



York Tech Times

Vol. 3 Issue 1

Your Source for Spartan Nation News

Fall/Winter 20/21

Spartan Nation Responds to COVID-19



faculty, and without a traditional graduation ceremony full of all the anticipated pomp and circumstance.

But we persevered, as Spartans always do. Administration and staff organized an incredible virtual graduation ceremony, as well as constructed an outdoor platform for graduates to “cross the stage” and safely recreate that magical missing moment from a traditional diploma reception.

The rest of us completed the 2019-2020 school year on a rather anticlimactic note. We submitted all our virtual assignments and gave a cyber wave goodbye to another chapter.

Unsure of what the fall would bring, many of us were cautiously excited to return to campus and resume what normalcy we could for the new school year. Back in the spring, the school displayed announcements that asked students to wash their hands for 20 seconds, and had posters hung around made by students encouraging you to use hand sanitizer and a

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By: Destiny Jinyemiema (12)
March 13, 2020 is a day none of us are likely ever to forget. That was the last day that school - and many other aspects of our life - would be “normal” as we once took for granted.

When the COVID-19 virus began to spread across the United States last spring, no

one was prepared for how our daily lives would be impacted. Schools nationwide shut down and went virtual. Many businesses shut their doors. Families across the country sheltered in place, watching the news for signs of relief. As days turned to weeks, turned to months, society had to pivot and find alternate ways of getting life done.

For the Spartan Nation, that initially meant an abrupt halt to attending school on campus as we were thrust into the uncertain world of virtual lessons and social isolation. Our seniors were the ones hit most hard. We mourned with them as their K-12 careers came to an end without prom, without spending cherished moments with friends and

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YT Covid-19 Response

common sense approach to reducing the spread of germs. Now that we had experienced months of quarantine, mask wearing, and social distancing ... what changes could we expect at York Tech?

After spending all summer researching and debating the safest and most beneficial return to school protocol for our staff and students, the administration decided to put hybrid learning into effect. The student body is divided into cohorts by last name (A-Le | Lf-Z) with a rotation schedule of AABB in which students from each cohort spend one day learning on campus in-person, the next learning and completing asynchronous work virtually from home.

This model ensures less students are on the busses, in the building, in the common areas such as the cafeteria, lobby, and most importantly in the classroom where learning takes place. This model reduces the risk of someone spreading or acquiring the virus, and students will still be able to get in-person technical experience, reach their required technical hours, and be prepared to earn their related industry certifications.

Not only is the schedule new this year, but York Tech has received somewhat of a branded face lift to promote our COVID-19 mitigation. The school has provided York Tech themed face masks and hand sanitizer with belt loops to every student and employee. Everyone on campus is



required to wear a mask at all times, except for while eating lunch. In the cafeteria there is a limited number of seats at each table. Tables now have a helpful diagram and QR code for students to scan and place their name and table number to enable administrators to conduct contact tracing protocols when necessary. There are also several new vinyl signs around the school advising students to wear masks, keep socially distanced, wash hands thoroughly, walk on the right side of the hall, and to direct one-way traffic on the staircases. Each classroom is now equipped with a sanitizing station and desks are cleaned either before class begins or once class ends at the teacher's direction.

In addition to these safety measures, the York Tech

In addition to these safety measures, the York Tech Building and Grounds team, lead by Director Mr. Ruck and Assistant Director Mr. Grove, conducted a number of upgrades to prevent the spread and decrease the risk of COVID-19. They upgraded and installed new filters across our entire building HVAC system from MERV 10 to MERV 14 following the COVID-19 standards set by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers.

The team was also busy replacing all of the old-fashioned drinking fountains with awesome hands-free water bottle refilling stations that provide delicious filtered water and disabled all drinking spouts. They also installed touchless faucets across the school for students to use in

the restrooms.

