

During the COVID-19 pandemic, everyone's lives were changed, and from everything, I've heard none changed for the better. I was 16 years old a Junior in Highschool supposed to be having the time of my life I had so much to look forward to, prom, getting ready to pick a college, and becoming a Senior. This was all put to an abrupt stop when my school announced "school will be closed for two weeks", who would've thought those two weeks would turn into months of no school and then going online for the start of Senior year. We all thought these two weeks would consist of hanging with friends. I only knew it would become a serious thing when my mom, a registered nurse, wouldn't even let me out to see my friends.

One of the biggest concerns with the pandemic in my family was my mom and her career choice. She is a nurse and never have I ever seen her more distraught about going to work in my life than I did in April/May of 2020. She was working overnights constantly and my sister and I barely saw her for quite some time because she tried to distance herself in case she had COVID. Seeing this made a huge impact on me considering I wanted to go to college to become a nurse like her and this could make or break my future career. Thank god the pandemic didn't scare me away to change career paths, it pushed me to want to be a nurse more.

The biggest adjustment for other Highschool students as well as myself was switching from in-person to remote learning. It seriously is a huge change and some students can't switch that easily and their grades suffer due to that. My Highschool went fully remote for the rest of the 2019-2020 school and then half remote for the 2020-2021 school year. Being a Senior in either of those years was completely disappointing and upsetting. We needed masks for graduation and prom. This is not how I expected my Highschool career to end.

The only silver lining that came out of the pandemic was that I truly found out who were my real friends and who were not. Who could live without me in their lives and who simply couldn't, I thank the pandemic for giving me my four best friends and for bringing my family together closer than ever.