



**June 2021**

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# BLM

~ Ca'Mya Hampton  
June 2021

The Black Lives Matter movement started in July 2013 as a hashtag after George Zimmerman was acquitted for the murder of Trayvon Martin. The movement grew nationally in 2014 after the murder of Michael Brown and Eric Garner and has since established itself as a worldwide movement.

The movement is based around systematic racism, police brutality, racially motivated violence, to eradicate white supremacy, and how we as Black people should dismantle structures made to oppress and silence us.

The inception of America was created to oppress black people from everything: education, wealth, liberty... from the first time Black people entered this country they were immediately stripped from their humanity.

As a Black person it is very tiring that our voices are constantly being unheard or silenced because we are deemed as political.

It is also tiring to see our BLM statements being refuted to All Lives Matter or Blue Lives Matters because, when we say Black Lives Matter, we are not saying white, Hispanic, Asian or any other race doesn't matter—we are saying that Black Americans are in racial danger.

People in higher power dislike us for whatever bias reasoning. To hear someone use All Lives Matter or Blue Lives Matter as an argument against BLM makes me feel that they never really took time to analyze what the movement is for or recognize the people that have been killed solely because of their race.

As a black woman myself it is very disheartening every time I open an app and see another black person killed—whether if it was by a cop or a regular citizen.

Like the case of Bothan Jean: who was fatally shot to death on September 6th, 2018 in his own apartment because an off duty cop mistaken his home for hers.

Her apartment was an entire floor below his so how?  
How did she mistake his apartment for hers?  
How could she have gotten into his apartment if her keys were meant for her apartment on an entirely different floor?  
Why was her first reaction to kill?  
As a police officer aren't you supposed to de-escalate the situation?  
How come her taser wasn't an option at that moment?  
I have many questions for situations like this.

Another case that just completely makes my blood boil is Ahmaud Arbery. February 23rd, 2020 Arbery took an unarmed jog that led to his death. He was casually jogging when father and son Gregory and Travis McMichael confronted Arbery for resembling a suspect in local break-ins.

They had no right to do this—if they had suspicions, they should have contacted the police immediately.

And, while they had these suspicions, the police had no reports of break-ins in that area.

The father and son armed themselves with guns and followed Arbery in a pick-up truck clearly with bad intentions. When they reached him, the father claimed that Arbery attacked his son so they shot him two times in the chest and a third grazed his wrist.

Cases like these always get swept under the rug by the justice system and do not give Black Americans the "liberty and justice for all" that they recite during the pledge everyday at school and before sporting events.

This is why we say Black Lives Matter because WE matter... but we are not being treated as such—we are not being held to the same standard or level as other people which is why I stand with the movement of BLM.

Sources used for this news story:

<https://library.law.howard.edu/civilrightshistory/BLM>

<https://blacklivesmatter.com/about/>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-52623151>

# Covid(Quarantine) 2020-2021

~ Alexis Alexander  
June 2021

Covid 19, also known as Corona Virus, has had an impact on many lives and has taken an emotional toll on more people than you can imagine.

Covid 19 is a deadly infectious disease that has taken the lives of many since it severely sparked up in March of 2020. Almost the whole world quarantined due to the global pandemic.

This disease is a contagious airborne respiratory disease that everyone probably had at least once in the last year. Due to the fact that it is a fairly new sickness, much is not known about the disease.

Covid affected some more than others. This disease has killed many of the people who were more at risk to it—which were anyone who already had an ongoing sickness (especially another respiratory sickness) as well as older people and babies.

Corona has affected my life in good and bad ways.

In March 2020, I was going to school for my 11th grade year at Wilson High School when rumors of Covid 19 started going around. At first, it all seemed like a big joke but then positive cases started going up in Monroe County Schools.

It was reported that school would be shutting down for about a week or two... me and pretty much everyone I knew were excited about it. Not really thinking or seeing the bigger picture.

Later that week they announced that they would be shutting down school indefinitely. I was happy to hear it.

Eventually, they enforced curfews and mask rules at all public places that were not shut down. They encouraged everyone to stay inside and quarantine to prevent the spread of Corona.

But it was hard.

Many people still got it and some passed away from it.

Through the months, me and I'm sure everyone else got pretty used to Covid. It came and never really went away.

Many of the people that I've known to have Covid were not, thank God, seriously affected by it. But they did have to quarantine in their homes and not come into contact with anyone one who hasn't been infected.

I myself strongly believe that I had Corona back in March 2021 and, let me tell you, I've never been as sick as I was then. I had every symptom you can imagine and, though I never got tested, I still took safety precautions and quarantined myself until I was feeling much better.

