

# THE BASIS SCOTTSDALE GAZETTE

## POSTPONED BUT NOT FORGOTTEN!

BY GINA RYU

Since its emergence in late 2019, COVID-19 has spread rapidly across the world, affecting over 210 countries. Following the spread of the disease, numerous events and celebrations have been postponed or canceled until further notice. At BASIS Scottsdale, two of the largest events of the year, prom and graduation, have been postponed until July 24th and July 31<sup>st</sup>, respectively. However, there is always the possibility that the events could be cancelled altogether or held virtually, which would be devastating for current seniors. To understand the perspectives of BASIS students on this, I interviewed sophomore Ryan D. for his thoughts on the postponement of prom.

*In the case that social distancing guidelines or stay at home orders are extended through July, how would you feel about the possibility of prom being canceled altogether?*

**Ryan:** If you buy something, and it ended up not being what you wanted, wouldn't you at least want your money back? I am personally in a similar dilemma with prom. The new date has several issues: first is timing. For many, the summertime is a time for many, including myself, to catch up, attend summer programs, and just relax. Some people, especially juniors, have busy schedules for the



The Clayton, the venue for Prom

summer, and attending prom may not fit with their schedules. More importantly, not everyone will be in town for prom anyway. The biggest issue is the heat. Who wants to wear a suit in summer? I know I do not. In general, prom during summer just feels strange. As a sophomore, I can wait one more year to attend a normal prom. Despite this, I know that prom is such an important event for many juniors and seniors, and I hope that prom stays open to give them this opportunity. But for the rest of us, we want our money back.

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### SAVE THE DATE

- |                                       |                        |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| May 22:<br>Last Day of School<br>Year | July 24:<br>Prom       |
| June 5:<br>Final Day for APs          | July 31:<br>Graduation |

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*How do you feel about attending a large gathering such as prom, where people are in close proximity to each other, even if the event is postponed to July?*

**Ryan:** I don't have much of a problem with it, although that is a good point. I can see how many people (and their parents) would have concerns about attending such an event. However, I don't think it is that big of a concern since prom is close to the start of the school year — people should be just as worried about attending prom as school.

*Some public high schools have already had a virtual prom. What do you think of this idea?*

**Ryan:** I am not too sure how a virtual prom would work, but I feel like not being there in person ruins a lot of the experience. I would not pay \$60 for a virtual prom, especially since the venue is the reason for the high costs. If such an idea is implemented, it has to be worth paying for because I do not think virtual proms will be as enjoyable as the real thing.

The postponement and potential cancellation of these events would have the most impact on seniors who will not get another chance at some momentous high school occasions. I also interviewed two seniors, Adam H. and Malia K., about the unexpected end of their school year.

*Although the seniors have been out of school since February, the end of the year was a surprising change for everyone. What are your thoughts on the end of your senior year and the postponement of graduation?*

**Adam:** The end of senior year has been quite shocking. I never suspected I would have to reconstruct my entire SRP [Senior Research Project] and question whether my graduation will be on a stage or online. Personally, although I am disappointed about the postponement of graduation and prom, I have tried to remind myself that others have it much worse and that I should be content with walking the halls in February. When I think about it, I will probably remember walking down the halls with my class more fondly than walking across the stage alone.

**Malia:** I was definitely sad that we were not able to go on our senior trip to Disneyland and finish out the rest of

the year together. But, I think we were all really lucky to have gotten out of school in February and completed a lot of the traditions that other high school seniors couldn't (e.g., senior prank). Plus, we were all pretty excited to hear that graduation and prom weren't totally cancelled.

*What is your greatest takeaway from your years at BASIS and advice for younger BASIS students?*

**Adam:** My greatest takeaway from BASIS is that life is best when you're surrounded by people that care. For the younger students, my best advice would be to take some risks. Run for that position, ask Mr. Witz that crazy question, apply for the crazy program; it'll keep things interesting.

