

**Go Read
Page 4**

**Go Bucs
Page 6**

**Go Away
Page 12 & 13**

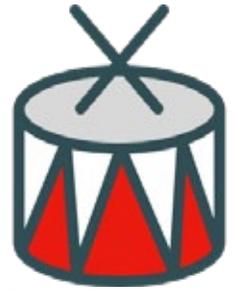


It's Dark All the Time '21

The Drumbeat

“What’s in it for you?”

Parsippany High School



Vol. 4

Defining 2020

By Sumaiya Rehman

If you were to recap the year 2020 in one word, what would it be? Last year consisted of constant surprises. I'm sure most of us would



say these were negative surprises. Our lives completely changed. Not even 3 months into the year, we were stuck in our homes. Little did we know it would last for over five months. By May of 2020, more change took place. When the Black Lives Matter movement began to take action, when we started losing people we knew due to a pandemic, when we had to learn to adjust to new norms, our eyes opened to

the true reality 2020 surrounded us with. Suddenly, we gained a whole new perspective on the world we thought we knew. For a full half year, America felt isolated in every way. Socially, politically, and even economically. Being away from our friends, our family, and our own grandparents was something we were not used to, but we had to learn to adjust to. For the safety of everyone around us, we had to change our own lives. The year 2020 had its fair share of major events that will go down in history. From the death of Kobe Bryant, Australian Wildfires, the Black Lives Matter Movement, the COVID-19 Pandemic, all the way to the 2020 Presidential election, there must have been some lessons we learned.

So if we were to recap the year 2020 in one word, what would it be? Impactful. 2020 taught us many lessons that we should take the time to consider for our future.

Together we learned how change can have a vast global and individual impact. It's now clear to us the true significance of our global economy, and how connected we really are.



We witnessed a microscopic virus take millions upon millions of lives around the world in just one year; not a single continent left untouched. Travelling and conducting business across borders has never been easier which enhanced the virus's ability to disseminate.

We learned the lesson of beginning to care for others. For the safety of ourselves and everyone around us.

We learned all the little things that happened in the big world around us that we never even thought twice of until we were stuck
SEE **2020** PAGE 2

2020

in our homes.

We felt isolated and alone, but at the same time, the world learned to come together and slowly begin to work towards the change that we all wanted for so long in the world.

During our isolation period we learned that there are millions more like us as well, and we tried to work together and become friends with each other in our virtual worlds.

We learned to find the good in the midst of the chaos we were surrounded with.

We learned the lesson that what life will bring to us is always unexpected. We can never be ready for anything. But with the lessons learned in 2020, we should be ready to continue the good we brought out of the chaotic year, and further this good to make us become the greatest in the future,

So if you could describe 2020 in one word, how would YOU define it?

About Young Arts Academy

By Krishna Parikh

If you are an avid writer, artist, or visual performer, you may have heard of Young Arts Academy. YoungArts is a national non-profit youth foundation that serves to recognize and provide opportunities to young artists through an annual competition. It was founded in 1981. Students from ages 15 to 18 are welcome to submit their work, whether it be traditional art, digital art, poetry, fiction writing, photography, filmmaking, dancing, and other performing arts. Applications open in the summertime. YoungArts receive about 7000 applications annually, and 10% are selected. Selected students can enter the YoungArts comprehensive programs that provide opportunities to develop their craft, along with financial and professional support. There are three award categories: Finalist, then Honorable Mention, and lastly, Merit. Cash prizes ranging from \$100 to \$10,000. Winners are also able to showcase their talent during National YoungArts week. Alumni are also provided lifetime support in various forms by the foundation. Currently, it's providing a grant to alumni affected by COVID19. If you are interested, visit youngarts.org. Their website has submission guidelines, videos from mentors and alumni, and magazines that display winners' work every year. Go check it out!

The following poem is a piece by a YoungArts 2021 winner.:

Napalm Girl
For Phan Thi Kim Phúc

War thick like jelly on breakfast bread
& we finish breathing a new summer
silting in rice paddy June. Our temple
cries an elegy lodged in the throat
of mercy. Mama paws me to the empty
lantern
light; teaches me the throat is a pipe
organ: tubing calcified with teething
tragedy.
In what life is a nine-year-old girl
abandoned to soldiers, we ask. I tell my
children
the story of a scar like an old folk tale:
look,
the land lacquered with entire histories of
violence
is dyed the color of your mother's ao dai,
indigo for immortality, indigo for i'm still
alive.
In mourning, the america they pledge

allegiance to is the same america that loves
the smell
of napalm in the morning, a mouthful of
ash
sweetened by agent orange. Vietnam is
the dust
in my bones burying and baying for the
burn.
It's a common belief: how Cao Dai un-
corked
my body to a diaspora, unpeeling permis-
sion
skin from the flesh that domesticated
disaster
like a name. In my next life, the picture
is my prison: a reminder of earth plumped
with watered grief and new God bloom-
ing
from the belly of Bible; a thousand words
to say a daughter thirsting for home.

Totem's first competition is still running for those interested in the prompt. Details are on the flyer. Feel free to twist the prompt in your favor, and be creative! We are always looking for submissions, so feel free to submit any type of writing or artwork!

Home

Why am I never home?

