

# student life ideas

*If there's one positive that's come out of the pandemic, it's the chance to revolutionize yearbooks.*

*Don't worry about lost traditional content. Instead, relish the chance to cover students in new ways.*

*Here are 170+ student life ideas for innovative and fresh content. If there's an idea you love, but can't dedicate a full spread to, consider using it in the people section.*

## WHAT YOU MISSED

*Don't just start with August. A LOT happened since the end of last school year and it's unlikely it was all covered in the 2020 book. Dedicate some spreads to those historical moments that happened in late spring and summer.*

- The move to remote learning
- AP Exams
- Canceled sports seasons
- Canceled proms (and modified versions)
- Ending school early
- Finishing the yearbook
- Distributing the yearbook
- Honoring seniors (parades, yard signs)
- Graduations
- What was different this summer
- Summer staycations
- Summer travel (students who did venture to other cities & states)
- Summer jobs
- Social distancing measures
- Summer entertainment (social media, curbing boredom)

## OVERALL PERSPECTIVE

*Consider allocating space to what's happened outside your campus. It's been an unusual 2020 and providing a record of this unprecedented year will provide important historical context years from now.*

- How life has changed (locally, nationally and/or globally)
- COVID-19 update (what's happened since last spring)
- Local and national protests (racial injustice, BLM)
- Entertainment updates & changes (movie theaters closed/reopenings, concert/event cancellations, new songs, TV options, streaming services)
- Political updates & changes (Democratic VP candidate selected, RBG passing, new Supreme Court justice nomination, presidential debates, Trump's positive COVID-19 test)
- 2020 Presidential Election (timelines, results, student reactions)

## KEEPING BUSY

*Being stuck at home meant we've become quite resourceful at tackling boredom. From playing board games with family to learning new skills, we're adept at keeping ourselves occupied.*

- Hobbies
- Learning new skills
- Board games
- Puzzles
- Sports activities (ping pong, Frisbee, skateboarding, sand volleyball)
- Creative pursuits
  - Chalk art
  - Painting
  - Drawing
  - Digital art
  - Photography
  - Writing (journal, creative)
  - Reading
  - Best books read
  - Rereading favorites
  - Audio, ebook or paper comparisons
- Binge-watching shows (favorites, hours spent)
- Technology surveys: too much time on mobile devices? How much? Screen time percentages



Glacier Peak High School, 2020



Kel Lemons/Balfour Yearbooks, 2020

018 SCHOOLS STRESSORS

**75% of students have anxiety from public speaking in school**

“Freshman year is a hard transition, shifting from junior high to high school. Everything changes socially, academically, and emotionally. You have to start over and create a new identity for yourself.”

**8 hours and has between 1 to 3 hours of homework every day. In addition, each week some students spend up to 35 hours at after school activities, or up to 40 hours at a full-time job.**

019 SCHOOLS STRESSORS

**“We can only learn so much in the 45 minutes that we spend in each class. Therefore, we almost always have lots of homework.” Camrynn Dimock, 11**

**49% of students feel overwhelmed with pressure**

**33% of students failed their AP Exams nationally**

**13% of students have been diagnosed with depression**

Paetow High School, 2020

Using equipment

At home, students, Emily, 8, and Benjamin, 6, use their equipment to stay active during quarantine. Emily is doing a yoga pose.

Solo sweating

Staying in shape while social distancing

Benjamin, 6, is doing a yoga pose.

Building new friends

At the house, Benjamin, 6, and Emily, 8, are playing a game of tag. They are having fun and staying active while social distancing.

Using technology

Benjamin, 6, is using a tablet to play a game. He is having fun and staying active while social distancing.

Stanford Middle School, 2020

## HEALTH-RELATED

In general, students are a stressed out bunch. Those levels have been dramatically elevated with the events of the past year. Think about adding coverage on health-related topics.

- Student stress
- Teacher anxiety & stress
- Balancing sleep & school
- Anxiety & depression
- Meditation & staying calm
- Exercising (yoga, walking/running, biking, swimming, exercise apps, lifting weights, dog walking)
- Songs for stress, relaxation & exercising



## COVID-19 COVERAGE

It seems almost everything is pandemic related. Cover COVID-19 topics that relate to your school and will interest your students.

- COVID-19 updates (local, state, national & global)
- How COVID-19 has impacted your town
- Social distancing measures & gatherings
- Connecting with relatives during social distancing
- How grocery shopping has changed (one-way aisles, online ordering, pick up & deliveries)
- Online shopping (what we are buying, favorite shops to order from, how much we're spending, excitement of packages arriving)
- Pandemic fashion (comfy clothes, go-to outfits, casual waist-down for virtual calls)
- Quarantine hair
- Safety measures (home, school, community)
- Personal coronavirus stories (how it's impacted your life, survival stories, lost loved ones)
- Face coverings
  - Cool patterns & prints
  - Fashion, matching to clothes
  - Icon & celebrity masks
  - Cheap vs expensive couture masks
  - Weekly lineup
  - Different shapes & fits
  - Different types (N95, cloth, nylon, plastic face shields)
  - Anatomy of a mask
  - Mask selfies
  - Masks by the numbers (prices, how many sold, personal purchases)
  - Creating/sewing your own
  - Mask quotes
    - one word to describe
    - what it's like to wear
    - athletes' perspectives
    - challenge of all-day wear
    - favorite masks
    - mask mishaps



