

## **Pandemics and Changes**

On March 13, 2020, I would've never thought that those were the last few hours of school before 6 months of quarantine. I always preach about a life with no regrets, but this isn't the case in 2020. Writing about how quarantine and events of 2020 have changed, I am a very complex subject matter. However, taking time to plan and reflect on my year has helped bring important ideas to light. Looking back on my year has made me realize that before Covid, I was taking a lot for granted and not thinking about the little things that make everyday life so valuable. On Saturday, July 18, 2020, I wrote in my journal about how much I took things for granted. I wrote, "You don't understand the significance of what you have until it's gone". This statement from my journal speaks true to a lot of my feelings now after Covid robbed me of all of those significant things that made up my daily life. However, looking back on this experience makes me realize that this year has changed me in a way that humbled me and grounded me in realizing how much I took for granted. On Sunday, September 27, 2020, I texted my friend Katelyn about how online school had been going so far. I stated, "It's been a hard few weeks". The online school comes with its downfalls and it hit me hard the first few weeks. However, now that I've been doing virtual school for around two months, I feel like it has gotten easier because I have gotten stronger and more confident in my abilities to handle the online experience. This change of heart did not come easy, however, because it took me a month to realize that change is on both ends and the world around us is constantly changing, meaning that sometimes even though hard we have to adjust too. Throughout my writing about my experience during the pandemic, I have realized that it is a privilege and a blessing that my family remains healthy and safe despite the chaos around us. That's why on July 18, 2020, I wrote, "You can't expect to have your cake and eat it too". This line that I pulled from my journal stuck out to me because in my interpretation it means that you can't expect to get all of these blessings and not face conflict with it. Although the pandemic has robbed us all the things that matter most to us, I will continue to believe that what doesn't kill you makes you stronger and that we should all stick together from a distance of 6 feet.