



If you would like to share news or information with our readers, please send the unique stories, business

news organization events, and school news to us including your name and phone number in case more information is needed.

For news and information consideration, please send to News@scdaily.com or contact
John Robbins 281-965-6390
Jun Gai 281-498-4310

Pandemic Cancels Texas African Business Summit



Inside C2

Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

Southern Daily News is published by Southern News Group Daily

Publisher: Wea H. Lee
President: Catherine Lee
Editor: John Robbins

Address: 11122 Bellaire Blvd., Houston, TX 77072
E-mail: News@scdaily.com

Monday, November 16 2020 | www.today-america.com | Southern News Group

As U.S. pandemic intensifies, North Dakota becomes 35th state to require masks



(Reuters) - North Dakota has become the 35th U.S. state to require face coverings be worn in public, as governors across the country grapple with a surge in coronavirus infections that threatens to swamp their health care systems

North Dakota joined 38 other states this month in reporting record daily jumps in new cases, 17 others with record deaths and 25 others with a record number of COVID-19 patients in hospitals, according to a Reuters tally.

“Our situation has changed, and we must change with it,” North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum said in a statement late on Friday.

The mask order, similar to other state mandates, requires face coverings to be worn in most indoor public places and “in outdoor business and public settings when it is not possible to maintain physical distancing.”

Burgum also ordered restaurants and bars to limit diners to 50% of capacity and to close by 10 p.m., a move several other governors have made, citing data that links late-night gatherings to

increased spread of the virus.

New cases nationwide rose on Friday to a daily record of over 177,000, the fourth straight day an all-time high was set, ac-



According to a Reuters tally of figures from U.S. public health agencies.

The surge is straining many state health care systems as the number of COVID-19 patients in U.S. hospitals rose to an all-time high 68,141 on Friday.

Some governors, including Iowa’s Kim

Reynolds, warned this week that their hospitals were nearing capacity.

Iowa is among 15 states without a mask mandate, but Reynolds tiptoed in that

direction on Tuesday by requiring they be worn at large social gatherings and at personal service businesses, such as barber shops and salons

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control has recommended mask wearing and one widely cited model has estimated that a nationwide mask mandate could save 68,000 lives by next spring. Still, the

issue has become politicized with several Republican governors refusing to require them, saying it is a matter of personal responsibility, not government mandate.

U.S. President Donald Trump has rarely been seen wearing a mask, except when was stricken with the virus last month, while his Democratic successor, President-elect Joe Biden has sported one at nearly every public appearance.

But the country’s patchwork of state responses to the pandemic will likely remain intact after Biden is inaugurated on Jan. 20, according to Dr. Vivek Murthy, the head of Biden’s coronavirus advisory board.

With Thanksgiving and other holidays on the horizon, several governors, including those in California, Oregon and Washington, urged residents to avoid venturing out of state

Gathering with family and friends, some governors warned, can transmit the virus through what New York’s Andrew Cuomo called “living room spread.”

The governors of six states in the Northeast, the region hit hardest in the early

months of the pandemic, were set to hold an emergency meeting this weekend to coordinate responses, Cuomo said.

On Friday, Detroit public schools suspended in-person learning, while New York City, with the country’s largest schools system, neared a trigger-point measure that would shut down its 1,800 school buildings.

Since the pandemic began, the virus has infected 10,759,565 people in the United States, killing 244,324 of them, according to a Reuters tally.

Slideshow (5 images)

The widely cited model of the University of Washington’s Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation projects almost 195,000 more fatalities by March 1. The biggest monthly spike of the pandemic will come in January, when more than 65,000 people are projected to die, the IHME said.

A universal mask mandate in the country would save more than 68,000 lives by March 1, it said.



www.afnb.com



恆豐 銀行
 American First National Bank

借記卡手機管理
 24小時保護你的賬戶



| | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| Houston Area: Main Office 713-596-2888 | Spring Branch 713-273-1838 | Katy Branch 281-762-6688 | Harwin Branch 713-273-1888 | First Colony Branch 713-596-2588 | Nevada Area: Las Vegas Branch 702-777-9988 | Pahrump Branch 775-751-1773 | Amargosa Valley Branch 775-372-1100 |
| Dallas Area: Richardson Branch 972-348-3488 | Harry-Hines Branch 972-348-3433 | Legacy Branch 972-348-3466 | Carrollton Branch 972-428-5088 | Arlington Branch 817-261-5585 | Garland Branch 972-272-3375 | Plano Branch 469-429-2422 | California Area: City of Industry Branch 626-667-3988 |
| | | | | | | | Alhambra Branch 626-863-1980 |