Building and Grounds were also responsible for installing the classroom hand sanitizer stations and installing door stops so teachers can keep their doors open, removing the need to touch door handles to enter and leave a classroom. They also worked with an outside contractor to install handicap accessible and hands-free automatic entryways at the three main entrances to the building.

The second and third shift crew is responsible for cleaning and disinfecting classrooms and common areas utilizing a series of disinfectant sprayers that will spray an entire classroom. Their team is working diligently throughout the day

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Student Editorial: A Hybrid Life - Education in the Time of COVID-19

By: Paige Cunningham (12)

March 13th, 2020 was supposed to be an average, nothing special, kind of school day for the students of York County School of Technology. When the students arrived on that fateful day, they weren't expecting that it would be the last day that they would have until August of next year. Many students were excited to have an extra long spring break. They wouldn't have to deal with the stress of attending classes and the tediousness of homework. However, it quickly grew old as the need for social contact, the need to hug their friends, smile, laugh with another human being set in.

I asked a few students at the school about their mental health struggles during this time. Violet Reddick (12) says, "It went downhill. Really bad really quick. Just being stuck inside and having very limited contact. I know a lot of people who struggled during quarantine."

Her friend Elizabeth (Liz) Stine (12) agrees, having had her own struggles over the summer, "It went to crap. It was already bad to begin with. I had no control over my life. I ran away a couple times for days at a time because the environment I was in was so toxic."

Many students saw school as a way to escape their problems and just be happy. COVID took that safety

away, as it did many other things. Last year's seniors were unable to have the normal, formal graduation—something many had been looking forward to all year. Senior class of 2020, Ashley Morris says, "It felt absent of tradition. I got my diploma before my stage walk. My classmates weren't there to celebrate with me. The suspense of waiting for my name amongst the others wasn't there. It just wasn't the same."

As the new school year approached, the students of York County School of Technology couldn't have been more happy. But, much to their dismay, they had yet another thing to adjust to due to the COVID-19 pandemic sweeping the nation—the 2020-2021 hybrid model. Making the switch to attending school every other day, being split into cohorts...oftentimes without your core group of friends, and adjusting to virtual learning from home were all difficult.

Human interaction was still sorely missed. We truly felt "alone together". Walking the empty halls, passing the once bustling classrooms, everything was now silent. Every student was required to wear a mask at all times. It's funny how wearing a mask somehow feels like a muzzle.

Everything had become virtual - textbooks, worksheets, assignments, lectures, even

signing out to use the restroom, and using QR codes in the cafeteria at every table to sign in so they knew where everyone was seated.

Sanitizing was stressed constantly - wash your hands, sanitize your hands, sanitize the surfaces you've touched, avoid sharing anything. Stay safe to stay open was the daily mantra.

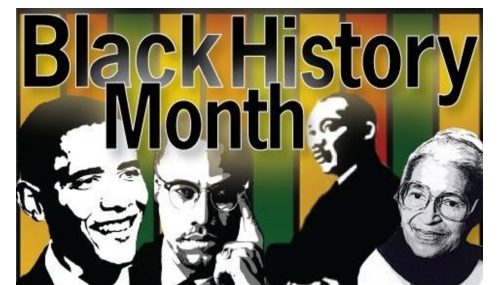
Students felt overwhelmed as they slowly learned how to overcome and adapt to all of these new rules and restrictions that weren't in place before. The biggest barrel to jump over was time management. Not many students knew how to navigate their hybrid schedules effectively. On virtual days, the temptation to sleep in, procrastinate on assignments, or avoid school altogether and help with family obligations or work a part-time job was at times unavoidable. Stress mounted, and grades started to suffer.

Which brings us here, halfway through the school year. With semester one under our belts, some of us are a little worse for wear. Life was and still is a struggle, but thanks to the amazing staff at York County School of Technology, we have been able to get through it so far.

This "new normal" doesn't feel normal. It feels empty and uncomfortable. Everyone is

coping the best they can, our beloved teachers included. If the past twelve months have taught us anything, it's that our core Spartan values of empathy and optimism are critical - now more than ever. So, check in with friends, faculty, family members. Ask others how they are doing...and reach out to someone if you yourself are struggling.

