

COVID-19 has affected almost everything in my life. It has made me realize just how quickly everything can change, and how desperately people want to go back. It's almost like people forgot what normal was.

- **Rico Morris 10**



The pandemic has changed my daily schedule a lot. My days are nights and my nights are my days. Also, it took me some time to get used to wearing masks. But the pros of wearing a mask for a shy girl like me is I am not afraid to talk because no one can see my face expressions or reaction.

- **Dunia Eidah, 12**



I like eating in the cafeteria because I can go find friends or even new friends. But with us eating in the classroom it is awkward and if you don't have friends in the class you are eating with, you don't get to socialize.

- **Maggie Laney, 11**



## Open Campus / Closed Cafeteria

by Grant Edger and Drew Long, Golden Wave Media

On the 17th of August, students arrived at Tupelo High School for the first time since spring break. Some came in buses, some drove themselves and some were driven by parents. Some arrived by 8:00 AM whereas others didn't come in until 11:05 AM and some didn't even come until well after noon. But despite this, they all came in on time thanks to the school's new open campus policy.

The open campus policy allowed students to be as flexible as they like with their schedule as long as they get all of their work completed, whether in-person or online.

"It's basically senior leave for anyone who knows how to drive," freshman **Mary McVay** said.

This change was made to help out with social distancing in the classroom.

"Open campus does make my school year less stressful. I can choose what classes I want to attend for the day, or just stay home entirely if I wanted to," sophomore **Alison Morey** said.

Even with the open campus policy shift and mandated mask wearing, arguably the most drastic change for students was not being able to eat in the cafeteria.

The cafeteria served "grab and go" lunches and students ate in the classroom.

"It takes a little longer to prep in the mornings, simply because we have to pre-package all the food...[which is] stored until lunchtime," cafeteria manager **Nikki Bilger** said. "We have to do a lot of pre planning our meals that we used to not have to do."

In addition to the work by the cafeteria employees, students have had to make adjustments as well—especially to their social lives.

"You have a larger number of people to socialize with [in the cafeteria]," senior **Chloe Lockridge** said.

"I miss eating with more of my friends," junior **Ari Giorgenti** said.

# SAME but different



"One thing I know that was a very drastic change this year was the online/ stay at home learning. Yes, we all started a new school year, but we all did so in our own ways. It was very weird not seeing Tupelo High at its full capacity this year for sure!"

- **Madison Denton, 12**

# IT'S THE sign of the times

## Covering up: Masks protect students from COVID spread

by Nathan Eschete, Golden Wave Media

Since the opening of campus in August, students wore masks to school in order to prevent the spreading of the corona virus while allowing students to attend classes in public classrooms with their fellow classmates. While not everyone agrees that they are fun, most students have accepted mask use with little complaint.

"I'm honestly okay with it. I mean yes they get hot and uncomfortable after walking across campus or going up the stairs. The thing is they really are not all that bad," junior **Maggie Laney** said.

"I do not like it at all and I feel it suppresses me, my fellow students, and teachers," sophomore **Charlee Kate Austin** said.

Many students have forgotten what it was like to see the faces of people, but they haven't forgotten their sense of style. Many students show off their creativity with their masks.

Since the COVID outbreak, many stores and small businesses have invested in masks and even moms and grandmothers have started to make or supply masks for their family and friends.

"I have several from all different places," senior **Skylar Carr** said.

"I got plenty of masks. Some came from Reeds, some from my grandma, some from different places," freshman **Amya Pegues** said.

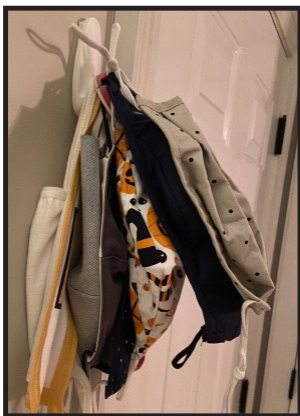
"I have gotten my masks from a bunch of different places: Amazon, boutiques, and Kroger," senior **Kelsey Burt** said.

"I think like anyone I hate it and if I could choose I wouldn't wear [my mask], but I wear it to respect other people who feel more threatened by this virus or are at higher risk. Just because it may not affect you as deeply doesn't mean the same for everyone else," freshman **Sadie Richburg** said.



**Alexandria Melton, 9**

"Overall, I like wearing a mask because they help me feel a lot more confident in my safety. The normalization of masks can save many in my opinion."



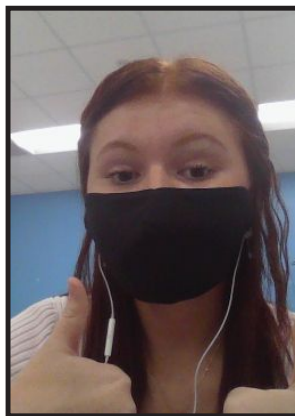
**Hailee Spradling 9**

"Wearing a mask is very inconvenient and especially when I forget to put it back on after getting water or putting on ChapStick and such."



**Jon Reid, 10**

"My mother got [my mask] from the school."



**Charlee Kate Austin, 10**

"I do not like it at all and I feel it suppresses me, my fellow students, and teachers"



**Makayla Johnson 12**

"When we are wearing the mask we cant really see facial expression, so it kinda makes it hard to connect or see how the person is feeling."

TPSD  
Pandemic  
supplies by  
the number:

1000  
gallons of  
hand sanitizer

10,000  
face  
guards

1000  
boxes of  
rubber  
gloves

10,000  
face  
masks

target body  
temp  
98.6