

# Tiger Print

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

Georgetowne Middle School

January 15, 2021

## What Are the Effects of Covid-19?

### The Effects of Coronavirus on Emotions and Academic Performance

By Olivia Poe

The effects of Covid-19 go beyond physical health. The pandemic has affected students' mental health and even how they are educated. As you know, schools had an extended summer starting in March.

A website, [activeminds.org](http://activeminds.org), did a survey on high school and higher education students. Out of the 3,239 who were surveyed, 20 percent of higher education students say that their mental health has worsened.

"Students are putting their mental health second," Mrs. Lindsay, principal at Rogers Elementary School, said.

Lindsay also said that Rogers has been showing empathy knowing that everyone has a different situation.

After asking all three principals in District #102 if they had seen a pattern in grades, Lindsay said that she couldn't tell due to what the ISBE (Illinois State Board of Education) told administration and teachers last spring: as long as students' grades were at average or higher, they could be positively affected, but if they were lower, then they couldn't hurt students' overall grades.

Mrs. Dietrich, principal at Marquette Heights Elementary School, has Kindergarten through second grade students. They are so young that they do not have letter grades.

"When looking at how they are, there really isn't a set back," Dietrich said.

When asked the same question, Mr. Brown, principal at Georgetowne Middle School, gave statistics on each grade's Star Reading test results.

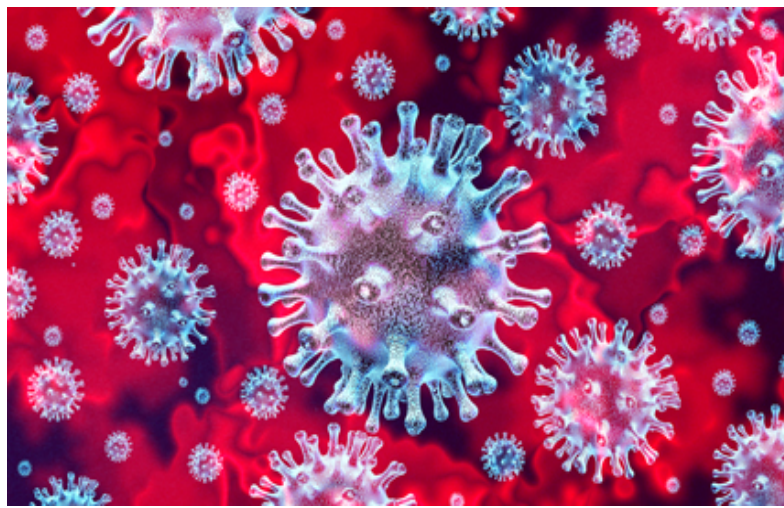
Last year, five students in the sixth grade were below average, which is the twenty-fifth percentile, while this year eight students from the same class were below average.

In seventh grade, there were 11 students below average last year and there are now 17 students below average.

Eighth graders, on the other hand, had four students below average last year and nine students this year.

The point is that Covid has set students back, but not forever.

Brown also shared an anonymous student's Star



**UNDER THE MICROSCOPE-** A virus that affects more than just your health. *Photo courtesy of Google Advanced Search, via Olivia Poe.*

Testing scores. Last year, this student had a score in the forty-first percentile. During quarantine, he/she had a score in the twenty-third percentile, and now he/she has a score in the twenty-first percentile.

"My hope is that they improve in-person," Brown said.

Covid-19 has affected these scores, but the impact of the virus stretches beyond standardized testing; teachers were impacted as well. This could be seen at Marquette Elementary.

"The teachers have gone all the way with the students. Not just the remote learners, but even with the in-person students. They let the students stay after school to catch up or for tests," Dietrich said.

Covid has affected more than just students and teachers; even school principles are affected.

"If I had hairs on my head, there wouldn't be very many left," Brown said.

Madison Hampton-Dodd, eighth grade student at GMS, has experienced the life of being both a remote learner and an in-person learner, due to quarantining.

"The ways of the world are against me," Hampton-Dodd said.