I cannot be myself within these
four suffocating walls where
who I truly am isn't welcome,
and my lungs are pierced with
cold air with every breath.
I cannot find warmth that lasts.
Yet, somehow, life brought me
to you who taught me comfort,
and helped me grow and love.
Still I've had the misfortune of
having to love from a distance,
and I clash with the question

Why do I have to love behind closed doors?

It doesn't feel like home where a
mattress sits on a bed frame, from which
my mind plays made-up memories.
Still, where sleep layers onto itself
within the embrace of his arms,
is painfully out of reach.
I ache as every moment passes,
finding solace in how each one
is a moment closer to being where
I truly belong.
I ache but I find solace in knowing
that my home is a person,
not a place I'll have to leave behind,
and I find solace in knowing
that when I grow up,
I'll pack my love and leave the past,
and I'll run home to you, and

I'll be at home for good.

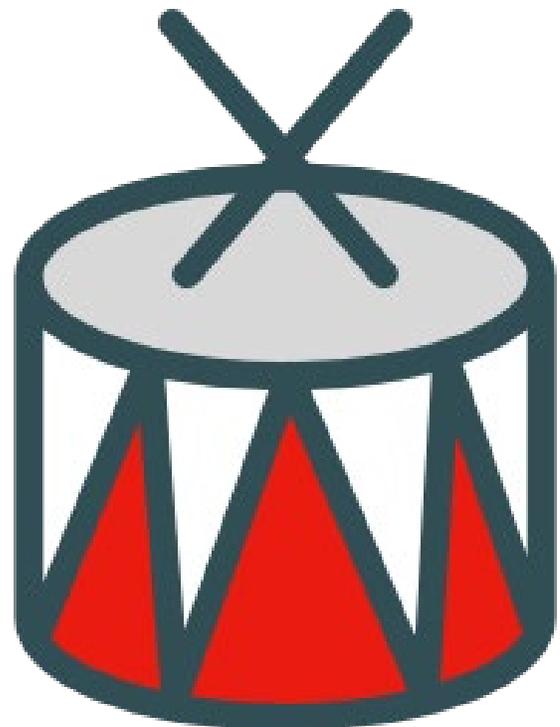
I FEEL AT HOME WHEN...

**Totem Magazine is hosting its
first competition of the year!**

You are invited to write a poem about a circumstance where you feel most at home. No restrictions on the style of poetry. The winner's poem will be included in this year's edition of the magazine!

**Questions and submissions at:
ihearttotem@gmail.com**

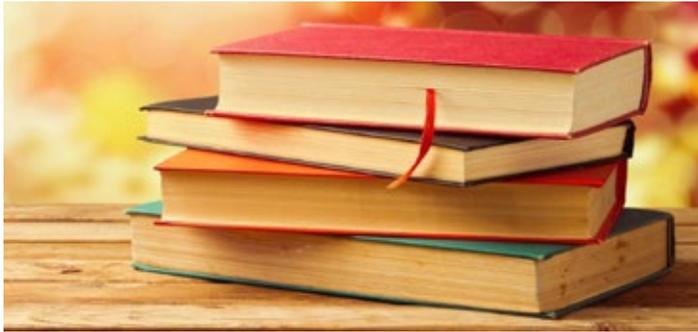
Is the prompt not your
cup of tea? No worries!
Totem is always
accepting any poetry (or
short stories and
artwork). We accept
anonymous entries as
well, just let us know if
you prefer we do not
share your name :)



Quarantine Reads

By Katelin Chen

As we are beginning to make the gradual transition back to in-school learning, whether you are at school or staying at home, it might be a good idea to pick up a book to take a break from whatever you may be reading for school. Here are some suggestions, across multiple genres.*



Realistic Fiction

Some of the most popular young adult novels are realistic fiction, and *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas is a great example. Powerful yet poignant, this book puts you in the shoes of sixteen-year-old Starr Carter who, after the death of her best friend, finds herself in a world marked with fear, chaos, and injustice.

Nonfiction

If you enjoy reading nonfiction, you might like *Sissy: A Coming-of-Gender Story* by Jacob Tobia. From their childhood, to buying heels, to visiting the White House, this autobiography details the highs, lows, and everything in between of Jacob's journey of gender rediscovery in a bold, witty manner.

Historical Fiction

The Japanese Lover by Isabel Allende tells the story of young lovers that hope to be reunited. Allende takes you from the present life of Alma Belasco into her memories of a stigmatized relationship. While her story is told from her caretaker, Irina's point of view, it reveals how the internment camps following the events of Pearl Harbor affected three very different people from very different backgrounds.

Coming-of-age

You might recognize this title from the movie, but *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky is an incredibly well-written coming-of-age novel. Chbosky creates a story where communication with and between high schoolers is more realistic, and relationships more authentic. Instead of focusing on an out-spoken protagonist, the story of the high school experience is told through someone who would rather stay quiet and watch from the sidelines.

Poetry

If you enjoy reading poetry, there are many books where characters' stories are told through stanzas, and *The Poet X* by Elizabeth Acevedo is one of them. Acevedo portrays the life of a girl who feels trapped by forced religion, and eventually finds an outlet with every line she writes.

Fantasy

In a world where magic is always a possibility, a king takes a new bride every night, and has her killed by dawn. In *The Wrath & the Dawn* by Renée Ahdieh, Shahrzad vows to end his reign of terror once and for all, starting with becoming his bride. But not everything is as it seems, and in the midst of it all, love blossoms.

