

Amjed Washaha

10/26/2020

Red Stream

My Covid Story

When this all started, I would say around late November or early December 2019, neither I or my peers ever expected Covid-19 to have spread so rapidly and cause so much damage around the world. In the early stages of Covid particularly in Philadelphia we went about our days as if nothing was going on in the world. We didn't have to wear masks yet, government lockdowns weren't instated, and social distancing wasn't required or even recommended yet. The virus was always on the back of my mind, I heard about it at home and even on CNN 10 as my class and I had to participate in watching these news segments everyday. Around January I realized this is going to affect us and America very soon but again I really didn't understand the savirty of the situation.

Life in school before lockdown was great. I made lots of friends and I can say 8th grade included some of my best life experiences. Even though I expected a lockdown in the coming months I started a robotics club for the younger students at my middle school (that was completely free) that I used to teach them programming but sadly it only took four classes until our school was shut down due to Covid. Similarly to many people I didn't have a graduation so sadly my yearbook has no signatures and I'm going to have to explain why I don't to my children one day.

It was around February when other states in America shut down their schools and the shut down of Philadelphia was nearing. During the last week before shut downs I decided that we were most likely not going back to school. I made it a priority upon myself to go around the school and spend some time with some of my favorite members of faculty. Philadelphia in fact did end up shutting down in March and we started opening back up slowly recently, some schools are open for kids to attend in person, and most non-essential businesses are back open with social distancing and capacity caps. Currently I've started my freshman year at Science Leadership Academy at Center City online, and I hate it.

Online classes have been challenging to say the least. For starters classes feel so optional but obviously they're not, which means I wake up feeling as if I can get on whenever I want or I can simply sleep through all my classes and just do the work later. It's also hard to pay attention when there are so many distractions around me such as the window looking out to a busy park or simply the fact that I can have youtube open in one of my tabs whenever I want. School isn't hard by any means at the moment, I'm actually doing well in my classes and I would be doing even better if it wasn't all online or at least I think. There is talk of letting kids back into their schools lately and I've even overheard my mom talking about it in one of the meetings she attended as an employee to the school district, hopefully this is the case.

Life outside of school hasn't changed much other than the fact that I have to wear a mask in stores and distance myself from strangers. After class me and my friends still hang out as if nothing is really wrong. We go to our local corner store, follow their rules, and go about our day. They recently put the basketball hoops back up in our local park so we've been spending lots of time there. We still get our food from our local Hala trucks and we still take the bus and train everywhere. In conclusion I try to stay safe while also going about my daily activities and I hope this will all be over soon. Thank you for reading!