# Ciao! Bonjour! Guten Tag!

## The Annual European Fair was a Success, Despite Changes Brought on by Covid-19

By Hayden Smith

Every year the sixth grade students at Georgetowne Middle School present the European Fair.

Miss Long and Miss Hickey, the sixth grade teachers at GMS, run the European Fair.

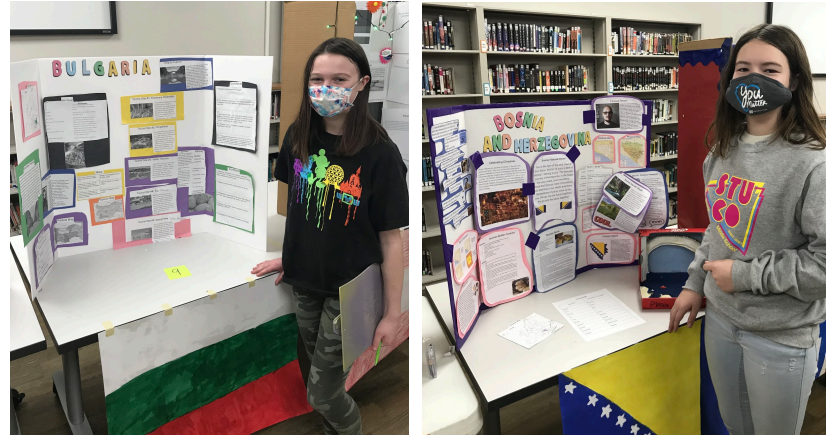
In a typical year, parents and the rest of the school are welcome to come to the library to look and learn about the displays the students have worked on.

Hickey spoke on the changes that Covid-19 had on the European Fair.

“This year everybody had their own country and there were no partners this year,” Hickey said.

There was no food at the European Fair, but there were still displays for the whole school to see. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, classes were not able to all visit the fair at once; teachers signed up for a time to view the projects.

Remote learners were responsible for bringing their presentations to the school.



**EUROPEAN FAIR-** Pictured are sixth Graders Lilly Higgs and Marley Dramstad-Newman presenting “Bulgaria” and “Bosnia and Herzegovina,” their projects for this year’s European Fair, in December of 2020. *Photos provided by Mrs. Oertle, Yearbook Club Sponsor.*

## Induction Ceremony Ends 2020 on a High Note GMS Inducted New NJHS Members in December



**NJHS CELEBRATION-** The newest members of NJHS received membership cards, pins, and certificates at their Induction Ceremony. Pictured are, front row, left to right- Olivia Poe, Alina Vang, Ruhi Patel (virtual), Elizabeth Austin, Aiden Craft; back row, left to right- Jeffrey Wood, Alivia Harris, Gabrielle Gonzales, Kiley Coker, Joey Walker, Noah Edgcomb, John Kroll. *Picture provided by Mrs. Rustman.*

By Hayden Smith

The National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) has a new voice this year.

Mrs. Rustman, eighth grade ELA teacher, has taken over the National Junior Honor Society, due to Chris Short retiring.

“The NJHS focuses on scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship,” Rustman said.

Students qualify for NJHS after achieving high honors eight out of the past nine quarters. Then, the final group is selected by a faculty committee.

The NJHS Induction Ceremony was held on Dec. 11, 2020 in the GMS library.

Unfortunately, parents could not attend the celebration due to Covid-19 restrictions, but the public could attend it virtually.

Pictured are the newest members of NJHS.

