

2/2/21

Dear Parents,

Your students have embarked upon a truly remarkable year of learning. Thank you for your support of their continued learning, whether at home or on campus. A highlight in 8<sup>th</sup> grade this year has been the opportunity to read *Fever 1783* through the lens of our 2020 “Fever” aka Covid-19. Students studied the historical significance of Yellow Fever as well as the scientific understanding behind contemporary diseases and community health by investigating the question, “What impacts our health and our community?” Your students placed themselves in the position of a historian as they’ve written first-hand narratives about their own Covid-19 experiences, thus creating a primary source for generations to come. The journals containing their personal accounts are available to read online by searching your child’s name in quotation marks (for example “Student Name”) in the search field at <https://covid-19archive.org/s/archive/page/Share>. Here’s a sample of one student’s entry:

*The following week was our first week of online school, and I'd say most people like myself enjoyed it. I was glad that I didn't have to wake up early, and I got to stay in sweatpants all day. The funny thing about lockdown is that nobody really knew how long we were going to be doing it. We thought it was really only going to be about 2 weeks.... Finally, a few days after the election my mom got an email that we were going back to school. I was excited to be going back, but also nervous...*

This is a public archive documenting the Covid-19 experience for future generations. The project curators recently reached out to Oaks to commend the students on the quality and thoughtfulness in their entries. We are very proud of our Oaks students!

Please reach out to me if you have questions or feedback on this project. We hope to share the voice of an Oaks middle school student with the next generation. Hats off to our dedicated 8<sup>th</sup> grade teachers, Justin Newman, Brian Trimmer, Tricia Hacker, Kim Kelly, Amber Kim, and Cathy Burton for creating such a meaningful learning project.

With Gratitude,

*Stephanie Niednagel*

Stephanie Niednagel  
sniednagel@oakschristian.org  
Director of Curriculum  
Oaks Christian School