**Malia:** I think the greatest takeaway for me was the importance of our community; I cannot imagine going through eight years of BASIS without everyone in my grade. As for advice, I would say learn to study smart, not hard. Finesse, don't stress. Everything is going to work out and that failing fifth grade science grade won't drastically impact your life's trajectory.

While the future is uncertain, as of now we look forward to celebrating prom on July 24th at The Clayton on the Park from 7pm-11pm and cheering on our graduating seniors on Friday July 31, at the Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts at 6 pm — fingers crossed that the pandemic's severity will be well on the decline by then.



The Center for the Performing Arts, the venue for Graduation

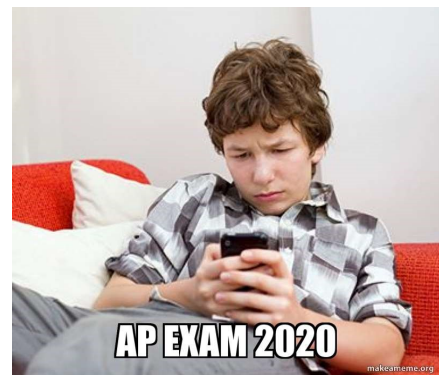
# EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW: AP FORMAT CHANGES

BY KISHORE  
RAJESH

It is that time of year again: exam season is about to commence. However, the advent of the pandemic has forced standardized test administrators, most notably the College Board, to change exams like APs in order to comply with social distancing measures. Here is a list of all the notable changes:

1. The exam is online, and in order to prevent cheating, it is open-note. The College Board advises that students prepare in advance, as they will not be able to spend a lot of time researching information during the test.
2. Every exam is 45 minutes or less. This means that the College Board removed most of the AP, including multiple-choice and most of the free-response questions.
3. The new APs will also not include some of the content that would be covered at the end of the year.
4. All the history APs are a modified document-based question (DBQ), with fewer sources to accommodate the shorter period (45 minutes instead of the normal 55).
5. All the English APs are a single essay for the Question 2 prompt. For AP Language, this is the rhetorical analysis, and for AP Literature, this is the prose essay. To avoid cheating, the College Board will not reveal the title or author of the prose essay prompt. In addition, the College Board will be using their new AP English rubric, which is out of 6 points instead of 9 and awards points based on specific checkpoints, unlike the previous holistic grading system.
6. All the Foreign Language APs are solely oral, with the exception of AP Latin, which is two free-response questions (see change 7). They will consist of two portions: the conversation and the cultural comparison. In addition, the conversation will not require students to ask questions to the pre-recorded audio, as it will be in the form of an interview. All prompts will be spoken two times in English and two times in the Foreign Language. These APs will also take less time, as these sections normally take less than 20 minutes during the real AP.
7. All other APs are two free-response questions. The first question is 25 minutes, with 5 minutes to upload it. The second question is 15 minutes, with 5 minutes to upload it.
8. There is no grading curve for the AP based on how well others do, but rather a predefined score needed to get a 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5. This is probably because most APs are out of 20 or fewer points.
9. Courses like AP Seminar and AP Art have forgone the usual AP Exam and are only graded on a few parts of the original AP. AP Seminar only requires the typed components (not the presentations). All AP materials will be submitted through the AP's digital portfolio, like usual.
10. There will be make-up dates in early June for those who missed APs due to internet issues.

Many AP students (outside of BASIS) are worried about these new APs, and are concerned about whether colleges will accept 45-minute APs for college credit. Those who pay for their own AP exams are also worried about paying \$93 for a 45-minute exam that will not cover all the concepts in the AP curriculum. The College Board assured students that colleges will most likely consider these new AP exams for college credit. In addition, many students and teachers alike are still upset about these sudden changes, as they have spent an entire school year preparing for MCQs, LEQs, DBQs and more. Others have decided that they would rather take the test next year when it is the regular format. Whatever the case may be, these new APs require sudden adjustment and careful consideration for full preparation.



