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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 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

★ The Void of COVID: CMHS ★

by Sabrina Basharyar

Findings

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

- ★ Overall, there has been both positive and negative changes in CMHS & around the country
 - ★ With more positive changes, students will be able to have the quality education that is promised in their mission statement
- ★ 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-schools-compared-to-pre-pandemic-numbers.html>.
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