Lockdown 2.0: Food companies overhauled production to put more toilet paper, pasta sauce in stores

CHICAGO/LISBON (Reuters) - When rumors first began to circulate that the UK would go back into lockdown, Leanne Barnes despaired as bread and toilet roll flew off the shelves again at her local supermarket. But to her surprise, shelves were back to being fully stocked within a few days.

Barnes stocked her pantry last time around with a few additional comfort foods - macaroni cheese, ravioli, soup and spaghetti. But as of last week, she said she felt no urge to stockpile goods.

So far, consumers haven't returned to the sort of panic buying frenzy that sent packaged-food manufacturers scrambling earlier this year.

At the same time, major food companies - including Campbell Soup CPB.N, Kraft Heinz KHC.O and McCormick & Co MKC.N - told Reuters or have said publicly that they have taken measures like changing their production, packaging or pricing so retailers can keep shelves stocked.

Their steps include expanding manufacturing, hiring more workers, re-routing products from restaurants to grocery stores, and turning to bigger pack sizes. Many of their moves came at a high financial cost.

Economists say shoppers realize they can't afford to overspend, and therefore, aren't likely to make binge purchases.

Consumers are more likely to hold back from stockpiling goods - even with significant price-promotions on offer - because the economy is weak and they want to conserve financial resources, according to Benny Mantin, director of the Luxembourg Centre of Logistics and Supply Chain Management.

A Reuters analysis of a basket of goods shows shoppers are buying far less in the United States and Europe than they did earlier this year at the start of the first round of lockdowns.

(Click here for graphics on consumer spending patterns in the United States tmsnr.rs/2lvYJkk, Germany tmsnr.rs/3lDqtCl and the United Kingdom tmsnr.rs/36yzbew.)

Yet for consumer companies, the financial consequences of quickly ramping up production have been severe.

Beyond Meat's BYND.O third-quarter sales growth slowed and the company on Monday posted a \$19.3 million net loss, partly due to higher expenses from retooling its supply chain to meet grocery demand earlier this year, and what it described as less "retail stockpiling" during the quarter.

Spice maker McCormick's costs have shot up in the last two quarters and are expected by Refinitiv to rise even more in the current one.

"I'd say that today, our supply chain is so much more resilient than it was at the beginning of the year," McCormick's Chief Executive Lawrence Kurzius told Reuters in October.

Kurzius said the company has had to de-prioritize products like some gluten-free spices in favor of popular comfort ingredients like pumpkin-pie spice and taco seasoning. "I'm not trying to tempt fate by saying that, but I think McCormick, as well as our industry as a whole, is in a much better place."

Next month, Prego pasta sauce owner Campbell Soup is expected to report an increase in operating expenses, its first in five quarters, according to Refinitiv. Campbell



FILE PHOTO: A worker with a face shield checks products on the shelf of a grocery store in the Manhattan borough of New York City, New York, U.S., August 7, 2020. REUTERS/Carlo Allegri/File Photo

- which has sacrificed some products to focus on more popular ones, such as chicken or tomato soup - spent more on sanitation and labor in its most recent quarter and invested \$40 million in a new Goldfish cracker plant in September. Campbell CEO Mark Clouse told Reuters the company has upped outsourcing of production of soup and some snacks to third-party manufacturers - or "co-packers" - to meet any unexpected demand quickly.

"There will be enough soup for the winter," he said. "You'll see a shelf that feels fuller than what you might have seen back in March as we've worked closely with retailers to make sure we get assortments right." Other companies grappling with higher manufacturing costs include Procter & Gamble PG.N, which has been making Charmin products at record levels this year and has hired more workers to keep lines running 24/7.

Stay Home!

BUSINESS

Wear Mask!