# Tragedy in a Trying Year

## A Tribute to 2020

By Gracee Weiss

Below is a list of just some of the many notable names that were lost last year. Some of the celebrities that sadly passed away in 2020 are pictured in this feature, as well. *Photos courtesy of Google Advanced Search, via Gracee Weiss.*

- **Chadwick Boseman**
  - The *Black Panther* actor died at 43.
- **Gianna Bryant**
  - The 13-year-old died alongside her father, Kobe Bryant.
- **Kobe Bryant.**
  - The NBA star, who played for the Los Angeles Lakers, died at 41.
- **Sean Connery**
  - The actor, best known for playing James Bond, died at 90.
- **Ruth Bader Ginsburg (RBG)**
  - The Supreme Court Justice died at 87.
- **Ian Holm**
  - The *Lord of the Rings* actor died at 88.
- **Benjamin Keough**
  - Elvis Presley's only grandson died at 27.
- **John Lewis**
  - The Congressman and Civil Rights icon died at 80.
- **Zindiswa Mandela**
  - Nelson Mandela's youngest daughter died at 59.
- **David Prowse**
  - The actor who voiced Darth Vader died at 85.
- **Kenny Rogers**
  - The country singer died at 81.
- **Alex Trebek**
  - The *Jeopardy* host died at 80.
- **C.T. Vivian**
  - Martin Luther King Jr.'s field general and fellow Civil Rights leader died at 95.
- **King Von**
  - The rapper, born Dayvon Bennett, was shot and killed at 26.



Alex Trebek



Gianna and Kobe Bryant



RBG



Chadwick Boseman



Kenny Rogers



John Lewis

# A Paw-sitively Successful Program

By Gracee Weiss

This year has been a crazy one, but one thing that has made students' and teachers' days better are "Paw-sitive Posts."

Paw-sitive Posts are a way to let students spread positivity anonymously.

Anyone can go to their grade level home page and click the "Paw-sitive Posts" link, which takes him/her to a Google Form where he/she can put nice comments about students or teachers.

"A program does exist that does the same sort of thing but it's pricey, so we used our Google skills to develop our own. We wanted this to allow people to feel joy throughout the entire day," Miss MacDonald, seventh grade ELA teacher and Student Council sponsor, said.

"I think the response has been... incredible," MacDonald said.

One reason MacDonald thinks the program has taken off is that the "Paw-sitive Posts" are anonymous, and she hopes people are encouraged to be nicer to each other after seeing the good they could do.

"It always brightens my day when I see my name up there, for sure," MacDonald said.

Student Council sponsors the "Paw-sitive Posts" and they have also sponsored other things this school year, including spirit weeks, the Red Cross Blood Drive, the sticker fundraiser and the annual canned food drive.



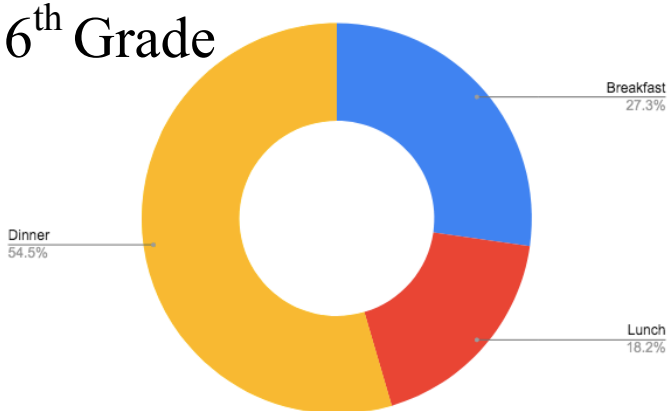
**SUNSHINE ON A SCREEN-** These are some of the many positive comments left for students and staff that are displayed on the upstairs T.V. Photo by Gracee Weiss.

# Fantastic Foods

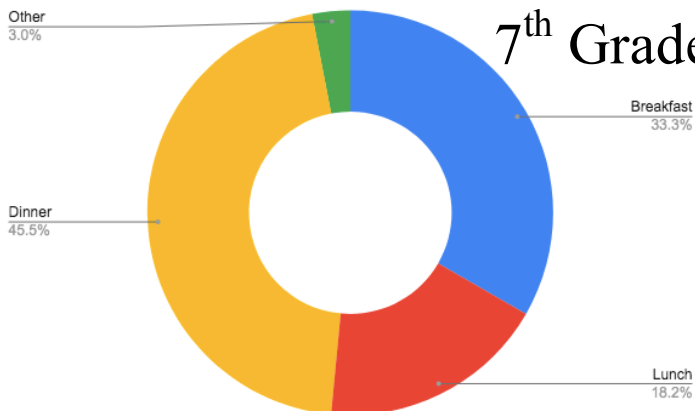
By Ava Conway & Ethan Knox

Students and staff at Georgetowne Middle School participated in the following poll about their favorite meal: breakfast, lunch or dinner. Below are the results of all students and staff who were present when the survey took place.