Mystery

There is definitely some personal bias with this selection, because mystery is my favorite genre, and *One of Us Is Lying* by Karen M. McManus is one of my favorite books. On the surface, the characters are a group of students that perfectly fit the most cliché of high school stereotypes. But when five students end up in detention and one of them doesn't make it out alive, the suspects and their peers are thrown into a frenzy. If you do read this and enjoy it, I recommend reading the sequel, *One of Us Is Next*.

*If you don't want to go to a library, or you can't find an ebook version of the above selections, or you just don't like reading books, you could read illustrated comics on WEBTOON. *The Wrath & the Dawn* is an ongoing series that is being illustrated on WEBTOON, so it might be a good place to start.

Top 10 Post Pandemic Activities

By Emily Adawi

Going on vacation-

Travel restrictions have been one of the biggest restrictions as a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic. Entire countries on lockdown, going as far as not allowing citizens to leave their house. People were stuck at home in quarantine for nearly a whole year, making for a long overdue vacation.

Attending a concert-

COVID-19 limits our ability to get out and go to concerts, but that isn't going to be the case forever. As soon as it's possible, people will be on their way to shows once again! They'll be even more excited to bond with people in the mosh pits, or give someone a high five in the crowd.

Going on a date-

Online dating apps have been at an all time high during the pandemic, with people stuck at home with no one to talk to. Dating apps allowed for people to branch out and get to know each other in a safe manner, however having intimate human contact will finally bring people together! Picnics, hiking, dinners, and movies are all close contact dates that were not allowed during the pandemic.

See a movie-

During Covid, people had to stay home and watch blockbuster movies from their couches with microwave popcorn. There is nothing like the experience of going to the theater and buying the buttery popcorn and finding your seat to watch the movie. After the pandemic takes its fall, the movies are the perfect spot to have a laugh and enjoy quality time with a quality movie.

Go to a sporting event-

Although sporting events have started up again, no fans have been allowed to cheer on their players for nearly a whole year. Even though there are social distancing restrictions, it is never going to be the way it used to. When the chaos is over, hitting up a sporting event should definitely be one of the first things to do.

Have a Prom/dance-

The class of 2020 did not have the prom they had been expecting, with Coronavirus drastically changing their plans. Some schools chose to make major changes to

their event whereas others completely canceled the long awaited event. For those who missed their time to feel like royalty, attending a ball will be a must.

Having/attending a wedding-

Weddings worldwide had to be rescheduled after re-scheduling or canceled in all, being able to have the wedding of one's dreams is a big deal and not being able to complete that fantasy can be heartbreaking. Families will be able to have their dream wedding and integrate with one another soon enough.

Big family get togethers-

Family members have been separated from each other for far too long during this pandemic. Not being able to see your grandparents or favorite cousins can be lonely, making sure to spend a ton of time with loved ones when the time is right.

Going back to work-

Millions of people lost their jobs as a result of Covid-19, making a record high for unemployment and major discord in the economy. Getting people back to work will help society as a whole and boost the lifestyles of many people. Especially since there are still people to be fed and bills to be paid, work is incredibly important.

Going back to school full time-

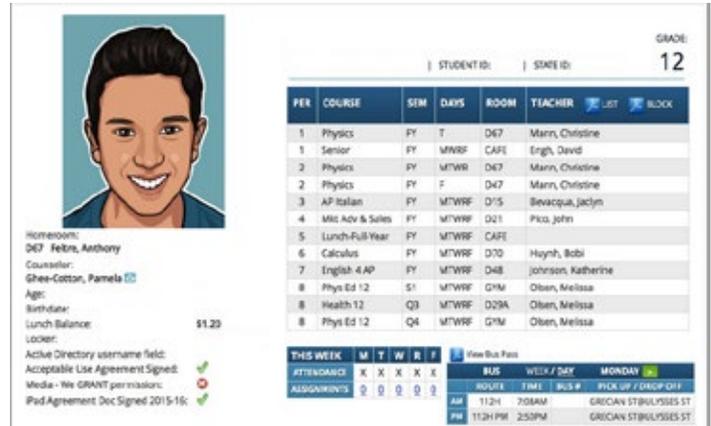
Remote learning has been the biggest adjustment for students worldwide, having to get used to staring at a computer screen rather than being able to sit in a classroom. Going to school personally goes beyond learning, having that school experience is not the same when you are confined to the house. There is no pep rally, homecoming or sports events when there is remote learning, going back to school will better the experience for students all around.



Art Classes: Are They “Worth It” During Covid-19?

By Oliver Ibrahim Aibo

Many students interested in pursuing the arts have been affected by the recent pandemic. Whether it be ceramics or photography, art class is usually a tactile, hands-on course. With the pandemic hindering student's ability to participate in in-person classes, many are considering dropping their more creative classes altogether. There is, however, a flip side to this dilemma. Since the beginning of the pandemic, many have experienced bouts of depression and intense sadness. Courses like painting and drawing could allow pupils to express themselves in a better way, providing a healthy coping mechanism for



