

FRINGE TOPICS

...the Best of the 'Net According to EducateSTL

Well, no slow news days this week! We've compiled a list of the best articles, podcasts, and videos from around the 'net to better understand COVID-19, racial unrest, continued unemployment, and reopening plans. Each piece leads us to wonder about how the information might be applied to make our schools and students stronger. Enjoy!

Education & COVID-19

[Vox: How Coronavirus Spreads Indoors vs. Outdoors](#)

This brief video outlines what we know about how the virus spreads in different environments and the role that airflow plays in transmission. Although not entirely risk-free, outdoor environments slow the spread substantially when compared to less well-ventilated indoor spaces. **Leaving us to wonder**...how might our outdoor spaces be modified to create a safer place to learn?

[Wired: All This Chaos Might Be Giving Us 'Crisis Fatigue'](#)

What happens when you feel tremendous hope for a brighter future on one hand and deep despair on the other? The seemingly endless series of crisis events have left many of us with crisis fatigue, which is explored in depth in this piece. The physiological effects of a steady stream of cortisol can explain our varied responses to these situations. **Leaving us to wonder**...what assets do our schools already have to prevent burnout and how can they be effectively leveraged when the school year begins again?

[New York Times: A Striking Disconnect on the Virus: Economic Pain with Little Illness](#)

Early on, it seemed we were all on the same page: contain the virus and save lives even if it means shutting down for a while. In this great interactive piece loaded with data, the Times explored the specific reasons why this isn't really the case anymore. As local and state leaders struggle with reopening decisions, it is easy to see from this data why we are so divided on how to proceed. **Leaving us to wonder**...how should school leaders balance the needs of a community divided?

Economics and the Workforce

[Netflix Explained: Racial Wealth Gap](#)

This extraordinarily powerful and concise 15 minute video explains a key driver behind many of the protests we see today. Using the lens of history, Netflix explains the direct and indirect contributors to a level of income inequality that has left Whites with *ten times* as much

wealth as Blacks. From entrenched, systemic causes like the housing market to nuanced cultural differences, we can easily see how this problem came to be. ***Leaving us to wonder...***how can we incorporate financial literacy more seamlessly into everyday life at our schools?

[St. Louis Public Radio: St. Louis Entrepreneurs are Pivoting to Fill the New Coronavirus Economy](#)

The St. Louis start-up scene has been exciting to watch over the last 10 years. Countless businesses, partnerships, and financing initiatives have resulted in exciting new products and services. Then COVID-19 happened. This inspiring piece follows a few entrepreneurs who have had to shift their mindsets and business models to survive the pandemic. ***Leaving us to wonder...***how can our curriculum help students think outside the box when unexpected circumstances arise?

Families and Communities

[Vox: The Unbearable Grief of Black Mothers](#)

In this startlingly poignant piece by A. Rochaun Meadows-Fernandez, we see the unique toll that traumas like Coronavirus and police brutality have on the popular image of the *Strong Black Woman*. Explained through a historical lens, Meadows-Fernandez takes a few unexpected turns to show us that a blessing to one race can be a curse to another (and not in the ways you would expect). The trauma narrative is discussed and resources are shared to show how Black mothers can better understood and supported during these unprecedented times. ***Leaving us to wonder...***what do we actually know about the Black mothers in our own schools and how can we leverage resources to better support them?

Kids lead in [O'Fallon](#) and [Ladue](#)

We all know our students have tremendous capacity for leadership but this was never more brilliantly on display than during the protests against racism and police brutality in the St. Louis region. This week we saw two different protests organized and executed by high school students in Ladue and O'Fallon, Missouri. ***Leaving us to wonder...***how do we support this kind of leadership in schools?

Health & Wellness

[New York Times: How to Hug During a Pandemic](#)

Anyone else wondering where and when it will be safe to hug our vulnerable loved ones again? Tara Parker-Pope (Well columnist for the Times) shares the amusing stories of early attempts at cuddling in the shadow of Coronavirus and explains our psychological need for physical contact. With the help of surprisingly effective visuals she shows us how we can snuggle safely.

Leaving us to wonder......how can we share this information with our early childhood and elementary teachers so they can give their kids much needed hugs come Fall?

[Nature Relaxation YouTube Channel](#)

Ok, this isn't exactly content, but you'll thank us anyway. This channel hosts videos of drone footage over some of the planet's most incredible spaces. Videos can run from 1-12 hours or more and are completely hypnotizing. Have some tough papers to grade? Keep this on in the background so when you look up, you get a quick shot of peace. ***Leaving us to wonder...***...what would happen if we replaced our lunchroom screen announcements with this for just one day?

Around St. Louis

[Father's Day Ideas](#)

It's so hard to know how to celebrate Dads this year with so many things shut down. This blog has some great ideas on how to celebrate and has been updated with known closures or changes to the schedule. While much is still closed, a few places have modified arrangements. Even among the closures, it's useful to have this list handy for next year!

[St. Louis Zoo Begins Taking Reservations](#)

Beginning this Saturday, the St. Louis Zoo will be open once more! Reservations are necessary and some exhibitions are temporarily closed.

Feedback or suggestions? We'd love to hear from you! Please email amy.peach@educatestl.org

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