

In the beginning when i first heard of COVID i didn't realize that it was going to be such a big deal. I remember talking to my Earth Science teacher and saying that it seems crazy that we would leave school because of some disease. But then the next day, no joke, we were at home and trying to figure out what comes next. When we got the first two weeks off with no school it was honestly fun. It was like a really long spring break. But then they kept extending it and I knew that things were about to get complicated. My teachers didn't have any sort of connection with us and nobody knew what was happening. It was really complicated to figure out how to balance school work and learning new concepts, especially math. There was no connection with teachers and students other than the occasional google classroom notification to do work. In my personal life it was no easier. After the third or fourth time of them saying that we are going to be out of school for another two weeks everyone knew that we were not going back. I am a person who needs social interaction so being quarantined was really bad for my mental health. I was cooped up in my house and the only thing that I could do was go for long walks. I was very lonely and frustrated and grieving over a life that was gone forever, a life without COVID. I stayed like this for around two months. But eventually as time went on and the active county cases were down to one, and the world was starting to open up to each other. We had some family friends over a couple times for a s'mores party, and I got to see my friends every Wednesday. This was a weird in between for another two months and the start of school was looming over our heads. I was excited to see people but dreading the changes and how hard school would be with the different COVID regulations. Now it's March a full year since the world shut down and I have to say even though there were many times where nobody knew what was happening and we were all confused, for me I was able to grow my faith and figure out who my real friends are while connecting to those I love on a deeper level. Though there were hard times and many people died and are dying this pandemic helped the world pause for a second and think about where we are as a society.