Here's to a better second semester, and a strong close to the school year. May everyone find a place of balance and wellness.



The Social Studies department is hosting a competition in honor of Black History Month. Students are encouraged to submit a creative work dealing with unsung heroes of Black history who have contributed to science, labor, and industry. Write an essay, draw or paint an image, make a poem, or even create a rap to enter this contest. Submit your piece to one of the following History department teachers: Ms. Smith, Mrs. Wisman, Mrs. Campisi, Mr. Stuckey. Winners will receive a field trip experience to Washington D.C. and have the opportunity to explore the Museum of African American History.

By: Amaja Duval (12)

NEW COURSE ALERT

Juniors and Seniors! A new math course has been created for next school year.

Introduction to Computer Science with Technical Applications covers basic programming concepts with an emphasis on real world applications.

Projects that you design are going to tie directly into your technical area. In this course you will design your own programs that that give you a better understanding of the technology in your field.

You must have completed geometry in order to take this course.

If interested, see Mr. DiMarzio in room 2120 or Mr. Marks in room 2122 with any questions.

SPARTAN NATION STAY SAFE STAY OPEN

COVID Response

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disinfecting high touch areas and disinfecting the cafeteria tables, quickly like a NASCAR pit crew, in between lunches.

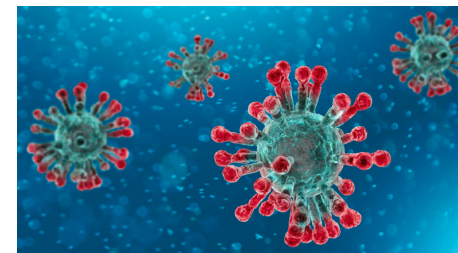
Our School Nurse Mrs. Melhorn and Licensed Practical Nurse Mrs. Neimyer have been working around the clock with families and students to assist with questions on COVID-19. They communicate frequently with parents to utilize the COVID-19 symptom checklist daily and keep students home if they are showing any potential symptoms to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The nurses also have a portable sanitizing room sprayer and have seen their office expand to another area of the



building. What once was the Community Board Room utilized heavily for school related meetings, is now a quarantine room with three isolation booths for individuals to safely sit and wait to be picked up by parents or guardians should they be showing COVID-19 potential symptoms.

The York Tech IT Department has also been working around the clock to ensure students and staff have access to the latest technologies for hybrid learning.

York Tech utilized current laptop inventory and purchased (1200) additional laptops that could be distributed to all students for the 20/21 school year. (1700) green protective cases were



also purchased and distributed to all students. Teachers were each provided with a WebCam, tripod, and a 2-in-1 laptop-tablet computer.

Each technical program received a Go-Pro to enable teachers to record "how to" and "walk-through" videos for students to be able to watch tutorials through their Schoology Learning Management System.

While things may look and feel very different around Spartan Nation, one thing remains constant - our dedication to providing a safe and rewarding state of the art technical and academic education, and our desire to build a better and brighter future for the York County community and beyond.

SPARTAN ART

Each year the students of Commercial and Advertising Art participate in the YCASE collaboration with York College. In year's past, the student artwork would be on display in a local gallery for public viewing, but this year the event was virtual with students submitting digital images of their creation.

What does this mean for Spartan Nation? We now have the opportunity to enjoy these wonderful pieces in-person, as they are currently on display in the media center. Come check them out!





Spartans Hit the Trail

By: Mrs. Muller

If you enjoy spending time outdoors and have a passion for the natural world, the York Tech Environmental Club is the place for you.

The club meets monthly and always has interesting topics of discussion, engaging guest speakers when possible, and invigorating outdoor activities, whether it be a hike or a trash clean-up morning to help keep York County beautiful.

