

THE PANDEMIC CHANGED HOW SKYLAR VAN DE WEERT '23 AND ROBERT PERKINS SPENT SUMMER VACATION

plans and the PANDEMIC



robert SAID "COVID-19 for the most part impacted the trip by getting us cheaper plane tickets, and we had to wear a mask everywhere we went. At the airports, they had their ongoing announcement about social distancing and masks, with signs as well, but DIA wasn't as packed," Perkins said.



skylar SAID "COVID-19 impacted our trip a lot. We weren't able to do as many things as we could have done. A lot of things were closed and it was harder to find things to do. Places that would usually be packed were fairly empty. It was so weird," Van De Weert said.

mask MASTERY



PHOTO COURTESY OF: CAGLA NUMANOGLU '22

CAGLA NUMANOGLU '22 PROVIDES TIPS FOR WEARING MASKS

DO: PROPERLY COVER FACE
"Masks should always be covering both your nose and mouth at the same time."

DON'T: FORGET TO WEAR MASK
"I wouldn't say wearing a mask correctly is super difficult and I think it's important to make everyone feel and stay safe."

BONUS: MASKS AND GLASSES
"I have glasses and wearing masks used to make them fog up a lot, but over time, I've realized that I'm more or less fine when I use anti-fog drops for scuba diving and use masks that have adjustable nose strips."

cagla numanoglu '22

1. BETTER AT HOME: Chloe Riley '22 scans her notes as she works on a response question. Riley found taking the test at home made her feel more comfortable. "Taking the exam at home was better in my opinion because being in the comfort of your own home relieved some of the stress from the exam and made me perform better," Riley said. **2. CHANGES NOTED:** Before the test begins, Andrea Lee '23 logs onto College Board to access the test. While the overall changes were concerning to her, Lee found the open-note policy to be helpful. "Since the exam was now open note I didn't have to worry as much about memorizing every little thing," Lee said. **3. CHANGING GEARS:** Due to the pandemic, Gerardo Martinez '21 is required to take his Advanced Placement exam at home. Martinez found it hard to adapt to the changes made to the test. "I had to change gears and adapt to the limited time allowed on the tests. All I really could do was hope that my preparations were good enough," Martinez said. **4. INTERNET ISSUES:** Sitting at his desk, Samuel Travis '22 works on his exam for AP US Government and Politics. The worst part of the exam for Travis was when he had WiFi problems during the test. "The WiFi in my house turned off. I was freaked out. The WiFi finally turned back on and I probably typed faster than I'd ever typed before," Travis said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF: CHLOE RILEY '22

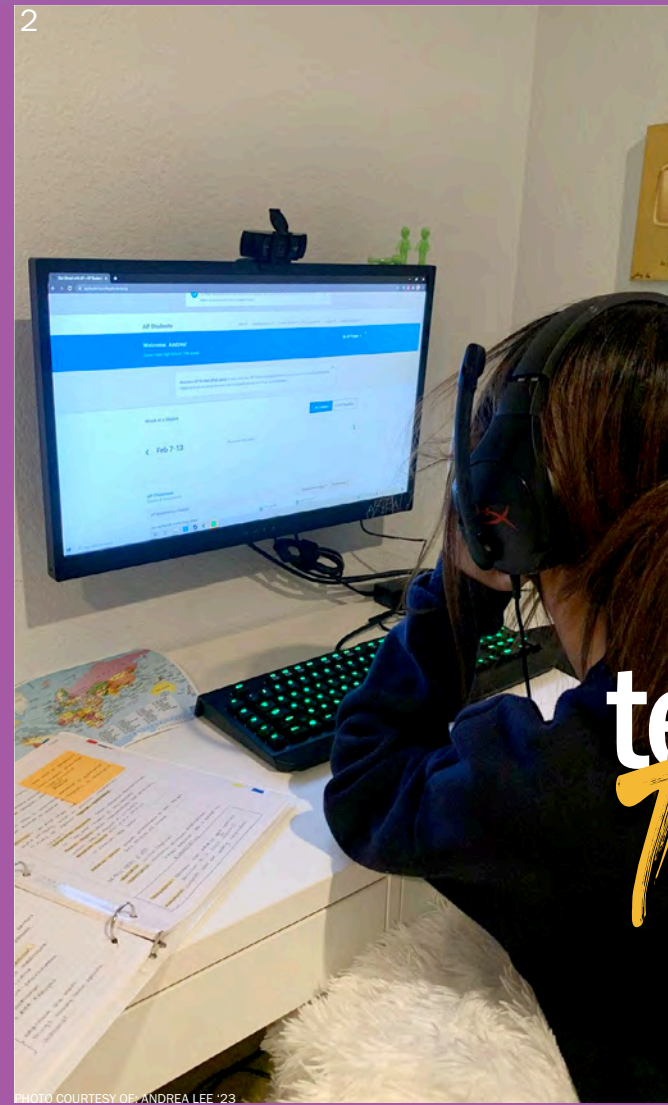


PHOTO COURTESY OF: ANDREA LEE '23



PHOTO COURTESY OF: GERARDO MARTINEZ '21

testing TROUBLES

DUE TO THE CANCELATION OF IN-PERSON EXAMS, ADVANCED PLACEMENT STUDENTS WERE REQUIRED TO TAKE THEIR TESTS FROM HOME

After a year's worth of preparation, students in Advanced Placement classes were unsure how, or if, the testing sessions would happen. On April 3, College Board released a statement saying extremely limited versions of the exam students had been preparing for would be available.

"We were preparing for a multiple-choice section as well, which would require a lot of vocabulary memorization and just testing our knowledge about the government in general, but since we had to take it at home, we only had to answer two FRQs [Free Response Questions] that only focused up to unit three instead of all five units," Chloe Riley '22 said.

This sudden change in plans made the test harder for some students since they had to entirely change the way they had been getting ready throughout the previous year.

"I had started studying way in advance and was working hard on multiple-choice, but when I found out it would only be two FRQs for Human Geography, I completely dropped my original study plan," Andrea Lee '23 said.

Not only was content severely cut, but students also had to take their exams from home. The less professional testing situation had a large impact on test-takers such as Lauren Saylor '22.

"I personally do not do well when test-taking in

general, so being at home was difficult for me. There were so many more distractions that I had to ignore, which prevented me from being able to focus solely on the exam," Saylor said.

However, Clayton Mullens '22 appreciated some of the changes made to the tests.

"I wouldn't say it was too challenging since typing made it quicker to write, but it was definitely different," Clayton Mullens '22 said.

Not only was the test cut down in the amount of content it would cover, but the questions would also be open note. To students like Samuel Travis '22, this made studying useless.

"Because it was online, I decided to not study at all because I figured that either the FRQs would be obvious enough that I could just look at my notes or the questions would be so obscure that even if I did study I wouldn't know the answers," Travis said.

While the College Board was trying to still allow students an opportunity to earn college credit, Gerardo Martinez '21 thinks the way the tests were changed was a mistake.

"When it came to the actual test, it was a sad attempt by the College Board to put together a test that didn't grasp what we truly learned throughout the year. Honestly, I think they did a terrible job," Martinez said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF: SAMUEL TRAVIS '22