**COVID-19**

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The Coronavirus pandemic has affected my life in unimaginable ways. Over the past year and a half everything that was deemed normal to me changed. At the time that COVID-19 hit, I was a junior in high school always studying, hanging out with friends, shopping, travelling, and making the time pass. When they announced school would be out for two weeks, I was excited about a vacation and a break from all the stress of junior year and more time to hang out with my friends. Shortly after we got out of school for the two weeks, everyone began to panic, and I didn’t know what to think or do. Lockdown has made me enjoy the things I often overlooked.

Graduating from high school during a pandemic was a very bittersweet feeling. I was excited to move on and start my college education, but the uncertainties that the pandemic left behind frightened me for what my future would hold. During this time, I spent a lot of time with my family, which made it hard leaving them for college. In college I have never felt so lost, I did not feel complete without the people I was constantly surrounded with. Being away from home, my anxiety has gotten severely worse. I have constantly faced hardships through this pandemic that I am still recovering from.

At first, I did not believe Covid was as serious as people made it out to be. After a few weeks living in this pandemic, I soon noticed the severity of this virus. I witnessed toilet paper no longer being on shelves, bread being a scarce item, and water no longer having a shelf life. Classes were no longer face to face, but rather staring at a computer screen. I had to quickly learn how to adapt to an online learning setting. I struggled with this way of learning very much in the beginning of my senior year and it took a lot of getting used to. I am the type of person who learns best in a face to face and group work setting. Online learning has begun to be the new normal for many schools, yet some classes are in person. The pandemic has made it extremely difficult for students to return to normal life in a school setting, masks must be worn always making it hard to recognize others and hearing them clearly.

The coronavirus has had a huge impact on my family due to some being immune compromised, so we must be very cautious about where we go and keeping distance from others. This explains how it’s hard to go back to in person classes because there isn’t enough distance for the virus to not be carried and spreaded among many people. Through all the struggles of this pandemic and how easily spreadable it is, I’ve learned not to take life for granted and to appreciate the times you have with others no matter what in life is happening. Although life brings unfortunate events, I’ve learned to overcome obstacles I never thought I could and appreciate that I was given another day to live.