Mrs. Pavlick and Mr. Fox run the club, and I am often in tow with my own children (11 and 6) who love to study wildlife and the environment. The club is welcoming to all students and staff.

So far this year, students have hiked Nixon Park, participated in the Susquehanna River Keepers Plastic Purge Project to clean debris from the river, hiked the Northwest Trail from Marietta to Bainbridge to see the White Cliffs, and hiked around Lake Redman.

Every new adventure is an opportunity to discover the beauty of York and Lancaster County, and remember why we need to preserve our natural habitats. Join us next time. See Ms. Pavlick in rm 1224.

Latin Influences

By: Yeida Lopez-Soto (11)

Latinos continue to make a big impact on American culture and society. For example, two women worth noticing are Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Sylvia Rivera.

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez became the youngest person elected into the House of Representatives. Since her election, Ocasio-Cortez has been a huge vocal support for left-leaning ideas. For instance, she co-sponsored the Green New Deal package to combat climate change, and she frequently speaks out against current energy policy.

Sylvia Rivera is a woman that made a noticeable mark in the advancement of LGBTQ+ rights. Rivera is credited with creating the activist organization Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries (STAR), which was later changed to Transgender. She is honored in the Stonewall National Monument - Greenwich Village, New York - the first national monument dedicated to LGBTQ+ rights. Sylvia Rivera was included as one of 50 activists honored.

To celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, September 15-October 15 the Social Studies department at York Tech is still accepting artwork that celebrates members of the Hispanic community and their contributions to our country. Artwork ideas include, but are not limited to: rap, song, poetry, painting, drawing, and essay. Winners will have the opportunity to attend a free field trip to Washington D.C. in the spring, alongside winners from the Black History Month art contest. See Ms. Smith, Mrs. Wisman, Mrs. Campisi, or Mr. Stuckey for more details.



FROM THE VAULT: Spartan Nation News Covered in Spring 2020 Before the Shutdown

PART ONE:

York Tech Hotrodders Set Sights on Vegas in November 2019

By: Clayton Writer (12) - Your friendly neighborhood bench guy

You may have heard about our Hotrodders of Tomorrow Club over the announcements, but you may not know what we actually do. As a member, I can sum it up. We disassemble and reassemble a Chevy engine as fast as possible. Over the 2019 summer we went to Norwalk, Ohio and competed. Our teams claimed 1st, 3rd, and 6th, with all teams meeting the 33 minute or under requirement to qualify for the Dual National Championships at SEMA in Las Vegas, and PRI in Indianapolis. This is Tech's 3rd time at nationals, and 2nd time at SEMA. All of our teams worked hard and put their heart and soul into getting this far, to represent the Spartan Nation on a national level. We hope you all will give us your support and I'll see you guys after SEMA. Viva Las Vegas Spartan Nation!

PART TWO:

Spartan Nation Takes Vegas By Storm

On November 3rd, 2019, 15 elite students from 3 teams coached by Todd Kesser and Terry Jamison embarked from Spartan Nation to The SEMA Show in Las Vegas, Nevada to compete in the 2019 Hotrodders of Tomorrow Dual National Championship.

If you don't know, the Hotrodders of Tomorrow Engine Challenge is a competition for high school students in an automotive technical program to compete in teams of 5 by taking apart and rebuilding a Chevy engine to specifications in as little time as possible. The qualifying time for teams to achieve in order to go to the Dual National Championship in either Las Vegas or Indianapolis is a complete run, with penalties, of 33 minutes or less.

Team Derale Performance, our senior team coached by Mr. Jamison, qualified for the

event at our home competition this past August, while our other 2 teams, Felpro (Sophomores) and Canton Racing Products (Juniors), both coached by Mr. Kessler, qualified in the Super Summit qualifier in early June.

In Nationals, each team gets 3 runs, and their total time is calculated as an average of the 3 times plus any penalties from getting questions wrong on a 50 question, multiple choice test. The contents of this test include penalty knowledge, automotive fundamentals, tools, parts, and knowledge on specifications/procedures for the competition.