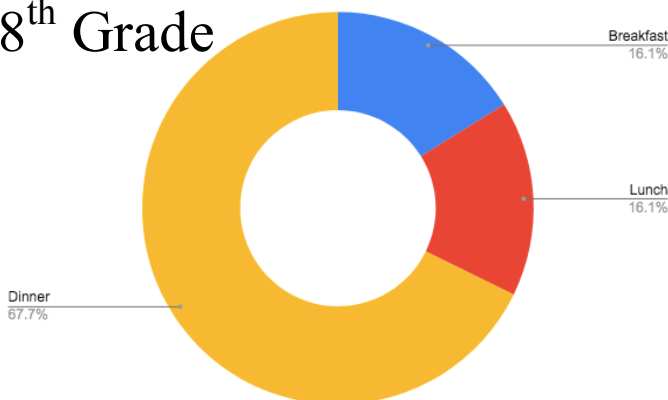
### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade



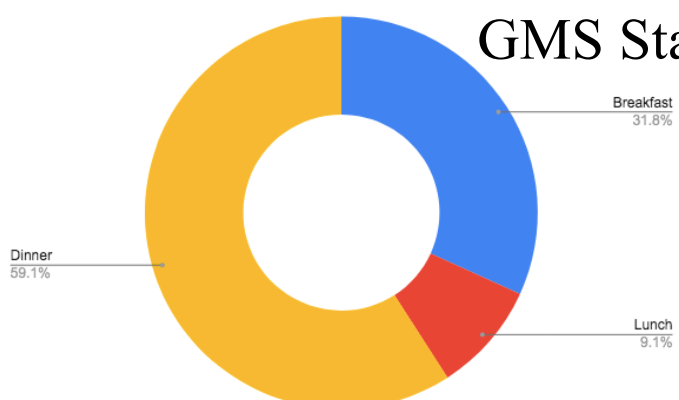
### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade



### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade



### GMS Staff



# Favorite Rebecca Caudill Books

## Teacher vs. Student



By Ava Conway

According to [www.rebeccacaudill.org](http://www.rebeccacaudill.org), “*The Rebecca Caudill Young Readers' Book Award* is an annual award given to the author of the book voted most outstanding by students in grades four through eight in participating Illinois schools. The award is named in honor of Rebecca Caudill who lived and wrote in Urbana, Illinois, for nearly fifty years. The award is given in recognition for her literary talent and the universal appeal of her books which have touched the hearts of many children and young adults.”

The Rebecca Caudill books are read by students and staff at Georgetowne Middle School. Readers have a chance to be rewarded based on how many of the Rebecca Caudill books they complete during one school year. Miss Long, sixth grade teacher at GMS, has a celebration for the students and staff who have read at least three of the books on the Rebecca Caudill list.

“You have to pass the tests with at least 75 percent or better,” Long said.

*Photos courtesy of Google Advanced Search, via Ava Conway and Ethan Knox.*

By Ava Conway

Mrs. Rustman, eighth grade ELA teacher at Georgetowne Middle School, thinks that the book *Refugee* by Alan Gratz was the best Rebecca Caudill book. She has her eighth grade students read it every year.

“I loved it, and I read it in like four days,” Rustman said.

The reason Rustman loves this book is because it covers three different points of views, all of which are from different time periods in history. They include Nazi, Germany, 1990’s Cuba and modern day Syria.

Rustman’s favorite part of the book was when it went over the Holocaust from Nazi, Germany. She loves how this part of the novel was from the perspective of a Jewish boy, because it gives much more detail about what happened in history.

Out of five stars, Rustman rates this novel a five.

“It’s one of the best books I have ever read... and I’ve read a lot of books,” Rustman said.