# ONLINE LEARNING DURING COVID-19

BY MEENAL SRIVASTAVA

As we reach our second month of “social distancing”, students are adjusting well to the new norm of online education. BASIS Scottsdale has continued learning with Microsoft Teams, keeping teachers and students on the same page as we approach the final stretch of the school year. However, Microsoft Teams is not the only way to continue learning. Recently, many companies and colleges have come out with learning programs. Here is a list of some of these, plus some old "classic" learning websites you might have already heard of:

1) Harvard is offering 64 different online courses for free! This is a great opportunity to prepare early for college and get a head start in future courses. Harvard is offering classes in many subjects, from computer sciences to world religions. These classes usually range from 4 to 15 weeks, with a time commitment needed of 2-10 hours per week (depending on the difficulty of the course). You need to make an account using Google or Microsoft to enroll, and you can go at your own pace for all the courses.

2) Free Code Camp is another website providing free Ivy League courses. There are about 450 courses here, all of which are free. This site does not just provide coding classes; it also provides classes for humanities, art, science, etc. The duration for most of the courses is between 4 to 15 weeks with a time commitment of 2-15 hours per week.

3) Khan Academy is always a great place to start, whether you are trying to prepare for the next school year, review for exams, or learn something new outside of school. They have courses to help prepare for SATs and AP courses. They also have English and math courses for preschool, kindergarten and elementary school students that may help a younger sibling.

4) Duolingo is another classic learning site you have probably heard of. Duolingo Stories, a popular feature on the site, helps English speakers learn an array of languages like Spanish, French, German, and Portuguese. These are, in my opinion, the best part of using Duolingo, so be sure to check them out.

All of the courses on these sites are self-paced, so if you don't meet the recommended time commitment, don't stress! Plus, these classes are extra learning, so make sure you focus mostly on assigned school homework. If you do not have time to do these courses now, consider doing them over the summer.

Stay healthy and keep on learning!





# A CRISIS IN A CRISIS: ICE FAILURES DURING PANDEMIC

BY HENGZHI LI

Since Arizona Governor Doug Ducey issued a stay-at-home order to combat the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, many of us have entered “quarantine mode”: waking up in the afternoon, binging Netflix series, and generally spending our days relaxing at home. However, while many of us are rather comfortably staying inside and keeping our physical distance from other people, a certain group of people does not possess that same luxury: the men and women, young and old, detained at the American borders.

On March 30th, two people in Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention centers in New Jersey tested positive for COVID-19, marking the first confirmed cases in ICE detention centers. By April 16th, ICE reported to have 125 confirmed cases of COVID-19 among detainees and employees in its detention centers.

While 125 may sound like a small number, its severity is magnified by the poor sanitary conditions that have long plagued these detention centers. In a report by the Department of Homeland Security, cells were said to be overcrowded, children had few spare clothes, and people had little access to soap, toilet paper, and shower facilities. Despite this, even in 2020, limited efforts were made to improve the situation. Two fathers detained in the Karnes Detention Center in Texas reported that they were not informed of the COVID-19 pandemic, despite inmates showing flu-like symptoms. They were not given any masks or disinfectants, and lived in a cell with five other people, rendering “social distancing” almost impossible. “We were in the tank confined in a room with over 100 people. We don’t have soap to wash our hands, only water. We’re not keeping social distance, they’re not checking our temperature,” said a detainee at the La Palma Detention Center. In addition, since many ICE detention centers are located in rural or semi-rural areas, an outbreak of a highly infectious disease like COVID-19 could easily overload the local healthcare system.

These poor hygienic conditions, along with the lack of information about the pandemic, have caused fear among many detainees. “Everybody got panicked,” described Dr. Sirous Asgari, a detainee at the Alexandria staging facility in Louisiana, after his cell went under medical observation. “One guy is crying, saying, ‘My life is in danger, we have been exposed.’ People were screaming, ‘Give us masks!’ ... ‘We’re gonna die!’” He and his fellow inmates were denied information regarding whether the quarantine was due to COVID-19. Video footage released by *The Intercept* of a group of women detained at the South Louisiana ICE Processing Center showed expressions of similar anxiety.