PER	COURSE	SEM	DAYS	ROOM	TEACHER	JUST	BLOCK
1	Physics	FY	T	D47	Marr, Christine		
1	Senior	FY	MWRF	CAFE	Erigh, David		
2	Physics	FY	MTWRF	D47	Marr, Christine		
2	Physics	FY	F	D47	Marr, Christine		
3	AP Italian	FY	MTWRF	D15	Bevacqua, Jaclyn		
4	Mic Adv & Sales	FY	MTWRF	D21	Pico, John		
5	Calculus	FY	MTWRF	CAFE			
6	Calculus	FY	MTWRF	D70	Huynh, Bobi		
7	English 4 AP	FY	MTWRF	D48	Johnson, Katherine		
8	Phys Ed 12	S1	MTWRF	G1M	Olsen, Melissa		
8	Health 12	Q3	MTWRF	D29A	Olsen, Melissa		
8	Phys Ed 12	Q4	MTWRF	G1M	Olsen, Melissa		

these emotions. Studies have shown that conveying your emotions through art is linked to improving your mood and memory. If you haven't taken an art elective yet, it might just be worth it, despite the restrictions placed by Covid.

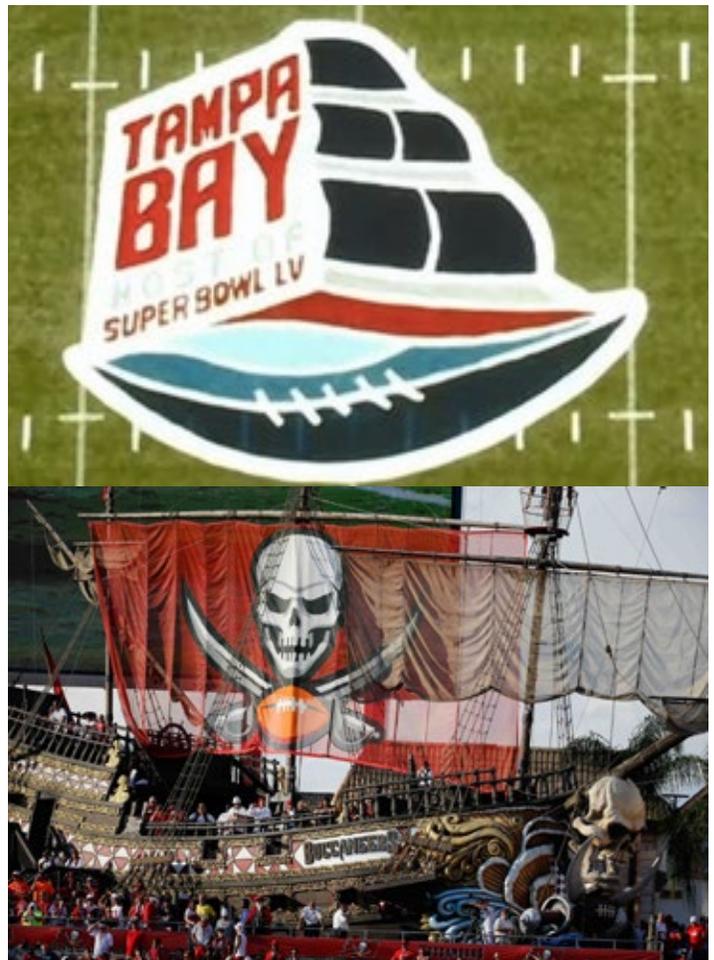
Super (Pandemic)Bowl

By Emily Adawi

The Super Bowl, and the events around it, will be very different in February, as has been the case with most everything during the pandemic, team officials and players are all agreeing to limit the volume of tickets distributed. League and union sources said, and the tickets distributed to each team will be drastically fewer than is the norm. The NFL has yet to finalize the exact attendance that will be allowed in Tampa for the game, but the week will have a decidedly different feel.

The league also announced last week that vaccinated first responders will comprise a chunk of the crowd for the Super Bowl, a move that became official during the virtual owners meeting. Currently, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers do allow fans in their stadium for home games at a reduced capacity, capped at around 16,000 fans; on Oct. 28, the Tampa Bay Times reported the NFL is considering a plan that would allow the stadium to hold fans at 20% capacity, though that could change as the rest of the situation unfolds in the coming months.

The starting price for the limited admission tickets to the Super Bowl is \$5,175 per person, going a bit above average from last year's Super Bowl which averages around \$4,220.



Top 10 Most Successful Netflix Shows of 2020

As 2021 begins, we realize how rapidly last year has ended. Sure, it did feel like the longest year of our lives, thanks to COVID, but, there were so many strange memories that made this year different from any previous year, and undoubtedly from upcoming years as well. Something that everyone indulged in during the first few months of heavy lockdown was Netflix. Of course, not being allowed to leave home, Netflix was one of the only plausible pastimes. Netflix had many hugely successful series in 2020. Here are some of the many successful Netflix shows from this year.

1. The Queen's Gambit

Walter Tevis' novel, *The Queen's Gambit*, comes to life as Scott Frank evolves the novel into a 2020 Netflix hit. *The Queen's Gambit* is a story about an orphaned chess prodigy who struggles to helm through the male-dominant world of chess during The Cold War. The story's true-to-life depiction of chess play and its skilled storytelling ultimately is what has led this series to ultimate success. Following its October debut, the series rapidly became Netflix's No. 1 show in 63 different countries.

2. The Crown

Since its debut in 2016, *The Crown* additionally continues to skyrocket as one of the top shows of 2020 as well. Season 4 opens up with Elizabeth and Philip at their vacation home in Scotland. We can see more insight into Princess Diana and Prince Charles' turbulent relationship and marriage. The series continues to keep viewers anticipating, as it delves deeper into the hidden secrets and truths of the British royal family. An estimated 29 million people worldwide had been watching the new season of *The Crown* as soon as it came out.