We didn't just compete out there, as there was some room for a bit of fun. We drove through the Vegas Strip, saw the Fremont Light show, went to the WelderUp shop from Vegas Rat Rods, Counts Kustoms from Kounting Kars, and the historic Hoover Dam. Many of these were very educational, as we learned about a bit of history, and some different options in the automotive field that are a little bit more than your average mechanic.

As for how we did, all of the teams did well, but Derale managed to make York Tech history: the first team from Tech to make the Elite Ten. In December they will go to PRI in Indianapolis, Indiana to compete against 9 other teams - the best in the nation -

to fight for the title of the 2019 Hotrodders of Tomorrow National Champions. Next year our 2 other teams will have another chance for glory, and just qualifying is a win in itself. As for now, we should give our Derale team the best of wishes and hope they come back with the trophy and National Title.

To get to this point took extreme perseverance, teamwork, superb coaching, and dedication. Just going was a rewarding experience, as the students got to see cars, legends, and employers, but the experience of being on the national stage is unlike any other. These students represented our school well by showing our Spartan Values and showing the nation what we stand for, and that we are College and Career Ready. But sometimes, what happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas.

Results:

Team Derale Performance:

4th Place

Time: 24:38

Coach: Terry Jamison

Members:

Tyler Heston

Brendan Morin

Michael Schwarzkopf

Jonah Eckert

Diego Baumgardner



Team Canton Racing Products:

21st Place

Time: 33:53

Coach: Todd Kessler

Members:

McKinley Bandy

Clayton Writer

Nathan Smith

Devon McCarthy

Jayden Artman



Team Felpro:

23rd Place

Time: 35:48

Coach: Todd Kesser

Members:

Devon Frantz

Levi Keefer

Milton Decker

Ethan Morin

Ethan Demskie



PART THREE: York Tech's Elite 10

On the week of December 12, 2019, York Techs' Elite 10 team, Derale Performance, went to the PRI Show held in Indianapolis, Indiana, home of the legendary Indianapolis Speedway. This team qualified for the event a month prior at the SEMA Show in Las Vegas, Nevada, becoming one of the Top 10 Teams in the country known as the Elite 10. PRI is home of the final round of the Hotrodders of Tomorrow Dual National Championship, in which the Elite 10 battle it out for the prestigious title of National Champion.

The Elite 10 consists of 10 teams, half of which are the Top 5 from SEMA (where our team placed 4th) and the Top 5 from PRI. These teams came from all over the U.S. from as close as Virginia to as far as California. Every team would earn scholarships, depending on their place, from UTI, UNOH, OTC, and SAM Tech, of which each member of our team received \$8,000 in scholarships from each of these schools.

Now back to Tech, I know you all just want to know how good they did. Under the stupendous leadership of coaches Terry Jamison from Precision Machining and Todd Kessler of Automotive Technology, Team Derale made lasting impressions and never before seen performance on the national stage.

They ran an average time of 20:02 with penalties and did



something that even the judges were blown away by; they made 3 perfect runs in a row. This means that no penalties occurred, nothing broke, and every run happened without fault. Our team may have placed 5th in the nation, but that in itself is a great feat. Tech has never placed that high before, and even though they didn't win, they walked away champions in their own mind.

This was the team's final competition, but they went out with a bang. They are seniors in Automotive that poured their hearts and souls into this competition for about 3 years, as well as their hopes and goals. They set the bar high for our remaining and future teams, and with our spirit and values, it is a bar that will be met and raised in the future. Here's to the thrilling conclusion to the 2019 season and a much more enthralling and highly anticipated 2020 Season!