“We have very much fear,” they reported after a fellow detainee displayed COVID-19-related symptoms and was sent to the hospital. “The guards are wearing a medical gown and other protection. They’re saying this quarantine is for the flu. We don’t believe them.” The negligence of those in charge of these detention centers will not only make the centers possible new epicenters of the COVID-19 pandemic, but will also create a humanitarian crisis that downplays the human values we claim to cherish.



Source: Norwegian Refugee Council

However, these accounts do not apply only to the approximately 50,000 individuals confined in detention camps in the U.S. In other parts of the world, more than 70 million refugees are suffering from a similar crisis. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, while governments worldwide are closing borders, putting cities in lockdown, and telling people to stay at home, these displaced people find themselves trapped in a whirlwind of confusion and fear. Many of them are forced to reside in cramped spaces, have extremely limited access to healthcare, and lack sufficient information and guidance about the dangerous disease. The people at our borders are merely the tip of the iceberg of the numerous groups of people suffering from lack of access to resources around the world.

While there are many ongoing efforts to save lives, we must pay closer attention to forgotten groups such as those in ICE detention centers during the course of this pandemic. The global efforts to fight against COVID-19 require us not only to defend ourselves, but also to defend others. If we fail to give enough care to those who urgently need it, we will be facing tremendous obstacles in our path to recovery.

# CORONAVIRUS: THE BEGINNING OF THE END?

BY RITVIK  
WARRIER

After months of the coronavirus pandemic, the race for a vaccine has been well underway. Many of us have grown tired of the idealistic, “we’re all in this together” motivation. It goes without question that for many Americans, the primary question on our minds is “when is this all going to end?” The solution? No expert is confident in a solution, but is there a pathway forward in sight? Kind of. Let's look at a timeline of the progression of COVID-19 before the first vaccine testing.

On December 1<sup>st</sup>, a patient in Wuhan, China, sought medical attention to the experiencing of “pneumonia-like symptoms.” A month later, WHO identifies this as a “novel coronavirus.” On January 12<sup>th</sup>, China identified COVID-19’s genetic sequence. Two months later, COVID-19 is declared a global pandemic and governments worldwide pass official “social distancing” measures. On March 16<sup>th</sup>, healthcare provider Kaiser-Permanente hosts the first testing trial for a vaccine. On March 20<sup>th</sup>, IBM Summit identifies 77 compounds that could possibly prevent the virus from infecting a host cell.

Recently, U.S. president Donald Trump promised the widespread distribution of vaccines by the end of the 2020 calendar year. However, many critics from the scientific community have questioned the feasibility of the endeavor. In order to deploy a vaccine, a lab must complete the following procedures in timely manner:

1. Design the vaccine -- This is perhaps the shortest step of the cycle.
2. Ensure the safety of the vaccine -- Many vaccines may cause additional medical complications; For example, a SARS vaccine tested on monkeys proved to result in additional pulmonary disabilities.
3. Ensure vaccine longevity -- An effective vaccine must have the potential to protect against potential infection for long periods before re-administration.
4. Address all ages of the population -- Elderly people may be unresponsive to many of the advantages that younger people gain from a vaccine. Prior to administration, researchers attempt to address the entire population.

Conventionally, vaccines are given to animals, prior to testing on human beings. This process can take several years, however the White House’s “Operation Warp Speed” and the severity of the pandemic require researchers to fast track the process.

