

March 13, 2020 was one of the strangest days of my entire life. It was a normal day: I went to school, did my homework, went to dance, but something was definitely off. Little did I know that day would change my whole life for months to come. COVID19 had already come to Long Island but nobody thought anything of it. After I came home from school, I received a phone call that said I wasn't going to be having school for a while. I didn't know it was going to be more than awhile. I think the worst part of this experience was getting hopeful and slowly losing that hope as the days went on. I know many people like myself thought it would only be two weeks off from school and then we would be back in no time, but obviously that was not the case. To see the number of COVID19 cases go up so rapidly on the news, scared me. As the cases and deaths went up, my heart sank a little more. I felt like I was watching my world crumble right in front of my eyes. I was so afraid for myself and for my family. The disease was so contagious that it was scary just to leave the house. New York City used to be a place that never slept and was always alive, but during this pandemic no one would walk the streets. It was truly haunting and it made me realize how crazy this situation really was. How can a disease affect so much that goes on around us? I now appreciate every moment I have at school now because I know how easily it can be taken away. Online school was not enjoyable for me because I wanted to be able to walk the hallways of my school, be able to graduate, have a prom or even see my friends before I moved to the next chapter of my life. Having my senior year taken away from me really made me realize how I took school for granted. COVID19 not only affected people but businesses as well. To see so many small businesses struggle to stay open was saddening. Many of my favorite little stores around my town closed because they didn't have enough

money and business to stay open. This experience definitely made me realize how much I take for granted in my daily life.