This meme depicts a stressed-out cat sitting at a table, with the text reading “what the fuck is going on.”

I chose this meme because it was just how I felt at some points during the pandemic. The only time I was really affected by the pandemic was at the very start when everything transferred to online. I was in my sophomore year of high school when everything transitioned to being held online. A couple weeks before we transitioned, there were talks between the teachers about whether or not we would stop school and what the possible options would be. Eventually the day came where the entire county shut down and everyone was moved online. It was fairly simple to change into because it was talked about beforehand by everyone. We used Microsoft teams for class meetings and to post assignments, it was very simple to use. The only issues I ever had with this was staying focused during meetings because I was at home. If I’m at home and on teams trying to do my schoolwork, I would get distracted so this would extend the amount of time certain assignments took to do and also extended the recorded lectures I had to watch. Along with being distracted, sometimes I would also just fall behind because I ended up not caring for my class as I could do the work throughout the day whenever I wanted. Some classes such as chemistry got a little bit harder because there was no in person class or examples I could go to. Scenarios such as the ones I just listed would often cause me to go “what the fuck is going on” due to me being lost in schoolwork and what I was supposed to be learning.

When schools moved to online teaching this also removed the ability to go to class and hangout with friends. To fix this, my friends and I would just play games together all day, every day after we were done with our classes. If I wasn’t playing games with my friends, then I would be playing games on my own. This is how I stayed occupied during the pandemic, school and video games. Over the summer this pattern would continue, spanning into playing with more people and even picking up new hobbies such as 3D art.

After the summer, we of course went back to school because months have passed, and things slowly became better. At the start there was a lot of confusion on rules and guidelines when we were attending in person classes. We had no idea what the plan was, if we were going to go back online, stay in person or choose another method. This was once again another period of “what the fuck is going on” during the COVID pandemic. Overall, it was not bad, and I was able to get through it. There were just some parts in which no one knew what to do and everyone had to feel like this cat at some point in their experience.