Despite the lack of progress in returning to normal life, there has been progress in finding a vaccine. Given that the coronavirus is said to be a descendant of the previous

SARS outbreak, many researchers are evaluating the effectiveness of those vaccines in applications to the novel coronavirus. In addition to that jump-start, there are roughly 90 research teams across universities and companies worldwide that are in the race for a vaccine. One approach that many researchers have proposed is the introduction of a spiked coronavirus-like species that trigger host cells to prepare for a potential COVID-19 infection. The most successful vaccine to date is that developed by AstraZeneca at the University of Oxford in England. This vaccine’s human trials have already been well underway, and distribution is expected to launch by the end of the year. However, it is key to note that in a once-in-a-lifetime pandemic such as this, time is greatly valued over quality.



Source: The University of Oxford

All we can do for now is to be patient and try to help in any way possible. As young people ourselves, we cannot afford to get complacent about a pandemic that is rampant in older populations. As much as we have sat around and gained a couple pounds, we must make an effort to maintain these habits in order to “flatten the curve”. Although we have heard that phrase (sometimes not even knowing what it actually means), it is a principle we have to adhere to until it is safe to resume normal life.

# OPINION

## SCHRÖDINGER'S KIM

BY ESTEBAN  
HERRERA-VENDRELL

The COVID-19 pandemic has spread everywhere, infecting unsuspecting individuals all around the world and putting those who are old and sick in harm's way. However, North Korea, also known as "The Hermit Kingdom" for its isolationist policies, has dealt with this crisis spectacularly. In fact, the number of COVID-19 cases in the nation has only reached a maximum of one, and that number has subsequently dropped to zero the next day. While these individuals, magically cured of a virus that takes a few weeks to recover from, are never seen or heard of again, we can be sure that this is only because they are staying inside and nursing their health at a federal concentration camp. However, North Korea's impossibly clean COVID-19 record has been overshadowed by the condition of its controversial supreme leader, Kim Jong-un.

Contradicting news reports have come out concerning Kim's health, with some stating that he is in critical condition after a botched heart surgery, others that he is at a beach resort relaxing, and yet others stating that he is completely brain dead, which would not come as a surprise to many. With countless varying accounts of Kim's physical well-being, one far-fetched yet possible scenario remains: Kim Jong-un is currently a quantum particle, with all of these different states superposed together. That being said, once Kim Jong-un is observed, he will be forced to collapse into one of these states and the world will know, once and for all, the fate of Schrödinger's Kim.

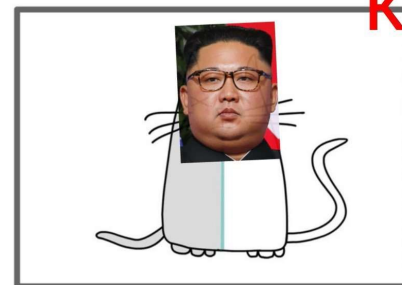
The *National Post* took a stab at the daunting task of identifying Kim's state when they reported satellite images of luxury yachts near a beach resort in North Korea. While this may change the probability distribution of the superposed states of Schrödinger's Kim, since he was not directly observed, we cannot conclude that he has collapsed (like his nation's economy) into a state of relaxation just yet.

According to the *New York Post*, a Hong Kong broadcast network claimed that Kim Jong-un had actually died, citing a "very solid source." Their use of in-text citations of various sources, while seemingly reliable, may not be solid enough to justify the observation of the state of Schrödinger's Kim, so it is not yet safe to make the assumption that Kim has begun his journey through every single circle of Dante's Inferno.

In a final desperate attempt to determine exactly where Kim Jong-un is, sources from the Chinese Community Party in Beijing have reported that Kim "succumbed after a botched heart surgery" since the surgeon's hands were shaking so violently. Even though Kim has not yet been observed and therefore has not collapsed into either of the three hypothesized states, this one is most definitely the top contender, because any other rational human being performing a surgery in which the price of failure is death would be shaking pretty violently as well.