U.S. COVID-19 Lockdown Talk Growing

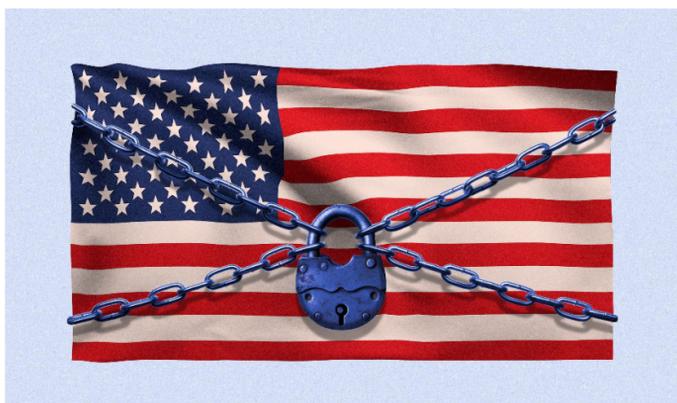
Biden Covid Advisor Says U.S. 4- To 6-Week Lockdown Could Control COVID-19, Revive Economy

Shutting down businesses and paying people for lost wages for four to six weeks could help keep the coronavirus pandemic in check and get the economy on track until a vaccine is approved and distributed, said Dr. Michael Osterholm, a coronavirus advisor to President-elect Joe Biden. Osterholm, who serves as director of the Center of Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota, said earlier this week that the country is headed toward "Covid hell." Cases are rising as more people grow tired of wearing masks and social distancing, suffering from so-called "pandemic fatigue," he said Wednesday. Colder weather is also driving people indoors, where the virus can spread more easily. A nationwide lockdown would drive the number of new cases and hospitalizations down to manageable levels while the world awaits a vaccine, he told Yahoo Finance on Wednesday. "We could pay for a package right now to cover all of the wages, lost wages for individual workers, for losses to small companies, to medium-sized companies or city, state, county governments. We could do all of that," he said. "If we did that, then we could lock down for four to six weeks." In an interview with NBC News on Thursday, Osterholm clarified his comments, saying "it was not a recommendation. I have never made this recommendation to Biden's group. We've never talked about it."



Dr. Michael Osterholm, Regents Professor, McKnight Presidential Endowed Chair in Public Health, and director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota, announced advances for

COVID-19 testing in Minnesota, Wednesday, April 22, 2020 in St. Paul, MN. (Photo/Glen Stubbe | Star Tribune | Getty Images) "My only point was if we are going to keep making restrictions state-by-state, there is no compensation for the businesses that are being impacted," he added. "What we're doing right now is not working." A Biden transition official told NBC News that a shutdown "is not in line with the president-elect's thinking." Osterholm was appointed to Biden's 12-member Covid "advisory board" on Monday. The panel of advisors is co-chaired by former Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, former Food and Drug Administration Commissioner David Kessler and Dr. Marcella Nunez-Smith of Yale University. Other task force members include Dr. Atul Gawande, a professor of surgery and health policy at Harvard, and Dr. Rick Bright, the vaccine expert and whistleblower who resigned his post with the Trump administration last month. A representative for Biden did not respond to CNBC's request for comment. Osterholm on Wednesday referenced an August op-ed he wrote with Minneapolis Federal Reserve President Neel Kashkari in which the two argued for more restrictive and uniform lock-



(Illustration: Sarah Grillo/Axios)

KEY POINTS

Dr. Michael Osterholm, a coronavirus advisor to President-elect Joe Biden, said that a nationwide lockdown would help bring the virus under control in the U.S.

He said the government could borrow enough money to pay for a package that would cover lost income for individuals and governments during a shutdown.

"We could really watch ourselves cruising into the vaccine availability in the first and second quarter of next year while bringing back the economy long before that," he said.

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

downs across the nation. The problem with the March-to-May lockdown was that it was not uniformly stringent across the country. For example, Minnesota deemed 78 percent of its workers essential," they wrote in The New York Times. "To be effective, the lockdown has to be as comprehensive and strict as possible."



Dr. Michael Osterholm, Regents Professor, McKnight Presidential Endowed Chair in Public Health, and

director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota, speaking in an interview with CNBC.

On Wednesday, Osterholm said such a lockdown would help the country bring the virus under control, "like they did in New Zealand and Australia." Epidemiologists have repeatedly pointed to New Zealand, Australia and parts of Asia that have brought the number of daily new cases to under 10 as an example of how to contain the virus. "We could really watch ourselves

cruising into the vaccine availability in the first and second quarter of next year while bringing back the economy long before that," he said Wednesday.