Team Derale Performance:

5th Place in the USA

Time: 20:02

Coaches: Terry Jamison &

Todd Kessler

Members:

Tyler Heston

Jonah Eckart

Brendan Morin

Michael Schwarzkopf

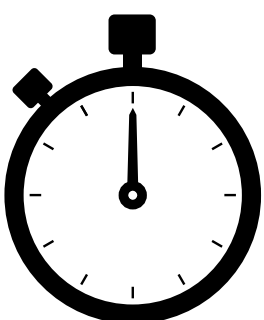
Diego Baumgardner



By: Clayton Writer (12)

UPDATE:

York Tech Hot Rodders of Tomorrow was not able to compete in 2020/2021 competitions due to the current COVID-19 pandemic. The teams are excited to once again compete though, and look forward to next season.





Student
Chapters



Vegas Thrills for NAHB

Last school year, January 19 - 23, 2020, the students in the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) club worked tirelessly to compete in a national competition in Las Vegas. The architecture team placed 2nd overall and the Construction Management team placed 3rd overall. Congratulations to the following students on their achievement. Go Spartans!

Architecture Team

Faith Kuzmiak (12) [graduated](#)
Aiden Steelman (12) [graduated](#)
Ashley Quinones (12) [graduated](#)
Wyatt Ball-Simmons (11) [12](#)
Matthew Casserly (11) [12](#)

Construction Management Team

Christopher Acevedo (11) [12](#)
Cameron Bugg (12) [graduated](#)
Renee Taylor (12) [graduated](#)
Thanos Kemp-Caswell (11) [12](#)
Dakota Davis (10) [11](#)

Our Spartan NAHB team decided to take a break from competing in the 2021 event, but they are looking forward to the fight for 1st place next school year!



YMCA Winter Drive

As part of their FCCLA STAR Events project, Chapter Service Project Display, Kylee Funk (11), Madelyn Hart (11), and Holly Ilgenfritz (11) organized a winter supply drive in coordination with the YMCA of York County.

The Spartan Nation rallied to provide school supplies, winter apparel, toiletries, small toys, and book bags for 53 children, ranging from infancy through school age. FCCLA was also able to donate some extra items to YMCA classrooms.

Kylee, Madelyn, and Holly express their sincere thanks to all the York Tech faculty and staff who donated goods and helped to make this project such a huge success!

The PA FCCLA Virtual Leadership Conference is March 23-25. York Tech has 6 competitors. Stay tuned for the results!



FCCLA members Kylee Funk (11), Madelyn Hart (11), and Holly Ilgenfritz (11) deliver supplies to YMCA of York County. The student led project was able to collect donations for 53 children.



Leading at Home

Unfortunately, like so many student organizations at York Tech, SkillsUSA has had to put the pause on local, state, and national competitions but that isn't stopping our SkillsUSA members from showing leadership here at home.

Next month, on March 26 from 5:00pm - 7:00pm, SkillsUSA will be sponsoring a "virtual" Zoom Open Mic Night and creative café. The evening will include student performed songs, rap, poem recitation, dance, or display of visual art projects, viewed from the comfort of home on Zoom.

Interested in participating? See Mrs. Goshkey in rm. 2124, Mrs. Falvey-Smith in rm. 1110, or Ms. Hayne in rm 1216. All submissions must be pre-approved by March 19th. A Schoology group will be created for this fun event, closer to the date.



Did You Know We Have an Adventure Club?!!

Are you tired of sitting around the house, cooped up, bored to tears??? We've all had a rough 2020...but here's your chance to socialize with other Spartans and try something new and exciting.

Right now we're enjoying ski weather, and the club is heading to Blue Mountain on February 27.

If skiing isn't your thing, don't fret. See Mr. DiMarzio in room 2120 to be added to the club Schoology page where you can receive event updates and vote on our next thrilling activity!

Ever scuba dived...



TSA Receives Donation

Each year TSA runs our Spartan scrap recycling program for unwanted electronics. The club is taking a break this year to focus on special projects, but they did receive an awesome donation of 150 old laptop computers from Red Lion business, MTO Battery, owned by Tech Alumni and parent Jason Abel.

If interested in joining TSA see Mr. Bryant in 2100 or Mr. Sealover in 2008.