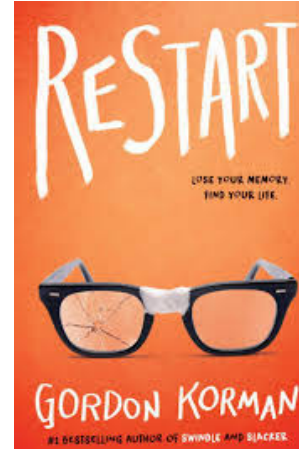
This novel has changed Rustman’s perspective on life quite a bit.

“It gave me more appreciation on life,” Rustman said.

Rustman would recommend the novel *Refugee* by Alan Gratz to anyone who wants a different perspective on life.

You can find this book at your local library or you can wait until eighth grade to read it in Rustman’s ELA class.

**Tiger Print Staff:** Bryce Armstrong, Ava Conway, Jack Hillard, Landon Jackson, Ethan Knox, Miss MacDonald, Olivia Poe, Hayden Smith, Gracee Weiss



By Ethan Knox

Noah Edgcomb, an eighth grade student at Georgetowne Middle School, has a favorite Rebecca Caudill book: *Restart* by Gordan Korman.

“Yes, I liked the book,” Edgcomb said.

He liked the book because it gave the main character, Chase, a restart in his life. Instead of becoming a bully again, he did the opposite.

Edgcomb’s favorite part of the book was when a kid filled up a tuba with something and caused a mess, so Chase got mad and defended his friends.

“The book was good, but was not one of the best, so I give it four out of five stars,” Edgcomb said.

“I never liked bullying or bullies, and the book strengthened that thought,” Edgcomb said.

## Tiger Print

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*Tiger Print* serves as a public forum to serve the school mission of democratic education, to inspire citizens to engage in issues and events, and to enlighten the community with diverse perspectives.

**Advisor; Editor-in-Chief:** Miss MacDonald

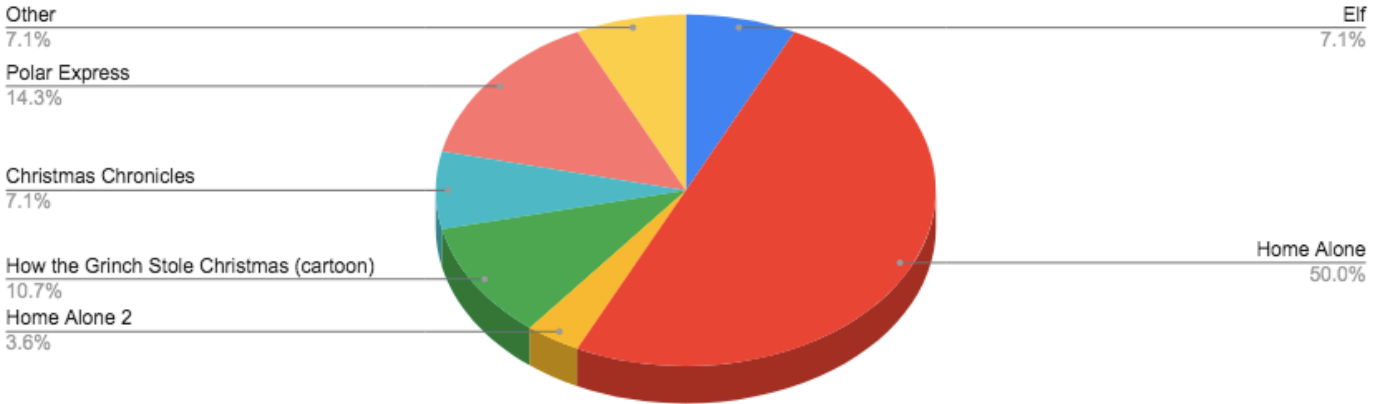
**Editorial Board:** Olivia Poe, news editor; Gracee Weiss, feature editor; Ava Conway, opinion editor; Landon Jackson, sports editor.