# COVERAGE IN 2021



Hendrickson High School, 2020



Shawnee Mission South High School, 2020



Inglemoor High School, 2019

## FOOD

*Food spreads should be an integral part of every yearbook. But there's an unique twist this year with the pandemic's impact.*

- Cooking at home (family recipes, trying new ones, baking bread, crafting desserts)
- Restaurants & dishes we miss
- Online & app ordering options
- Take out & delivery choices (favorite foods, order frequency)
- In-person dining experiences
- Student jobs in food industry (delivering food, working in restaurants)
- Lunch at home vs school
- Favorite snacks (during & outside of school)

## SCHOOL-RELATED

*Not to be confused with academic coverage, there are plenty of student life-related school topics. Focusing on overall changes is a must; but don't forget about fun topics like virtual spirit days and behind-the-scenes stories.*

- How school has changed
- School safety/health measures
- Back-to-school schedule changes & mishaps
- Learning options: virtual, hybrid and slowly returning to campus
- Virtual spirit days
- School T-shirts
- School by the numbers
- Behind the scenes: front office, counselors, coach
- Day in the life: school nurse, cafeteria works, custodians

## INTROSPECTIVE QUESTIONS & TOPICS

*This is the year of student voices. Let these ideas become modules on related spreads and in the people section. Or, utilize them with exceptional typography, graphic or colors to transform a spread into a showstopper, wow design.*

- How has life changed for you?
- What do you miss?
- What's better now?
- #Quarantinein5words
- #2020in1word
- Are you closer with your family now?
- What do you appreciate more?
- What have you lost?
- What have you gained?
- What have you learned about yourself?
- What's been the most difficult thing to accept?
- How have you adapted?
- How do you combat boredom?
- What do you do to relieve stress?
- How are you connecting with friends?
- What were you looking forward to with school?
- Expectations vs reality: school start, virtual learning, in-person instruction, classes, clubs, sporting events, freshman year, senior year, etc.
- How did you decide between virtual or in-person learning?
- What is it difficult to choose between virtual or in-person learning? Why?

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## ANYTIME SPREADS & EVERGREEN TOPICS

*Ah, the wonderful news is not all is lost. There are still topics from previous years that can be featured in this year's book. Have fun with the design!*

- **Trends & pop culture**
- **Slang** (definitions, favorite words/phrases)
- **Food & Drink**
  - Coffee
  - Sparkling water
  - Water bottles & flasks
  - Favorite local restaurants
  - Popular dishes
  - Best snacks
  - Pizza toppings
  - Ice cream desserts
  - Favorite Sonic drinks
- **Cell phones**
  - Cracked screens
  - iPhone vs Android
  - Screen time
  - Funny text messages
  - Autocorrect goofs
  - Last text message
  - Last photo you took
  - Mom or dad texting conversations
  - Favorite apps
  - Screen savers
  - Cell phone cases
  - Streaming services during school

- **Social media**
  - TikTok (profiles, popularity, facts & figures)
  - Snapchat streaks
  - Twitter tweets
  - VSCO filters
  - Instagram filters
  - Selfies
  - Favorite social accounts
  - Social media etiquette
  - Memes describing your life
- **Music**
  - Playlists (studying, exercising, breakups, relaxing)
  - Playlist profiles
  - Favorite artists
  - Lyrics that define your life
  - Favorite streaming options
  - Music outside of school (bands, piano & guitar players, songwriters)
  - Guilty pleasure songs
- **Entertainment**
  - Favorite streaming service
  - Pluses of Disney+
  - Student YouTube channels
  - Favorite YouTube channels
  - Binge watching shows
  - Video games (top 10, favorites)
  - Book vs movie: which is better

- **Pets**
  - Selfies with pets
  - #Caturday
  - Exotic pets
  - Having additional time with pets
  - Pets hanging out during virtual classes
- **Fashion & Style**
  - What's your pandemic style?
  - What's on your wrist? (scrunchies, bracelets, fitness watches)
  - Socks (cool styles, what it says about your personality)
  - Shoes (heels, sneakers, new kicks, cool colors)
  - Hair styles & dye/coloring
  - Makeup (trends, favorite looks, fake lashes)
  - Nails (polish, styles, designs)
  - Stylish glasses
  - Cool sunglasses
  - Popular style trends & prices
  - Popular & favorite brands
  - Different fashion styles
  - Thrift shopping & secondhand buys
  - Designing/altering own clothes & shoes

- **Stickers & decals** (laptops, flasks, StickerMule creations)
- **Keychains** (unique tchotchkes, background stories)
- **Outdoor sports activities**
- **Hobbies outside school**
- **Family ties** (siblings, twins/triplets)
- **All in the family** (married teachers at same school, students with parents teaching at school)
- **Holiday & cultural celebrations**
  - Halloween (costumes, socially distant celebrations, should you trick or treat?)
  - Thanksgiving (school T-day meals, home food favorites, family gatherings, Black Friday)
  - Winter holidays (Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Christmas, holiday lights, holiday music, club celebrations, winter break)
  - Chinese New Year
  - Valentine's Day
  - Ramadan & Eid al-Fitr
- **Class rings**
- **Letterman jackets**
- **Student jobs**



Vista Ridge High School, 2020



West Monroe High School, 2020