**COVID-19**

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Going through school during a worldwide pandemic was interesting to say the least. The pandemic swept through the world during the second semester of my junior year of high school. I vividly remember having a conversation about the possibility of the infection rates spiking while in my Environmental Science class. Most everyone in the class agreed that it would die out by months end. A day later, we were told that the school was releasing students to spring break early. Everyone was ecstatic. “Four weeks of spring break!” we all thought. The break continued to stretch into a month, then two, and dragged onto three. I never stepped foot in my high school again. I was blessed enough to be allowed an in-person graduation and walk across the stage. It was a bit odd though, as we weren’t allowed to have it in doors, and our football field was undergoing renovations. My friends and family found their solution to the problem rather odd. We ended up walking on the football field of our rival school. To be honest though, I was just happy to get my diploma, walk across the stage, and move onto college. That entire year and a half of pandemic life high school feels like a fever dream.

It did turn into a blessing in disguise in some ways. At the beginning of the pandemic, I was working as a customer service clerk for the Harris Teeter by my house. Since all my classes went online, I was able to get promoted and go full time as a Customer Service Manager. Going into my senior year of high school I decided to take just two classes and allow myself to continue working. Working allowed me to make savings and meet new people.

On the other hand, my friend group was affected pretty severely. Through my senior year I didn’t go out with friends much and only grew more distant from them. Working was my main social outlet while we were waiting for things to open back up. I was overjoyed when people were able to go out and do things again.

Moving into college has been odd. The move in was smooth. I’m glad the rules are so strict on campus. It would be great if more people followed them. I can confidently say that I don’t think education, communication, or working will ever be the same. Many of my friend's parents have begun working online, without much likelihood that they’ll go back to their offices. I've found this especially true in any computer industry. Being a computer science major, I’m interested, and a little bit anxious to see what the workforce will look like as I continue to pursue my degree, and make my way into the workforce. I expect Covid to continue, probably seasonally, similar to the flu or another similar illness. Coronavirus has had a huge effect on my life, but I am excited to make my way through it and tell my kids stories about it one day.