# Ho Ho Holiday Movies

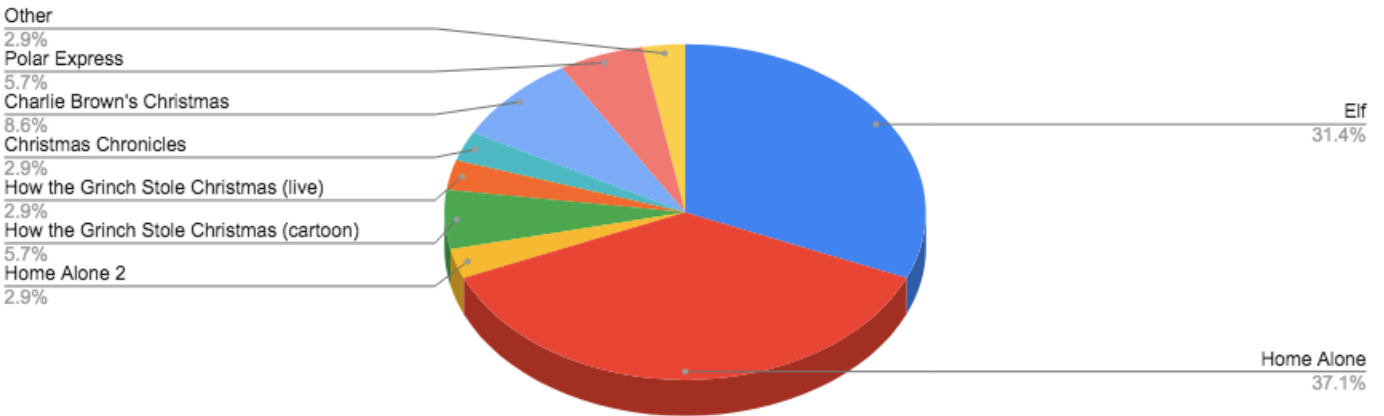
By Ava Conway & Ethan Knox

Students and staff at Georgetowne Middle School participated in the following poll about Favorite Christmas Movies. Below are the results of all students and staff who were present when the survey took place.

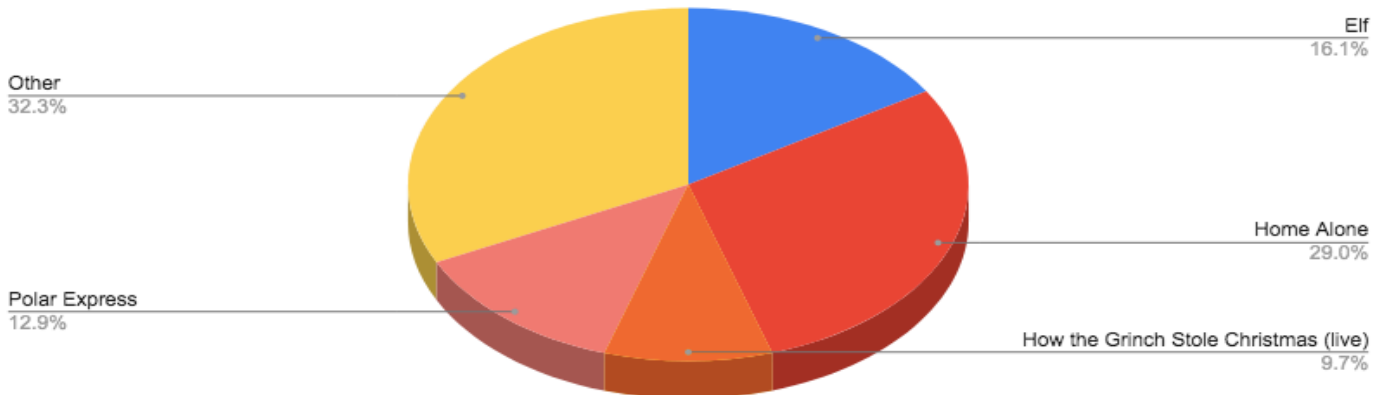
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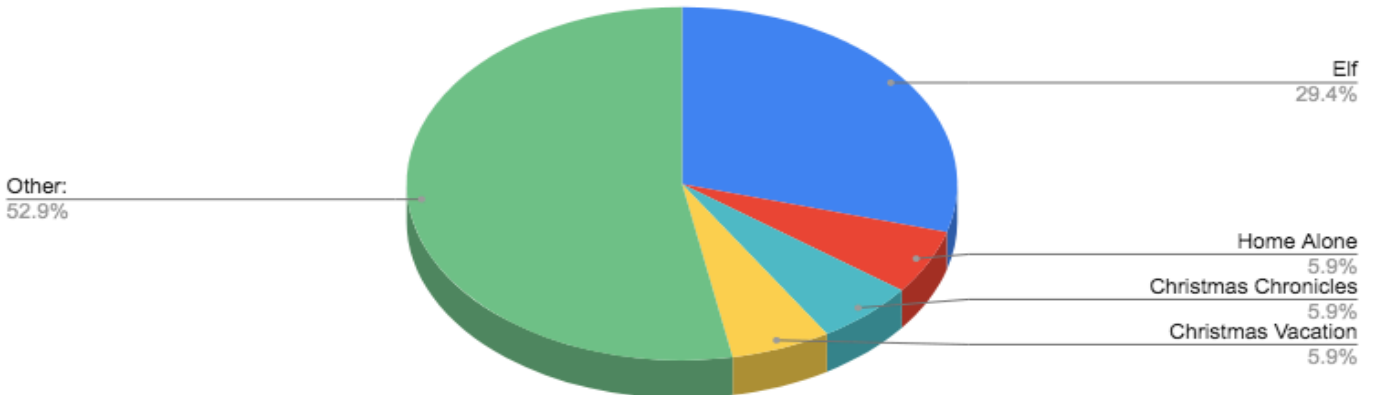
7<sup>th</sup> Grade