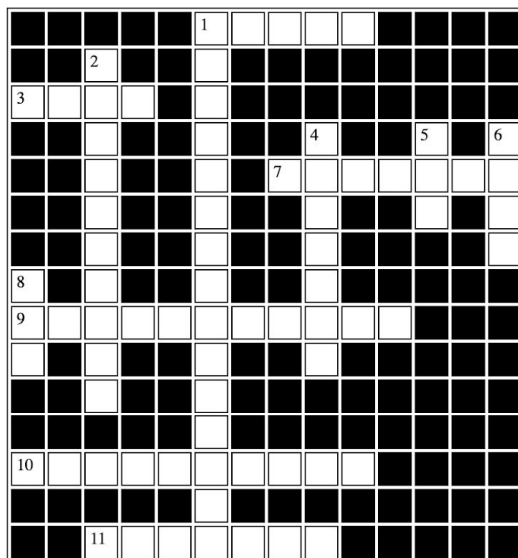
Although we may never know the fate of Schrödinger's Kim, we can keep doing our best to find Rocket Man once and for all. The state of Kim is a highly coveted secret; if it is not found out, millions and millions of innocent North Korean citizens may go without brainwashing, fear-mongering, or violent subjugation — well, at least until Kim Yo-jong arrives...

Schrödinger's ~~Cat~~  
Kim



## KISHORE'S PUZZLE PAGE

BY KISHORE RAJESH

**Across**

1. Number of minutes in an AP Exam this year
3. Important event cancelled this year
7. Might take at least a year to create
9. "Novel" Disease
10. Didn't formally happen this year, but happened informally in February
11. Best Journal in BASIS

**Down**

1. Only oral AP
2. "The Hermit Kingdom"
4. University offering 64 online courses
5. North Korean Leader
6. Number of Coronavirus cases in North Korea
8. Immigration Control Agency

\*Solutions on Page 9

## MATH MINDBENDERS

**Pre-Algebra:** The Fibonacci sequence is a set of numbers such that the first and second numbers are 1 and each number is the sum of the two previous numbers. It starts 1,1,2,3,5,8...

The factorial of  $n$  is the product of the numbers from 1 to  $n$ , so  $n$  factorial is  $n*(n-1)*(n-2)*...*1$ . For example,  $3!=3*2*1=6$ .

Find 6 consecutive numbers such that the first is a cube, the second is prime, the third is odd, the fourth is a square, the fifth is a Fibonacci number, and the sixth is a factorial.

**Algebra:** Consider the following "magic trick": Take your age, add 4 to it, multiply the result by 2, subtract 6, divide by 2, and subtract your age. Show that your final number will always be 1.

**Precalculus:** What's wrong with the following "proof" that  $3=0$ ?

Suppose we have the equation  $x^2+x+1=0$ . Since  $x=0$  is not a solution of this equation, we can divide both sides by  $x$ , giving us  $x+1+1/x=0$ . However, we also know (from the original equation) that  $x+1=-x^2$ . So,  $-x^2+1/x=0$ . Multiplying both sides by  $x$ , we get that  $-x^3+1=0$ , or  $x^3=1$ . So,  $x=1$ . Thus, since  $x^2+x+1=0$  and  $1^2+1+1=3$ ,  $3=0$ .




**Calculus:** Suppose  $f$  is a continuous function from  $[0,1]$  to  $[0,1]$ . Show that there is a number between 0 and 1 inclusive such that  $f(a)=a$ .

**History of Math:** An Egyptian Fraction is a fraction which is the sum of finitely many fractions of the form  $1/n$ , where  $n$  is a natural number. Which fractions are not Egyptian?



# THE MEME OF MAY

BY KISHORE RAJESH

<p>The AP Exams are 50 minutes</p>	 <p>Panik</p>
<p>They're open book</p>	 <p>Kalm</p>
<p>They're all free response</p>	 <p>Panik</p>

Solutions to the Puzzle:

**Across:** 1. Fifty 3. Prom 7. Vaccines 9. Coronavirus 10. Graduation 11. Gazette, **Down:** 1. ForeignLanguage 2. NorthKorea 4. Harvard 5. Kim 6. Zero 8. ICE

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