High School's stadium on July 27, but "if a green status for our region is not in place by Tuesday, July 21, the stadium ceremony will be canceled."

"I'm a bit bummed that all my family can't come to my graduation. I understand the precautions that must be taken, though," said senior Sarah Hottenstein.

She added that she "doesn't mind that the possible in person graduation is later" as she knows "[Avon Grove] is doing the best they can, and I appreciate that." Her family plans to make dinner and "[Facetime] all our family, so they are there in spirit."

But Governor Wolf is cautiously optimistic as he looks at the rest of Pennsylvania. He told reporters in a telephone news conference, "We are bending the curve. We are having some success in over half the counties that will be open, and there will be more coming," according to NBC 10 Philadelphia on May 14.

PANDEMIC

COVID-19 closures improve the environment

By
Anna Ashcraft
Staff Writer

Quarantine has been hard for many people, especially students for missing school and their friends, but there have been some benefits to less people leaving their homes.

Recently, the environment has been significantly more healthy since there have been less people out to pollute it. Just looking outside, there is less trash on the side of the road or around highways.

Many people are inside, so there are less people interacting with the environment, so animals have more time to thrive as well.

Another very impactful change is that pollution in tourist areas has gone down. Places such as beaches, forests, and popular cities, such as New York City are all cleaner now due to less people traveling.

Venice has not been visited by any tourists, and because of the lockdown, the canals have been clearer than ever. There have been less boats, which usually

bring up sediment as well. Because of this, there have been dolphin sightings in the most clear areas of the waterways.

A larger concern that we face today is also somewhat improving. There is far less pollution in the air.

There has been a 30% decrease of cars on the road and 40% fewer airplanes in the sky. Because of this, the ozone layer is somewhat revived according to ScienceDirect.com.

Since the air quality around airports has been significantly better, NASA says that scientists will have the opportunity to study airport-relation pollutants.

Although a lot of change had to happen since the start of the arrival of COVID-19 to our area, the environment has been improving from the lack of human interaction.