8<sup>th</sup> Grade



GMS Staff



# Basketball Future Looks Dim in the Wake of Covid-19

By Jack Hillard

Covid-19 has put many things in shutdown: The Georgetowne Middle School (GMS) basketball team is one of those things. Mr. Wonsowski, GMS basketball coach, commented on how Covid-19 has affected the basketball season.

“It put it in jeopardy. Usually we would be two full months in and have 12 games played, so about two-thirds into the season,” Wonsowski said.

Wonsowski was asked if the season is cancelled permanently, which is a big question on many people’s minds.

“As of right now it is suspended. We don’t want to cancel less than a month from tryouts and the athletic directors haven’t said much,” Wonsowski said. As of publication, coaches, players and community members are still waiting for answers and updates regarding the season.

If players can return to the game, will they have to wear masks at all times? It seems as if so.

“Yes [they will have to wear masks], because since there is a vaccine out, there is a better chance of sports coming back. The entire time we are in the gym, we have to wear masks... on the bench, court, officials, coaches, anybody,” Wonsowski said.

With the use of masks, come mask breaks.

“It’s going to be tough with mask breaks, but we’re going to have to for players’ health and safety. It might make games longer. A normal game is an hour, but with mask breaks, we may be looking at an hour and a half,” Wonsowski said.

Wonsowski was asked if there would be enough room to be six feet apart on the benches.

“There will be enough room all the way from the wall to the scorers’ table,” Wonsowski said.

If the season begins, many are wondering what away games will look like, as well as transportation to those games.

“Busses should still be fine based on numbers, but no cheerleaders,” Wonsowski said.

If the GMS basketball players have a chance to dribble down the court this season, games are going to definitely look different than years past.

“The most challenging part is getting to the season, but practice and games are going to be tough too, with having officials running up and down [the court] with masks,” Wonsowski said.

Even though many changes would have to be made to basketball as a result of Covid-19, Wonsowski is just hoping to have any sort of season at all.

“I am looking forward to playing again because being two months behind is not normal,” Wonsowski said. “It’s going to be a short season. We normally play 18-21 games, but right now it’s looking like it will be 8-10.”