3. Anne with An E

Anne with An E deserves a spot on the list of the most successful Netflix series of 2020. Three years after the show's first debut, it still remains at the top. Loosely based off of Lucy Maud Montgomery's *Anne of Green Gables* book series, season 3 continues the journey of Anne. Throughout season 3, we see more contemporary themes, like bullying, sexual harassment, and censorship. The show continues to be praised for its unflinching portrayal of subject matters such as slavery, indigenous experiences, sexual assault and feminism.

4. Cobra Kai

Season 2 of *Cobra Kai* continues and picks up right where it leaves off, with *Cobra Kai* winning the All Valley Karate Tournament. The philosophical theme that dominates season 2 of *Cobra Kai* is the idea of second chances, and whether we are truly capable of change on a fundamental level. Almost every character in *Cobra Kai* is flawed in one way or another, paving the way for an all-too-human character portrayal, through which the show dabbles into the ambiguity that lies between the trope of good versus evil. The series clocked 48 million views over its first 28 days of release.

5. The Umbrella Academy

The live-action series adaptation of Gerard Way-Gabriel Bá's *Dark Horse Comics* series, season 2 of *The Umbrella Academy* sports stronger performances and a more succinct narrative execution. Season 2 picks up in the midst of chaos where the audience is transported to the early 60s, owing to Number Five's powers of teleportation and time travel. Things go amiss as his siblings end up getting scattered across the initial years of the decade. The group

eventually comes together in Dallas purely by chance, after which they need to work out how yet another apocalypse can be averted. The Umbrella Academy's newest season offers much thrill, and was watched by 45 million member households in its first month.

6. Never Have I Ever

Created by Mindy Kaling, *Never Have I Ever* is a new coming-of-age comedy about the life of a modern-day first-generation Indian American teenage girl named Devi. The story is a perfect blend of family, love, friendship, school-days and fun memories of teenage life, specifically growing up in a traditional Indian family in a modern world. Forty million households tuned in to watch Mindy Kaling's *Never Have I Ever*, leaving its success inevitable.

7. Tiger King: Murder, Mayhem, and Madness

Tiger King: Murder, Mayhem, and Madness easily became one of the most anticipated shows of 2020. Netflix's bizarre seven-part documentary series tackles big cat ownership in America as it follows Joe Exotic, a tiger breeder and private zookeeper in Oklahoma, through his various campaigns for office, polygamous marriages, music videos, and vicious feuds. With a cast of characters whose wild quirks and crimes must truly be seen to be believed, the show is as engrossing as it is flawed. The series was able to succumb to 34 million viewers during its first 10 days in the U.S alone.

8. Love is Blind

Love is Blind brings 30 Atlanta singles to a set specially built for 'blind' dating--the men and women live in separate quarters and go on dates in small pods where they are separated by a glass wall and can only hear each other speak. After ten days of dating, the participants must either get engaged to someone they have never laid eyes on or go home. If they do choose to get engaged, only then do they meet in person, and the three week countdown until their wedding begins. The series delivered 30 million total views per household.

9. Dead to Me

Dead to Me's Season Two comes in just as powerfully as the first. With a bit of a role reversal, the series dives deeper into the darkly broken psyches of Jen (Christina Applegate) and Judy (Linda Cardellini), while never failing to infuse a bit of humor in the mix. The dramedy continues to gain more momentum since its first debut in May 2019, and has a total of 30M views worldwide.

10. Unorthodox

Unorthodox is the story of a young Hasidic Jewish woman who flees from her life in Brooklyn, her community, and her arranged marriage to start anew in Berlin. The four-part series is based on Deborah Feldman's memoir *Unorthodox: The Scandalous Rejection of My Hasidic Roots*, and is Netflix's first foray into Yiddish content. The show is a nuanced, thoughtful portrait of a community and what it means to be an individual within it.



The Worst Songs of 2020

By: Mya O'Brien



The year 2020 was an all around agreeable disaster. There were of course pros of 2020, but the majority was just awful, even some of the music. Here are some of 2020s worst hits to play on the radio.

Coming in strong as the worst is Justin Bieber's "Yummy." Directly after its release, it received much mixed reviews from critics. One online listener, GeckoEyes, states, "I mean, seriously? saying, "girl, you got that yum, that yum-" 25 times in his song makes him think that he's cool and that the song is amazing?" Another states, "How does he consider this growth as an artist? He took all that time off and came back with this, what the hell happened during that timeframe." - anonymous. Clearly, many of the pop artists fans were not to satisfied with "Yummy."

Placed in second would be "Gooba" by 6ix9ine. Gooba falls in the genre of hip-hop/rap and was released on May 8th 2020. It was also a not so warm welcome back into the real world for him, considering this was his first single after his prison release in April of 2020. Reviews online are awfully self explanatory with, "Keep voting this song so it gets to number 1. It deserves the top spot way more than "WAP" and "Yummy", which are actually alright compared to this sheer atrocity." - LoveMusicLoveLife. In addition to the first comment, another listener says, "I hate the skittle man! He has skittle teeth, is a pedophile, and he's a prick, this should be above yummy, yummy is just saying the same thing over and

over again (yummy), but this song is way worse! Skittle man should stop making music, how is he even allowed to? He is a pedo." - Stewart.

