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Fall 2022

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).

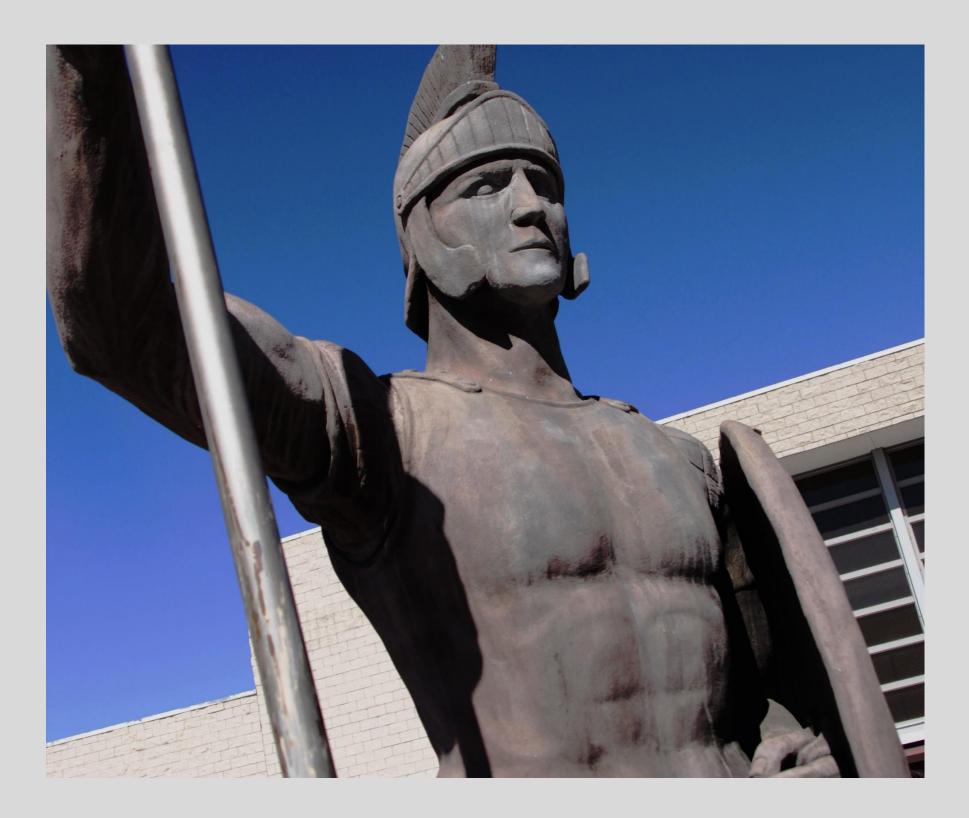
Lower engagement / higher phone usage:

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)