On the current trajectory, Osterholm said the U.S. is headed for dark days before a vaccine becomes available. He said health-care systems across the country are already overwhelmed in places such as El Paso, Texas, where local officials have already closed businesses and the federal government is sending resources to handle a surge in deaths caused by Covid-19.

Osterholm said the country needs leadership. The president-elect is up to the task of providing that leadership, Osterholm said, adding that it could also come from local and state officials or those in the medical community. He referenced

the fireside chats broadcast over radio during former President Franklin D. Roosevelt's terms, through which Roosevelt addressed the country on issues ranging from the Great Depression to World War II.



Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said last week that the U.S. could avoid a new round of lockdowns if we'd adopt other public health measures this winter.

"People don't want to hear that El Paso isn't an isolated event. El Paso, in many instances, will become the norm," he said. "I think that the message is: How do we get through this? We need FDR moments right now. We need fireside chats. We need somebody to tell America, 'This is what in the hell is going to happen.'"

Right now, cases are absolutely out of control - the U.S. racked up another 151,000 infections just yesterday - and that's got some experts and local leaders talking about a new round of lockdowns.

Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot is imposing a new stay-at-home advisory, beginning next week.

Local restrictions can help prevent local hospitals from becoming overwhelmed, but we may not need to spend much energy debating the hypothetical merits of another national lockdown. (Courtesy axios.com and www.cnn.com)

Editor's Choice



A medical worker is seen as patients suffering from the coronavirus are treated in the emergency room of the Maggiore di Lodi hospital, in Lodi, Italy, November 13, 2020. REUTERS/Flavio Lo Scalzo



A counter-demonstrator and supporter of President Trump wears a costume during an anti-Trump rally in the aftermath of the 2020 U.S. presidential election, at Black Lives Matter Plaza in Washington, November 13, 2020. REUTERS/Hannah McKay



Medical workers are seen as patients suffering from the coronavirus are treated in the shock room of the Maggiore di Lodi hospital, in Lodi, Italy, November 13, 2020. REUTERS/Flavio Lo Scalzo



A person gestures at a counter-demonstrator and supporter of President Trump during an anti-Trump rally in the aftermath of the 2020 U.S. presidential election, at Black Lives Matter Plaza in Washington, November 13, 2020. REUTERS/Hannah McKay



Medical personnel prepare in the emergency room of the Maggiore di Lodi hospital as a second wave of the coronavirus hits the country, in Lodi, Italy, November 13, 2020. REUTERS/Flavio Lo Scalzo



A counter-demonstrator and supporter of President Donald Trump shouts at protesters during an anti-Trump rally in the aftermath of the 2020 presidential election, at Black Lives Matter Plaza in Washington, November 13, 2020. REUTERS/Hannah McKay



A patient suffering from the coronavirus is treated in the intensive care unit of the Maggiore di Lodi hospital, in Lodi, Italy, November 13, 2020. REUTERS/Flavio Lo Scalzo



A doctor at Strasbourg's university hospital is seen putting protective clothes on while attending training for new staff to reinforce ICU regular crews who face a second wave of patients suffering from the coronavirus in Strasbourg, France,

Biden Will Inherit Trump's Nuclear Worries

Growing North Korean Nuclear Threat Awaits U.S. Election Winner



Thousands rally to welcome the 8th Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea at Kim Il Sung Square in Pyongyang, North Korea, Oct. 12, 2020. (Jon Chol Jin/AP)

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

WASHINGTON — "Where's the war?" That's how President Donald Trump defends his North Korea policy at campaign rallies even though he's joined the list of U.S. presidents unable to stop the ever-growing nuclear threat from Kim Jong Un. That threat will transcend the November election, no matter who wins.

Despite Trump's three meetings with Kim, the North Korean leader is expanding his arsenal. This month, Kim rolled out a shiny new, larger intercontinental ballistic missile during a nighttime parade in Pyongyang. Arms experts said the missile could possibly fire multiple nuclear warheads at the United States. It serves as a reminder that despite Trump's boasts, North Korea remains one of the biggest dangers to U.S. national security.