In third, is "WAP" by Cardi B featuring rapper Megan Thee Stallion. The song was released on August 7th of 2020 through Atlantic Records. Fans have mixed and powerful comments about the song. For example, one music reviewer stated, "The thing is that the sexual lyrics aren't even the worst thing about this song, I can handle the lyrics but I loathe the awful production on this. The beat is atrocious here and Cardi B's voice has never really been good. I guess Megan the Stallion's flow is good, but the song is basically trash and the lyrics are just icing on the cake." - AlphaQ. Another person says, "This song is disgusting. Megan thee Stallion and Cardi B were definitely at their worst whilst making this. The lyrics are really disgusting and it's nothing original. It's irritating and gross. Can't believe this was even made" -UltraLunalaX.

Sitting at fourth is yet another 6ix9ine song, but featuring a usually praised female rapper Nicki Minaj. Their collaboration on the song "Trollz" has landed at fourth place on The Top Ten "Worst Songs of 2020". Fans were simply disappointed with this collab, "Are we still giving this clown attention? There's barely any energy in this song and Nicki Minaj doesn't even know what she's doing. It's not as bad as Fefe but still, it's 6ix9ine and Nicki Minaj. Would you expect this to actually be good?" - AlphaQ. To add on to the slander, "I mean why stoop this low? Her fans are trying so hard to get this to number one having streaming parties like how sad is that if a song is good you wouldn't feel the need to force it to be successful and we all know in this case the song isn't good so they have to try extremely hard to get it to go to number 1. I swear if this does end up going to number 1 then something is seriously wrong with this generation, supporting criminals will be the new normal soon." - crowdiegal.

In fifth place is "Yaya." Just another 6ix9ine made song. The question of if people just don't like him, or the fact that to some his songs really are that bad, or both comes into play when there is a trend of one singular artist repeatedly on a worst songs list. A brief look into the life of online reviews of "Yaya" consists of one anonymous person explaining that, "It's sad to think this "Music" is actually appealing to anybody he actually has such a loyal and big fan base, imagine all the people growing

up on this and years later they will look back and say “remember when music was good like this” that’s a scary thought.” - anonymous.

Coming in at sixth is “Ddlg” by Ppcocaine/Trapbunniebubbles. Released in June, the 19 year old has gained the name “filth queen” for her lyrics. Her lyrics are not the only issue to the public according to listeners, her voice also draws bad attention to her songs. “This is probably supposed to be intentionally bad, but oh god. Just listening to the sample of this gives me a huge headache. The rapping is annoying, the production is just a bunch of random noise and the lyrics are extremely immature” - UltraLunalaX, as well as, “What an obnoxious song. She sounds like a cross between bubbles from the powerful girls, and a whiny toddler. The creepy lyrics don’t make it any better” - MochaCat.



Placed in seventh is “P****i” by with no surprise, 6ix9ine. This song was released on August 2nd of 2020. Reviews of this song include, “The only reason this guy gets so many views is because he’s a troll who lives off of all the controversy surrounding him. At this point, it’s best to ignore his music and not give him any views. 6ix9ine is a trend and like all trends, he will hopefully fade away into obscurity.” - CharismaticKat. Is this placing over three times on the “Worst Songs of 2020” enough to get 6ix9ine to quit music?

The eighth is “Barefoot Road” by Submarine Man. This song was the most popular on the internet with little information on it. Comments on the reasoning the song was placed where it was simply stated, “Seriously, people still care about this guy in 2020? He isn’t even popular. Also, he is obviously a troll artist. He rips off other songs, raps about feet and uses tons of autotune on purpose. I can’t even find these new songs by him anywhere yet. Just stop giving him attention by now.” - Userguy44.

Second to last would be “Intentions” by the iconic pop star, Justin Bieber. “I kinda hated this one. It’s cliché, cheesy, and really unoriginal. He stole the beats from “Party” by Chris Brown, and although Quavo is a really good music artist, he sounded really dumb in this music video. Although JB has changed, he’s still the bratty idiot we had from 2012 to 2016.” says an anonymous listener. Another anonymous states, “One of the more regressive songs where I am not certain if Bieber is singing about a girl or doing his property taxes, the “Heart full of equity, you’re an asset” line throws that into some question. Also telling her to stay in the kitchen cooking...Bieber...you do realize we are in 2020 not 1959, right? Throw in the limp production and Quavo’s uninteresting verse, you get one of the worst songs to become a hit this year so far and that’s even before Drake releases his mess” -crowdiegal.

In the ultimate last place is “Birthday” by Anne Marie. The media has mixed emotions about the song saying, “I hate those scratching and banging noises in the verses they are so annoying and so is this song. I mean how many times have we had songs saying, It’s my birthday so I get money now? Just pointless” - BouceBackHater. The majority of the comments are coming at Anne



Marie’s voice during the song. Moreover, an additional comment states, “Where’s the creativity? completely unoriginal Anne Marie doesn’t bring anything new as a pop star, her songs are beyond generic she’s easily forgotten about when her new songs die out so she has to keep pushing out generic garbage to maintain relevancy because her music isn’t anything that will be remembered years down the line.” - anonymous. Fans seem to expect much more of Anne Marie with her lyrics, hopefully she can improve for the next single.

