

COVID-19

Teachers, students begin distance learning

Editor's note: In keeping with social distancing guidelines, all interviews for this story were conducted via email, phone and FaceTime.

By Sarah Claire Miller
Staff Writer

Teachers and students have begun distance learning now that schools are closed through at least April 17 to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

"It's a big undertaking to switch to distance learning," said U.S. History teacher David Burgess, who updated his teacher website with student resources last week. "Teachers across the nation are trying to completely reinvent our educational system on the fly. It should be very interesting to see what we can come up with."

Burgess said he misses school but not waking up at 6 a.m. every day.

"I love what I do," he said. "I love being around young people to learn and joke around with them. So, I miss it. Honestly, I feel like a big part of my life is gone, but I guess we all feel like that on some level right now."

Science teacher Amber Smith said she feels the same way.

"I do miss being at school and seeing everyone," she said. "I like having a routine and being among my coworkers and Mustang family. I'm hoping everyone uses this time to spend with their families and gain a new appreciation of life."

Like Burgess and all teachers at Center Hill and across DeSoto County Schools, Smith spent last week preparing for distance learning.

"I have posted links to the A&P and Chemistry textbooks on my teacher webpage," Smith said, explaining that the resources include PowerPoints, practice quizzes and review questions. "The main goal is for all of my students to have access to any and all information that they will need moving further."

Abbey Grisham, a junior, is in Smith's first block Human A&P class. This week, she's been able to wear her PJs while working on assignments remotely.

"It's comfy and I miss everybody, but it's a lot less stressful," she said.

"You can do everything on

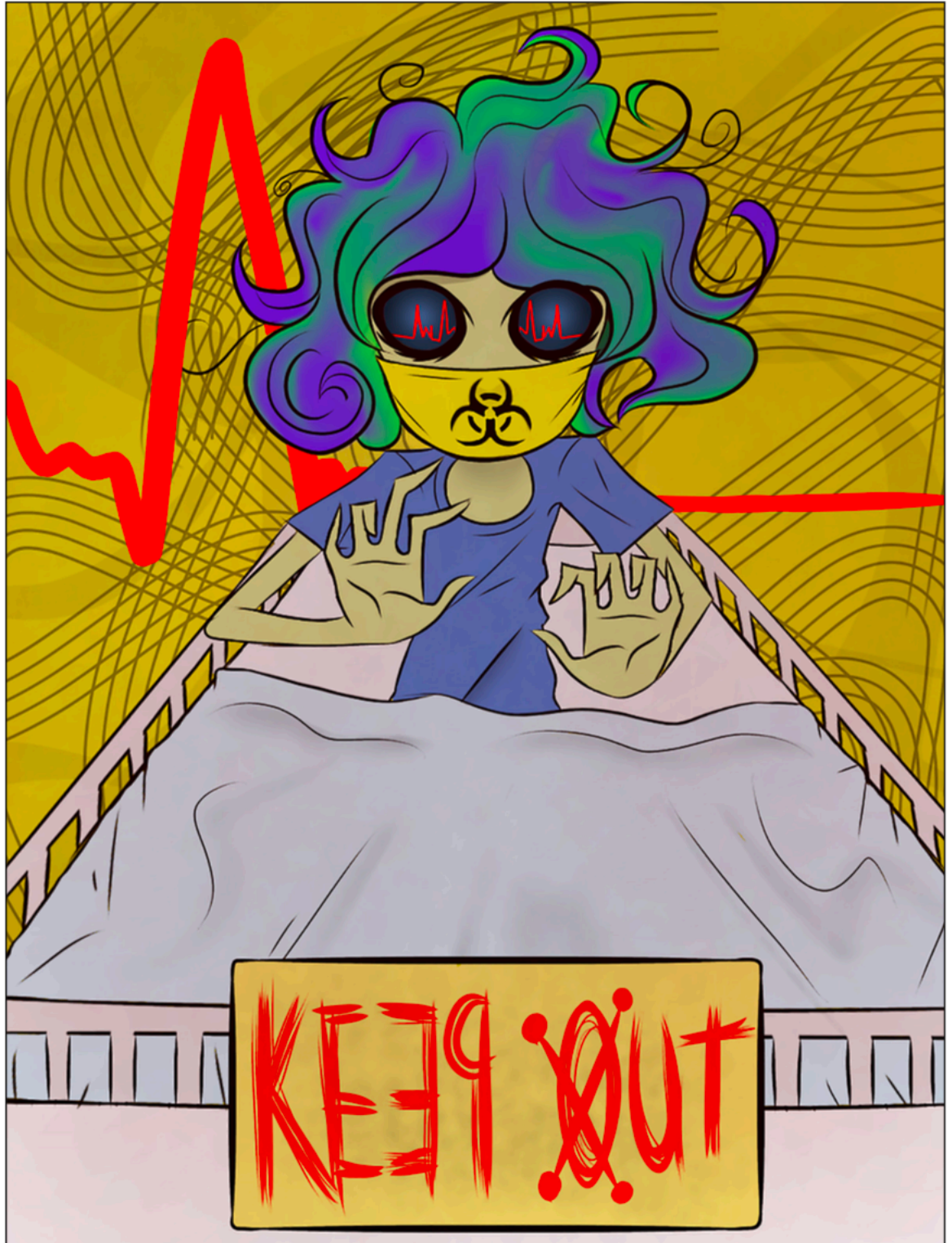


Illustration by Lacey Buckley