North Korea hasn't been a major campaign issue, though it could surface in Thursday's debate, which is supposed to include a national security segment. Democrat Joe Biden has blasted Trump's chummy relationship with Kim, saying that, if elected, he would not meet the North Korean leader unless diplomats first draft a comprehensive agreement. Trump, meanwhile, predicts he can get a deal quickly if reelected, citing the dire conditions in North Korea.

Talk of a quick deal is probably just talk because there's no sign of significant contacts between Washington and Pyongyang, says Bruce Klingner, a research fellow at the Heritage Foundation and former CIA Korea deputy chief. He and other North Korea watchers say they are bracing for Kim to showcase his military might again after the U.S. election.



Joe Biden will face urgent nuclear challenges upon entering the White House. Arms control with Russia is crumbling, Iran's uranium stockpiles are growing, and North Korea is as vexing and threatening as ever. Additionally, the last treaty constraining the world's two nuclear superpowers, New START, is due to expire 15 days after Biden takes office. (Photo illustration/Eniola Odetunde/Axios. Photo: Drew

Angerer/Getty Images)

"North Korea already has an ICBM that can range all over the United States, down to Florida and beyond, so the only reason to have an even larger missile is to be able to carry a larger payload," Klingner said. He said it's likely that North Korea will "do something strongly provocative early next year, regardless of who is elected president."

North Korea is continuing to produce nuclear material, according to a Congressional Research Service report. In addition, between May 2019 and late March 2020, North Korea conducted multiple short-range ballistic missile tests in violation of United Nations Security Council prohibitions.

Multiple diplomatic initiatives during both Democratic and Republican administrations have failed to get North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons in exchange for sanctions relief. Trump dared to be different, opting for in-person meetings with Kim in Singapore, Hanoi and the Demilitarized Zone.

But despite the summits and exchanges of what Trump called "love" letters, his administration has been unable to get traction on denuclearizing North Korea. The last known working group meeting was last October.

Even so, Trump is still claiming victory, saying he's kept the U.S. out of war with North Korea.

"Where's the war?" he asked supporters last week in Greenville, North Carolina. He's used the same line in other campaign speeches in battleground states.

"We have a good relationship with Kim Jong Un," he said in Freeland, Michigan. "Who knows what likely happens? All I know is we're not in war and that's OK."

Biden says that if he's elected, he will inherit a North Korean chal-

lenge that is worse than when Trump took office.



This image made from video broadcast by North Korea's KRT, shows a military parade with what appears to be possible new intercontinental ballistic missile at the Kim Il Sung Square in Pyongyang, Oct. 10, 2020. (KRT via AP)

"After three made-for-TV summits, we still don't have a single concrete commitment from North Korea," Biden said in a statement on North Korea. "Not one missile or nuclear weapon has been destroyed. Not one inspector is on the ground. If anything, the situation has gotten worse."

He added: "North Korea has more capability today than when Trump began his 'love affair' with Kim Jong Un, a murderous tyrant who, thanks to Trump, is no longer an isolated pariah on the world stage." Biden has pledged to work with allies to press Kim to denuclearize.

Biden's advisers say the former vice president is not averse to sitting down with Kim, but not before a comprehensive negotiating strategy is outlined at working-level meetings by diplomats on both sides. The Biden campaign also criticizes Trump for scaling back military exercises with South Korea. North Korea typically fires off missiles or conducts tests in a show of force before key U.S. and South Korean elections. This time, experts predict, Kim will engage in saber-rattling after he knows who wins.

"Kim would like to deal with President Trump, rather than Biden," said Sue Mi Terry, a former intelligence analyst specializing in East Asia who is now at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. She said Kim does not want to make trouble for Trump by conducting a major provoca-

tion before the election. "In January," she said. "That's the time we need to watch out for it."



In this Oct. 2, 2019, file photo provided by the North Korean government, an underwater-launched missile lifts off in the waters off North Korea's eastern coastal town of Wonsan, North Korea. (Korean Central News Agency/Korea News Service via AP, File)

If Biden wins, the North Koreans will want to engage with the new administration from a position of strength, according to Victor Cha, who negotiated with North Korea during the George W. Bush administration. If Trump wins, Cha thinks the president might want to move quickly to begin negotiations because he went "all in" on his man-to-man diplomacy with Kim and doesn't want to accept personal defeat.

