

A Student's Take on COVID-19

By Samara Cardoso

March 13th, 2019 was the day my world shut down. I kept hearing rumors that school was going to go on break for a few weeks, at least until things got better, but when week after week passed and the world remained home in quarantine, I was confused. What I thought was going to be a fun break turned into a frustrating, miserable, and isolating time in my life.

The first year of COVID-19 was very difficult. Life was so uncertain and constantly changing that it was hard to grasp on to and understand. When every aspect of your world gets disrupted, it feels like the rug was pulled from right underneath you. My whole life changed. School was different, visiting family was different, going to the grocery store was different, and especially the way I navigated through life was different. Before COVID, I never had to be afraid of someone coughing in public, or that a common cold was actually covid, and I sure didn't have to worry about bringing a mask everywhere I went. I was like every other student, complaining about going every day and how much homework I had, but I still went. I've always been an honors student so school was never a challenge for me. I could sit at my desk for a few hours, get all my work done, study for any upcoming tests and quizzes, and be done.

However, during the pandemic, **I realized school wasn't just school, it was a place where I went to socialize and interact.** I had my friends, fellow peers, and even teachers that I looked forward to seeing every day. Without that social interaction, I felt alone.

Even though I had social media where I saw what people were up to and I could text and FaceTime my friends, it wasn't the same as being in their presence. Even doing my school work became a difficult task because of remote learning and how different my ability was to focus outside of the classroom. Just getting out of bed and setting up for school in the morning was now a chore. I had to force myself to stay on task and focus on what we were learning-- but how could I when I was sitting in my room filled with distractions? Thankfully, though, I was able to maintain my grades, unlike many other students who were impacted significantly.

My hope for 2022 is that the pandemic comes to an end and **I can reflect on how different of a person I've become after emerging from such chaos and change.** This is the first time I've ever experienced such a drastic global event. You don't think about how certain things will affect you until you go through them, I mean how could you? Nobody thinks to themselves "Hey I wonder what it'd be like if a pandemic hit"? That's just not something people do. But here we are in the midst of it all, just trying to get through it day by day.