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My Life Experience During the Covid-19 Pandemic

In March of 2020, the entire world completely changed when the Coronavirus pandemic hit. In the last seven months, we have all been staying at home, wearing masks in public places, and trying to stay at least six feet away from other people in order to protect ourselves and the entire community. It has not been easy for everyone, including me, not just because the pandemic occurred at an unprecedented rate, but because of the fear that the current generation was facing. Especially for the graduating members of the Class of 2020.

It was my senior year of high school, and so far, everything was going great; I attended my final homecoming dance, I went to almost every home football game, I performed in my fall stage shows and concerts, but to top it all off, I got accepted into Sacred Heart University. I was even more excited for the spring semester to start because prom and graduation were just around the corner. In the middle of February, everybody in my school was talking about a current epidemic happening in China and how it will eventually spread to the United States shortly after. My thoughts were completely different, I did not think that a small epidemic would turn into a pandemic in a matter of weeks.

On March 13th, my thoughts were wrong and that was when everything changed. I remember going to school and all of a sudden, the faculty announced that we would be having an early dismissal due to the pandemic stats arising in the state. I remember I was in my chorus class with all of my best friends when the announcement was made. It was then that we all realized that we were going to be in lockdown for a long time and that we probably would never meet in person again. So much so, that when the final bell rang, we were all hugging each other because we were so scared. The next day, the state was officially in full lockdown and we all had to quarantine.

Throughout the months of March and April, those had to be one of the toughest times of my life. So many changes had to be made in life in order to keep us all safe. Almost all of the public places were closed, with the exceptions of fast food drive throughs and grocery stores, I had to do school online, but the worst part was not being able to see my friends and family. So many drastic changes were occurring, it eventually took a toll on my mental health. So many emotions were going through my head. I felt angry, sad, hopeless, bored, and trapped. My mom noticed how hard it was for me to deal with the current situation, and she told me that even though we are stuck at home, it does not mean that we can not stay inside all day and be bored.

In order to cope with my emotions, my family and I started to take long walks, I would sing/listen to my favorite songs, and my sister and I would always binge watch our favorite shows and movies on Disney Plus, Hulu, and Netflix. In terms of my social life, I would always call my friends on Facetime every single day to just check in, and even though we could not get together in person, it was still fun being able to see their faces again.

As the weather got nicer, my sister and I would spend more and more time playing outside after school, and once phase two was put into play, my family and I started to go out more often to places where it would be safe, such as outdoor restaurants, the park, and the beach. We also purchased a variety of different masks to wear with our clothes for each day. In the middle of May, the statistics in Connecticut were starting to go down even further and plans were starting to be made for the Class of 2020 Graduation. When I found out that my class was going to be able to have a graduation, I was so excited because instead of just driving up to get our diploma, we were actually going to dress in our cap and gowns and have an actual ceremony on our football field while still following the current state guidelines. Instead of one big ceremony, there were several smaller ceremonies that would only last for about twenty minutes, and only ten to fifteen graduates were allowed on the field at a time with at least two other family members. The graduates would walk onto the field, the principal would give a speech, and we would come up in alphabetical order to receive our diplomas. One of the best parts about registering a time for my graduation was that there were several different time slots available and that I was able to coordinate with my friends on what time would be good for us to attend.

On the day of my high school graduation, I was really excited because I have not seen my friends and my teachers for several months. Overall, the entire ceremony was great. Everything was organized well and even though the ceremony was only twenty minutes, it was nice to be able to graduate with all of my closest friends. Overall, the last seven months of 2020 have been completely crazy, but at the same time, not everything during the pandemic was completely negative, and I believe that future generations will look at the Class of 2020 as a symbol of hope and courage because we graduated during a time in history that will never be forgotten, but simultaneously, we all remained positive that the future will not always be negative and that everything will be ok.