Some experts believe that instead of repeating diplomatic failures, the U.S. should recognize the reclusive nation as a nuclear weapons state and mitigate the threat through arms control treaties.

Biden's vice presidential running mate, Sen. Kamala Harris, disagrees, saying the U.S. cannot accept North Korea as a nuclear power. But she also said, in written responses to questions posed by the Council on Foreign Relations, that demanding complete denuclearization is a "recipe for failure."

She has pledged a tough approach to North Korea.

I guarantee you I won't be exchanging love letters with Kim Jong Un," she wrote. (Courtesy www.militarytimes.com/)



学区对美国教育有何影响

在不少国人眼中,与国内教育相比,美国小学教育“学的少,玩的多,作业很轻松”;美国高等教育选拔过程“人为因素多”……然而,实际情况是否真的如此?近日,在21世纪教育研究院主办的“在美国‘发现’教育——蓝带小学和哈佛大学故事”主题沙龙上,曾有留美经历的学生、家长及教师从小学、大学两种角度入手,解读不一样的美国式教育。

招聘新校长 家长得面试 “在美国,我所在的这个学区对教育的影响非常大。回国后,我也跟北京的一些学区教师交流过,比较而言,我认为,北京的学区对教育影响并不是很大。”向蓓莉,北京师范大学教育学部副教授,同时,也是一位母亲,向蓓莉的女儿赵思楠,目前就读于北京某小学六年级,曾就读于美国桑塔塔小学。

向蓓莉介绍,在美国的公立教育体系里,从幼儿园到12年级都是免费义务教育。每所小学在招生第一年,每班班额不超过30人。由于这所小学的所有经费几乎不是来源于政府财政拨款,而是由家长和社区捐款。如果学校想扩大招生规模,则需聘用更多教师,增加更多教室及资源,这需要家长和社

区的“财政支持”。向蓓莉介绍,每个月,学校都会召开家长教师协会会议。会议上,校长要向家委会报告学校做了什么、需要什么,每次也都会有一个班的老师向大家展示本班的学习内容。“有一次,在会议即将结束时,家委会主席是这么说的:‘咱们这个学校的老师手提电脑已经用了5年了,我们要考虑给老师们换新的。’”不仅如此,即使招聘新校长第一步也要通过家长的面试。

“我也曾采访过校长——你有没有感到你在老师和家长的夹缝中?”对于向蓓莉的这个问题,校长表示,“完全没有”。因为在这个学区,学校的理念跟家长的理念高度一致。这是因为学区在制定目标的过程中,必须邀请家长参加,并与家长共同参与制定——家长希望自己的孩子成为什么样的学习者?家长需要学校教育管理者、老师做什么?家长要做什么?我们共同的目标是什么……家长参与学校治理和管理的权利非常大,并且,家长与学校之间可以实现资源、决策的共享。

学生课上下课都“自由”教师可以“不使用教材” “课程设置上,美国普纳荷学校的课程设置很自主,它可以有数十个社

团,学生们在下课后,可以参与各种各样的社团,非常自由。而我们把学生整齐划一,特别规矩。”北京师范大学三帆中学朝阳学校书记、执行校长李建文表示。

“在学区的教育哲学里,有一个很重要的关键词——赋权。”向蓓莉介绍,在桑塔塔小学的英语课上,老师和学生被赋予“不使用教材”的权利。在老师看来,教材中的一些故事“支离破碎”,并不利于孩子理解及连贯阅读。取而代之的,是让孩子们阅读获奖小说。“老师在网上开设一个论坛,问学生有关小说中的问题,并规定阅读页数及回答时间。第一本书是每个学生都要读的,第二是能力分层,不同能力的学生选择难易程度不同的小说。”向蓓莉表示,这样的学习方法不仅为母语非英语的孩子提高阅读能力,也使英语课与其他相关学科有机结合。同时,在教学过程中,学生有大量时间进行小组阅读合作学习,并要与六年级学生共同讨论,提高了孩子们的表达能力及合作意识。小说阅读完成后,学生以小组为单位编写剧本,并学期期末表演。而课后的作业,竟是按照小说中的内容做一剂“神奇的药”。

