

The Covid -19 pandemic was much more than a disease but a complete change of lifestyle for every American including myself. My story with the pandemic that earned 2020s word of the year to be “unprecedented” starts December 20th. The first time I discovered Covid-19. After a long day of preparing the house for Christmas during my downtime, I logged into Twitter to find “Wuhan” trending. Little did I know that city I once never heard about would become infamous around the globe. At 16 years old I scrolled through my feed watching the horrific first photos and videos emerging from the province of Wuhan. At that very moment, I knew it was only a matter of time before it reached our shores and infected Americans.

My first instant was to warn my family to look at what's happening in China asking, “Why hasn’t the news covered this”? After winter break, when school began I brought it up to my peers during our mask-free, full-of-life lunch that we took for granted. My friends thought we were untouchable. “How could this disease from thousands of miles away possibly come to the high school”? I remained convinced life as we knew it was going to get worse soon. Every day before I went to bed, I would scroll through my feed reading up on the latest updates from China in hopes the situation was finally under control. It was a false hope exacerbated by missed opportunities to get a handle on the virus that despite best efforts were spreading rapidly. Flash forward to the week of March 13th, 2020, classrooms were captivated by talk of the Coronavirus and rumors of school being shut down. Rumors were put to rest that Friday when during my AP US history class when our principal, timid in his voice announced a 2-week school closing. We were all elated no school, no homework, or projects. Later we would

collectively experience our lives forever changed from the loss of loved ones, the closing of local staples, and the depression which plagued the valley. Unprecedented, no kidding.