**COVID-19**

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COVID 19 has changed the lives of so many people around the world. For many college and high school students, the most impactful change that the Corona Virus has blessed us with is social. Highschool students that graduated during the 2019-2020 school year were not cognizant of the fact that the last time they would get the chance to see their favorite teacher or close friend would be in March. Athletes all over the country saw their seasons either cut short or even cancelled due to the virus. Students all over the country are having to adapt to a new way of learning. Finally, College freshman are having trouble meeting people and making their new friends.

All the 2019-2020 high school seniors had most of the second half of their senior year taken away. With little warning all the schools around the country started closing due to the virus. Many students and teachers believed the schools would only be closed for a short period of time while the government got the virus under control., but this was not the case. Many of these schools did not reopen and the 2020 seniors never went back to school. These students never got to say their goodbyes to their favorite teachers, close friends, or supportive administration. Senior year is something that many students look forward to for all high school, but nobody would have ever predicted a senior year like this. It is safe to say that these students will not soon forget what the Corona Virus did to their final year of public schooling.

Many college and high school athletes had their seasons or even careers ended. If you participated in a high school spring sport, such as baseball, soccer, lacrosse, or more, then you never got to have your season. This means that if you were a senior, then your career could have very well ended without you knowing. There were a few notable college sports that were ended as well, including wrestling and basketball. So many athletes worked hard their entire life to make it to the NCAA tournament for both basketball and wrestling. When these athletes found out that despite their hard work, they would not receive their chance at winning a national championship, the must have been distraught.

The 2020-2021 school year is very different than any other school year ever before. It is mostly online with very little face to face interaction. This requires both the teachers and students to adapt. Students and teachers must work together to help each other overcome these strange circumstances. Professors at East Carolina University must change their pace, and potentially their material in order to fit it into a accelerated course. Students have to be done work for each of their classes everyday in order to not fall behind and be forced to play catch up with the rest of their class. Overall, this experience is new for everyone and is bound to have a few mishaps from time to time.

College freshmen are having a challenging time meeting new friends. With all the restrictions set by universities it is hard to interact with fellow students without breaking any rules. One example of these rules is that you are not allowed to have more than four people in a room, so if there is a room that already has four people in it then you are not allowed to join them. Even if you follow the rules, many students are frightened by COVID 19 and spend all their time in their dorm to avoid social interaction. It has never been harder to find connections at college then it is now.

COVID 19 has impacted everyone in the world one way or another. For some it may have taken away a large part of your senior year. The Virus might have ended your season or possible even your career as an athlete. It may have made your classes much more challenging bring you stress and anxiety. It might even have made it hard for you to make friends and your new school. Overall, the Corona Virus has not been fun for anybody, but if we all work together, we can end this madness. Remember to social distance and wear your mask.