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#### The Void of COVID: CMHS

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### Introduction

Cimarron-Memorial's mission for students is to help "acquire the skills essential for success in the 21st century" since 1991. The Spartan Way is highly  $\star$ emphasized as part of their mission, encouraging students to have qualities such as commitment, motivation, honor, and success. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, there have been changes in attendance rates, class engagement, and behavior.

# Methods

- ★ September: Volunteered at open house event to observe school-parent communication and engagement, as well as observing and shadowed administration office to observe disciplinary structure.
- ★ October & November: observed classrooms of different subjects to explore

engagement/behavior/attendance

**Chronic absenteeism:** when a student misses at least 10% of possible school days

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# ☆ The Void of COVID: CMHS ☆

by Sabrina Basharyar

# Findings

- ★ During Sept. hours, I was able to hand out tardy slips to students; there were about three lines, and handing them out took about 10-15 minutes
  - During 20-21 school year, many were absent due to quarantine
  - Statistic in Michigan: "The statewide rate for students deemed "chronically absent" has also nearly doubled to over 38% compared to approximately 20% for the previous four years" (Burr 2022).

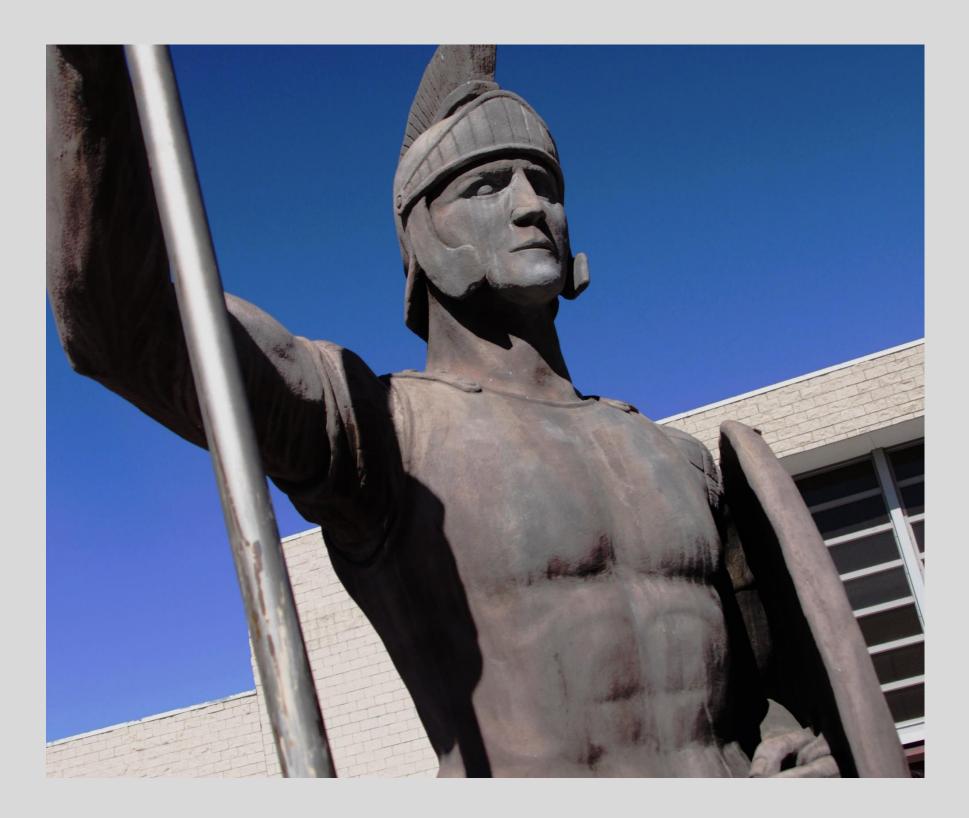
### Lower engagement / higher phone usage:

One of the biggest issues with teachers

- Many students developing mindset of "everything is on Canvas, I can do it later" or "I don't have to come to class if the work is on Canvas."
- Students often on their phones in regular classes, refusing to participate – not the case for all classes  $\star$  Higher variety of methods are being used to keep students engaged in the classroom (reference Hamlet class)

### **Increase in Disciplinary Action**

- Added security gates with alarms since 20-21 school year & more security all around
- 'Solutions Not Suspensions' bill: proposed in NY, proposes to prohibit suspensions for minor
- infractions, and to require instruction for suspended students (Cordero & Toure, 2022).



### Conclusions

 $\star$  Overall, there has been both positive and negative changes in CMHS & around the country

> $\star$  With more positive changes, students will be able to have the quality education that is promised in their mission statement

 $\star$  I plan to use these experiences and research into my own classroom by developing a 'classroom culture' to ensure each student feels safe and comfortable.

## References

Burr, Alyssa. "Attendance Rates Drop 4% in Michigan Schools Compared to Pre-Pandemic Numbers." Mlive, 15 Sept. 2022, https://www.mlive.com/public-interest/2022/09/attendance-rates-drop-4-in-michigan-schoolscompared-to-pre-pandemic-numbers.html.

Logo and mission statement retrieved from cimarronmemorialhs.org

Cordero, K., & Touré, M. (2022, October 17). Report finds disparities in suspension data, calls for solutions. POLITICO. Retrieved October 29, 2022, from https://www.politico.com/weekly-new-york-educationi/2022/10/17/report-finds-disparities-in-suspension-data-00061903%20(politico%20-%20permalink)