Covid 19 has impacted so many people's lives but we shouldn't let it define us. We should continue to take these safety procedures and make the disease go more and more away.

# COVID-19

~ Jahnasia Smith

June 2021

In December 2019, Wuhan, China, discovered a new coronavirus. The World Health Organization researched the COVID-19 pandemic. The virus most likely originated in bats and was then transmitted to humans. It is highly contagious and has had various effects on many individuals.

The majority of patients infected with the COVID-19 virus will have mild to moderate respiratory symptoms and will heal without needing any special care. People who are older, as well as those who have existing medical conditions such as heart disease, asthma, chronic lung disease, and cancer, are more likely to experience serious conditions.

When an affected individual coughs or sneezes, the COVID-19 virus spreads mainly by saliva droplets or nasal discharge. Clean your hands regularly or use an alcohol-based rub such as hand sanitizer to protect yourself and others from bacteria, and avoid rubbing your skin.

Throughout the end of 2019 from today an estimate of 3.32M people in the world have died due to COVID.

Malls, salons, schools, and other non-essential businesses were shut down and everyone was encouraged to quarantine.

With schools closed, students were required to learn remotely at home.

According to RingCentral, results of studies revealed that the COVID-19 epidemic has had a substantial effect on students' mental health, schooling, and everyday life. Taking a course online decreases student success in that course by around a third of a standard deviation, as determined by ratings.

Frontiers reveals troubling rates of children dropping behind, skipping school, or failing to show up at all in its article "COVID-19 and Distance Learning". Students' achievement and development are impacted when they take a course online rather than in person.

Post-traumatic stress symptoms, confusion, and indignation were all recorded in the majority of the trials that were analyzed. Longer quarantine periods, fears of illness, dissatisfaction, boredom, insufficient supplies, insufficient knowledge, financial loss, and stigma were all factors that contributed to stress.

As a student during this pandemic, and having school remotely, the process has been depressing. Barely having a social life, laziness and procrastination, being stuck at home bored with nothing to do and nowhere to go has been a tough process.

Not being able to socialize and get the one-on-one help needed in a physical school setting has also been a problem.

Some students lack the social aspects of formal education, while others benefit from the flexibility of self-paced instruction.

To achieve a healthy balance between school and home life, education officials must make potentially difficult decisions that weigh the health consequences of in-person instruction against the educational interests of youngsters that could be best met in physical classrooms.

Online education teaches students how to become more independent and responsible.

# Remote Learning

~ Saida Hasan  
June 2021

March 13th 2020 at 2:30 was the last time students of Wilson Magnet High School attended school normally without a mask because there was an airborne virus, we now know as Covid-19, that spread rapidly across the world and caused everyone to quarantine at home.

We even had a country wide lockdown that the government put in place that kept everyone safe at home - even from work and school.

The first couple weeks of strictly quarantining at home was the happiest I ever was. I didn't have to go to school or have to do school a lot of school work.

We eventually started remote learning for the rest of the school year and sophomore me was so happy. I could do my school work from home which is where I was most comfortable.

I completed all my work on time and did really well in school and my grades were the best they had ever been.

I never thought that Covid would still be around for my junior year. I thought it would be a month or two long but it's still going on over a year later.

I wish that I still felt the same as when lockdown first started because now, not being able to be in school, takes a toll on me and several of my other friends.

Not being able to get the one-on-one experience, like going to your class for extra help during your free periods, sucks.

Although many other students love remote learning, because they are comfortable in their own environment and feel that they're learning really well, not all of us feel the same.

Remote learning has definitely changed the way I learn in certain classes.

Remote and hybrid learning changed the way students approach their classes. Many students may feel like it's impossible to understand the assignments while many may feel like it's the easiest thing in the world.

Some students are even doing a combination of remote and hybrid learning – they are able to get the extra help that they might need while maintaining their social distance.

One thing that remote learning causes is laziness and extreme procrastination. It's so hard to stay motivated in school when you're staring at a computer screen all day, assignments double daily, same 11:59 pm due dates throughout all your classes with minimal help from your teachers... takes a heavy toll on your mental health.

Most Teachers really try to keep us motivated, on top of our work, to keep a positive mindset, constantly sending us positive messages, and giving a lot of extra learning opportunities when possible – I have to give them credit for the amazing efforts they're making for students they haven't really met yet.

But it's just not the same as being in class.

Quarantine and remote learning has had both positive and negative outcomes when it comes to students. The environment has changed drastically and is hard to keep up because this is something that we all didn't see coming nor were prepared for.

But everyone is safe at home or, for those who do hybrid, are masked up and socially distancing themselves.