Trump's Final Attempt to Drill for Oil in Arctic Land

By Jui Amin

Around december 21, President Trump's administration announced that they will be auctioning off land of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil companies. The Bureau of Land Management was supposed to hold the oil lease sale around January 6th. However, many environmentalists have been stepping forward, and many people in general are against drilling in the Arctic. Organizations such as the Alaska Wilderness League are also against this, despite many local energy firms in Alaska supporting the Trump administration. Some of the reasons for the backlash this decision has been getting is the effects on the species living there as well as global warming.

One of the main reasons for people being against the oil drilling in the Arctic is because of global warming and climate change. The oil drilling would cause greenhouse gas emissions, which can harm the

environment. Greenhouse gases include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and ozone, which can cause climate change by trapping heat and adding air pollution. Not only that, but the drilling can put the hundreds of species of animals, such as polar bears, in danger. While the oil agencies have assured the public that there will not be a lot of emissions, attorney generals from 15 states still refuse to compromise. An Indigenous group in northeastern Alaska called the Gwich'in people have also filed lawsuits against the plan of oil drilling. Due to the opposition of several groups, many banks do not want to directly fund the drilling, as it could be damaging to their reputation. Another doubt is how many companies are actually going to bid for the land.

So even though there are many negative responses to this decision, people have rebutted, saying that this could be potentially helpful. President Trump believes the land

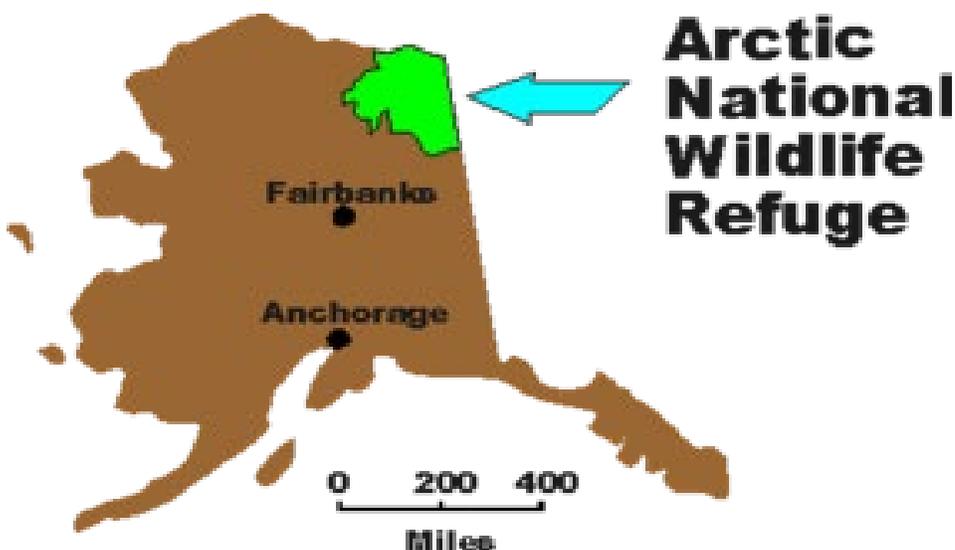
and its source of oil can be used to expand fossil fuel production. Senator Dan Sullivan also mentions how this can open up job opportunities for Alaskan citizens and the oil industry is important as it helps in "securing a bright future for these Alaskans and their families." Native Alaska Groups have also agreed with this, as oil production has decreased since the 1980s and it would be better if they started drilling more.

The controversy of the drilling situation has died down, as recently, many major banks announce that they will not be funding it. Energy companies have also said that they don't think drilling for fossil fuels is as necessary, and that they will be focusing on renewable energy.

Sources-

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/17/climate/alaska-oil-drilling-anwr.html>

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/jan/05/trump-arctic-national-wildlife-refuge-lease-sales>



California reaches 2.5 million COVID-19 cases

By Numeesha Huq

With the New Year comes new COVID cases. California is now reporting the highest number of new daily cases per capita in the United States. In less than one month, California alarmingly reaches a milestone of 2.5 million COVID cases. Hospitals are overwhelmingly filled and running out of space to bring in new patients. This unprecedented surge is expected to worsen as the weeks come. The state reported initially the nation's fourth highest number of daily cases per 100,000 residents over a seven day period. However, California moved up to first place when the U.S Center of Disease Control and Prevention updated its case per capita tracker. According to New York Times' Tracker, 1 in every 16 people have tested positive for the virus at any point during the pandemic, the new number of cases explosively increasing by more than a million in less than a month. As dire cases increase, hospitals also start to run out of space to admit new infected patients. "It's almost like a war zone out here," says Ismael Villegas, an emergency medical technician with Care Ambulance Service. "There's multiple patients in rooms. I went inside the hospital; there's blood on the floor because they don't even have a chance to clean it yet, just because there's so much going on." A Los Angeles EMT stated that he had waited 17 hours with a semi-critical patient in the ambulance before a hospital bed was available. He had spent most of the time scrambling to find oxygen to fill the patient's tank. "Our ICU beds are exhausted across Los Angeles County," said Dr. Christina Ghaly, the L.A. County director of health services. Officials stated how stay-at-home measures issued in late November after Thanksgiving have helped, but a rise in travel and social gatherings over the holidays took a heavy toll. Across the state, hospitals and healthcare workers are scrambling to keep up with the surge.

