

I never did realize how much human connection and the time I got with the people I loved most in my life meant to me, until I was forced to go without it. March of 2020 was a month unlike any other I have ever lived before and the world as I knew it had changed drastically. Everyone was forced into a, what was supposed to be, 2-week quarantine to try and get ahead of the spread of this disease before it got to be really bad. Spoiler alert: it got really bad. This “2-week break from school” turned into many long months of being isolated in our homes, with no human interaction other than our families, and having no end in sight for when things would start to get better for our world. This was all the cause of a disease called COVID-19. My normal junior year of high school transitioned to being remote and the most abnormal thing ever, as did pretty much everything else. Doctors appointments, meetings, the real face to face connection that everyone had once known, was gone for an unsolicited amount of time. After a few months, right about summer time, people did start going out again, but a new accessory was added to everyone’s wardrobe. That was the mask. Any time we go out we must be masked, to not only protect ourselves but others from this very easily transmittable disease. Going back to school in person, with a mask, in a hybrid learning model, for the entirety of my senior year was not easy, but it helped me learn to appreciate things much more and not take them for granted. Although we had thought we had found the answer to all of our prayers with the vaccines for this disease coming out, it is now my freshman year of college and a new variant of this sickness has surfaced. Luckily, as of now, we are living life as normally as we can with our masks on, and trying to combat this second variant of COVID-19. It has not been the simplest task to live with this disease that has pretty much taken over our world, but looking back on history, if people

made it through pandemics with technology that doesn't even compare to the resources we have now, I know one day there will be an end to this.