While it is tough, I'm grateful that we're staying safe.

# Missed Opportunities

~ Semaj Humphry

June 2021

2020 started off really great for most: coming back from Christmas break, still in school being around friends... the class of '21 had a bright spring ahead them!

Juniors and seniors at Wilson High School looked forward to the extracurricular activities that usually occur their last year.

January and February flew by faster than a blink of an eye and then we got to March.

A sudden shock wave of a new illness created a severe outbreak.

March 2020 was a major setback for a lot of people. Things were put on lockdown for two weeks... or so we thought.

Many of us took it as a mini vacation in a way, not thinking what was to come in the next year or so. Going into the pandemic, we all as students took it as a joke and thought of it as a get out school card.

Shortly, as the months passed and the school year started to come to an end, we all realized that this indeed might be our last "real" school year in high school.

The pandemic got so bad that juniors and seniors didn't get a proper prom or a graduation ceremony.

For some this was sad because, not only are they missing out on the full high school experience, they would go into college fairly unprepared.

As for class of '21, we didn't know what to really expect coming into our senior year. Since the full senior experience was out the window, a lot of us had no motivation to start or end the school year off strong.

Although the pandemic was still going on, some schools started to open back up and there was hope for the year.

In January, some students were allowed to go back to school under restrictions.

For some students this was great but, for most students, this still wasn't enough and some were forced to stay remote.

Being a hands-on student, this was hard because being able to grasp the lesson through a screen is tough.

But as the 2020-2021 school year comes to an end, this year has taught us a lot from responsibility to time management... and many other skills needed in the real world.

In a way, the pandemic hindered us but also helped us because students found themselves in the last year of quarantine – whether it was for better or worse. And that is what school is all about.

On behalf of class of '21, I am grateful for all that our teachers have done for us and what was provided for us while being out of school.



# My Senior Year was more than Just School

~ K'ron Odom

June 2021

Nothing stood out more than Black lives matter movement.

The power the movement has had on the people of the world is astonishing. It changed how schools, jobs and generally everything looks.

Riots, stores and businesses burned down, multiple arrests had become common over the past year.

Most people don't understand what "Black Lives Matter" means. It doesn't mean that we as the black community want to be more important... just more understood and realized.

We, as young black men and women, want to be treated as equals.

Treated exactly how you would treat a white man or women or a Hispanic man or women.

The odds of a black man, that has killed multiple people, getting the death penalty is higher than that of a white man who had committed the same crime. 48% of prisoners on death row are African American compared to 42% white...they follow behind but, with the leniency shown to Caucasians, that percentage could be higher.

The images that you see in the news, magazines, advertisements all bring about a question: who are black men?

Are the images that people see in the media the same as when I see a Black young man or a Black boy?

What do you see?

An acceptable black man talking about sports?

Or a respectable actor?

Someone who entertains?

Or that other black man that the media likes to show: the scary one on the street that is liable to do you harm.

Is that what we are if we don't entertain?

Which do I look like?

I am a young Black that has passed every single one of my classes in school this year. I don't entertain but have worked hard and excelled at a job away from my studies.

And my life matters.



## Questions or Comments?

E-Mail them to [Don.Burns@rcsdk12.org](mailto:Don.Burns@rcsdk12.org) (please put letters to the editor in the subject line)

Your letter may end up in future editions of the *Wildcat Times*

This is a letter from Management,

For me, this year's Journalism class has been a microcosm of the entire school year. For starters, the class name of Journalism does not hold the same weight as the big four: Science, Social Studies, Math and English. But, while it was a slow start, the students kept plugging away and have finally created their first newspaper.

But I don't want to take this time to focus on those dark days. And I don't want to focus on those senior experiences in which the Class of '21 could not participate. I do want to focus on the adversity that our students had to overcome to get to this point.

Working from home is not easy, especially when you're still coming to terms with responsibility as a teenager. But many of Wilson's students were able to attend classes while working jobs, taking care of siblings, and some even took care of ailing relatives.

We cannot choose the time we live in, only how to live in the time that is given to us. And this year's Wilson student epitomizes the rose that grew from concrete.

I also want to mention the staff: back in August, we were given the task to create interactive lessons that came as close as possible to the classroom experience. From what I've seen from the students, I think that we surpassed expectations.

And I would like to single out Mrs. VanDerwater—as always, your trust and support has been instrumental in making this publication possible.

Finally, and most importantly, thank you to our readers. You're the ones who drove us to put our best efforts forward and are the sole reason for our existence.

Thank You,  
Thank You,  
Thank You,

*The Wildcat Times*