Map of cases (last 14 days)



Sources: [The New York Times and others](#) · [About this data](#)

Cases overview

California

Total cases

3.23M

+21,600

Recovered

-

Deaths

38,221

+722

COVID-19, Part Deux: The Rise of the Cases

By: Mya O'Brien

New Jersey's governor Murphy stated, "Don't screw up Christmas... don't go big..." As anticipated, after the holiday break of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years a surge of new cases have arised all over the United States. A Bloomberg article claims that since January 7th 2021 there have been 856,222 new cases reported, 1,901,911 deaths. As of 12:02pm on January 8th 2021, 274,703 new cases have just been reported. As said before, these are some of the most family related holidays so cases going up was predicted, but maybe not this much. In total cases have surpassed 80.1 million. As of now, the United States has become the highest registered death number. The Mercury News states, " 'Folks are gasping for breath. Folks look like they're drowning when they are in bed right in front of us," said Dr. Jeffrey Chien, an emergency room physician at Santa Clara Valley Regional Medical Center, urging people to do their part to help slow the spread. 'I'm begging everyone to help us out because we aren't the front line. We're the last line.' " Said by an emergency room physician Folks look like they're drowning when they are in bed right in front of us really puts into perspective how terrible our current situation is and how much damage some citizens have caused. The Mercury News also states the staggering fact that, "About 1.9 million people around the world have died of the coronavirus, more than 360,000 in the U.S. alone. December was by far the nation's deadliest month yet, and health experts are warning that January could be more terrible still because of family gatherings and travel over the holidays." As we can see, this past December is now known as the "most deadliest month yet." In addition to the holidays, the attack on the Capitol has left the cases even higher. The Mercury News also states, "A new, more contagious variant of the virus is taking hold around the globe and in the U.S. Also, it remains to be seen what effect the thousands of supporters of President Donald Trump who converged this week in Washington, many of them maskless, will have on the spread of the scourge."

COVID-19 alert

Coronavirus disease

Morris County, NJ

Overview

Health Info

Coping

Testing

News

Statistics

Share

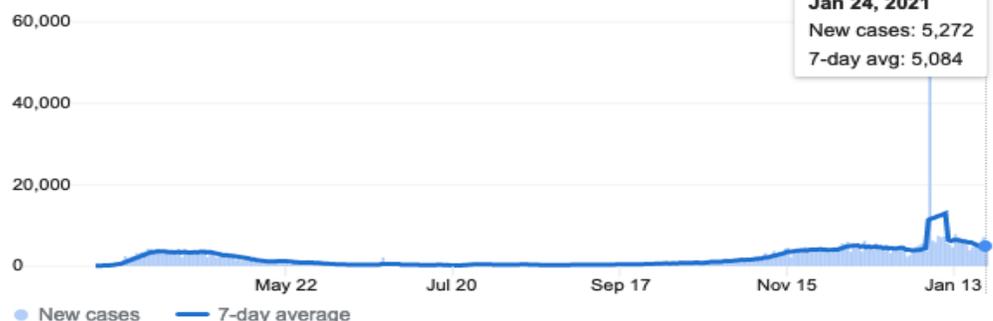
Daily change

New cases

United States

New Jersey

All time



Each day shows new cases reported since the previous day · Updated less than 16 hours ago · Source: [The New York Times](#) · [About this data](#)

The Back Page

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Vaccine Steam

Should Par High Staff be mandated to get the COVID-19 vaccine?

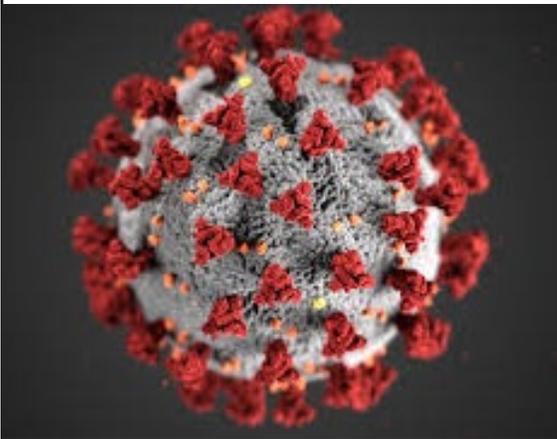
By Ritika Patel

As we march (or crawl) into 2021, there has been so much change and flux taking place. One of the biggest is the introduction of the different COVID-19 vaccines. Based on research, it seems that the vaccine will be given to K-12 teachers, school staff and child care workers in Phase Two.

As we watch the Phase One roll out, it can be said that the vaccine should be a mandatory requirement for teachers and other school related members. However, this is not the case because the vaccine is only being recommended for them. But, why is it not mandatory for them?

Many staff members are uncertain if they should get the vaccine due to the potential side effects of getting the vaccine. There have been multiple side effects after the vaccine such as injection site pain, fever, and headaches. But aside from the side effects, there is a payoff of having fewer complications and the avoidance of hospitalization due to COVID-19 symptoms.

Based on this information, the teachers and staff should be required to take the vaccine in order for them to keep



their jobs. It is their responsibility to keep students and other staff members safe and by not getting the vaccine, there could be a chance of them spreading the virus and undermining their responsibilities. All in all, despite the cons of the vaccine, all K-12 teachers, school staff



and child care workers should get the vaccine and be mandated to get it.