不仅是英语课。在数学课上,孩子

们经常用iPad在课堂上做数学设计,并就某一个数学的知识设计一道与生活相联系的数学题。“在赵思楠进入学校不久后,有一个家长志愿者陪她学数学,并用一个软件把她们的学习内容上传跟同学们互相分享。”向蓓莉回忆,在赵思楠六年级学习比例时,老师曾要求将菜单由4人份改为12人份,并把它真正做出来,以聚会的形式品尝这些食物。此外,学校定期举办书展,学生身穿睡衣、手拿枕头和毯子体验“在家”听作家讲故事。作业是写诗或作文,“从小到大,我写的作文都是关于德育,或以德育为主的文学作品。而她们要么是写押韵诗,要么是写魔幻的小说,



万圣节时,一个一年级的孩子甚至写的都是鬼怪。”向蓓莉表示,她并不认同美国小学生“学的少,玩的多,作业很轻松”。美国小学生的教材有好几百页,甚至已经讲到控制变量、自变量,并要求学生完成一个可控的试验。“赵思楠还学习过生命科学,有一次她们老师买了十几只羊的心脏让同学们解剖。”向蓓莉说。

中美教育差距始于高中

每年高考时节,我们都免不了回望下我国的高中教育制度,也会自然而然地与“别国”作比。有统计显示,到2013年,赴美读高中的中国学生已达2万人。美国高中与中国高中差距何在?用美国林肯肯高中双语系主任方帆的话说,也许最大的区别在于:美国人相信“不落盾于终点”,而中国人更愿相信“不落盾于起点”。

斯坦福大学的马立平博士曾经做过一个对比研究,发现23名随机调查的美国小学教师,只有9个人正确做出1又1/4除以1/2的答案;而72名中国小学教师,全部都做对。另外,对于“除以二分之一”的数学概念,没有任何一个参与研究的中国小学教师知道是什么意思;但是所有的中国小学教师都正确答对。教师如此,学生的水平可想而知。

于是,很多中国人百思不得其解:美国的中小学教育那么糟糕,为什么美国的大学那么牛?为什么美国无论是科技还是人文的创新,都远远把中国甩到后面? 答案其实只有一句话:美国人相信“不落盾于终点”,中国人相信“不落盾于起点”。 美国与中国教育的差距,始于高中。

第一,学制上有差距:大部分美国高中阶段是9-12年级,有四年的时间学习。中国的高中阶段其实只有两年,因为第三年要准备高考。

第二,课程上有差距:美国高中是学分制的,因此可以开出比中国的高中多得多的必修课和选修课。普通一个美国高中,都能开出上百门的课,跟一所小型大学差不多。

第三,教师的水平有差距:美国的高中,因为要开大学的课程,对教师的要求就要很高。美国的高中

教师很多都有硕士学位,博士学位的也不少。美国的教师执照课程跟中国不一样。中国读师范毕业,四年本科,能考到教师证书就能当老师。但是,美国人要当教师,无论拥有何种学位,一律要读两年的教师执照课程。要考进去读,读完还得考出来。

第四,科目的程度有差距:美国的高中可以开相当于大学一年级或者二年级公共课程程度的科目,中国的高中基本是不会开大学程度的课的。

第五,美国有重点高中,甚至有“全国重点高中”:按照成绩高低,甚至根据入学成绩高低来录取学生;在每一所高中里面,美国是按照学生的程度来分班,有专门给能力最高的学生读的“荣誉班”(honors class),天才学生读的“大学预修班”(AP class),有全球承认的“国际班”(IB class)等等。

第六,美国的大学、科研机构、医院、政府机构、商业机构,都有专门的部门,负责协调高中生的课外社会实践和科研活动。因此,美国的高中生可以到大学上课,拿大学的学分;可以到科研机构,跟科学家一起做研究;可以到各级政府机构去当官员的助理,议员的秘书,民选官员的竞选团队义工;在教育董事会——州或者县市的教育局的决策机构里面,也有学生委员,可以参与公立教育的最高决策。

最后,因为美国的高中可以开出很多高程度的课程,而且很多是得到资金雄厚的科研机构、政府机构或者商业机构支持的,因此美国高中的配置跟设备,很可能是连中国的大学都望尘莫及的。

从上面的比较,我们就已经可以知道,中国跟美国在教育上的差距,始于高中,到了大学,更加大踏步拉开距离。