## Bump! Set! Spikes in Covid-19 Have Postponed Volleyball Season

By Landon Jackson

The 2020 volleyball season is looking a lot different this year.

“We have everything ready to go, so hopefully we will get to play eventually,” Miss MacDonald, head eighth grade volleyball coach, said.

Mrs. Lehr, head sixth/seventh grade volleyball coach, hopes the teams can play in the spring.

MacDonald and Lehr they both agree with what Governor Pritzker has done for the state, for health and safety purposes; however, they are still frustrated and sad the season cannot start up.

“I see the Governor’s point of view, but I am sad our season has not begun,” MacDonald said.

MacDonald and Lehr held open gyms prior to the Tier-3 mitigations being put in place. Those have currently been put on hold, as have tryouts for the team.

The outbreak of Covid-19 has affected many people and states; it especially affected schools and workplaces. However, with all that the schools are doing to keep their students safe, communities and coaches hope that in the next two or three months, we will be able to play school sports again.



**WE WANT TO PLAY!**- Basketball, cheerleading, poms and volleyball were postponed as a result of Covid-19 restrictions. Coaches and student athletes are hoping to return to the GMS gym and start doing the sports they love soon. *Photo by Landon Jackson.*



# Persisting Through a Tough Year

By Jack Hillard

The outbreak of Covid-19 has affected many activities; poms is one of them. At Georgetown Middle School (GMS), Covid has affected poms by forcing them to have tryouts outside and choreograph routines to keep team members six feet apart.

Miss Long, GMS poms coach, had to adjust and adequately prepare for the season.

"I created routines that can be done six feet apart," Long said. "I, as well as the team, tried to have a positive perspective and approach towards the season even if it gets cancelled for the year."

"I am trying to encourage the squad to work hard no matter what," Long said.

Long was asked how she adapted to the Covid-19 challenges and restrictions.

"We can't pass out all the uniforms because we had to cut back on some orders due to Covid-19," Long said. "We must minimize closeness and touch on some of the dances/routines."

If basketball and poms end



**DANCING THROUGH THE PANDEMIC!**- The Pom Squad safely practiced in the GMS gym this past summer. *Photo provided by Miss Long.*

up starting, the team is prepared to perform.

"The entire squad will be very spaced out on the stands and gym floor," Long said.

According to Long's calculations there is going to be enough room for her squad to be six feet apart.

Long commented on how the season was different with wearing masks.

"It's different because I had to give the squad mask breaks. I had forgotten a few times that it gets hotter in your mask and you will need more breaks to cool off," Long said.

Long also reflected on the most challenging part of this season.

"We have a very talented team this year,

but it's so devastating and disappointing that they are unable to showcase their talent and dances they've been practicing for," Long said.

This season is going to be very difficult and they will run into many obstacles, but the team will fight through it.

"If we do have a season we get to do two songs per game," Long said.

The 2020-2021 team consists of the following dancers: Elizabeth Austin, Kiley Coker, Ava Conway, Addyson Fritz, Bella Halverson, Madison Hampton-Dodd, Lily Higgs, Layla Kesler, Ruhi Patel, Olivia Poe, Anna Thaller and Alina Vang.

## The Effects of Covid-19 on the GMS Cheer Squad

By Landon Jackson

The 2020 cheer season looks a lot different this year.

Before Covid-19 restrictions were put in place for winter sports, the GMS cheerleading squad had practiced and was prepared for the start of their 2020-2021 season.

"The girls worked really hard throughout the summer," Mrs. Strunk, head cheer coach, said.

The cheerleading squad began practicing virtually over the summer and then transitioned to outdoor practices. When the school year began, practices transitioned to the GMS gym, where team members had to wear their masks.

The team is prepared to cheer on the GMS Tigers, if their official season is able to begin.

"It's very dependent on basketball and the Governor," Miss MacDonald, assistant cheer coach, said.

If basketball gets the good-to-go, then every other sport will probably commence as well.

"If they are not able to perform in person, we would be able to do it virtually," MacDonald said.

Strunk said the girls have been working hard. She doesn't want their practice to go to waste this year.