

The Covid Pandemic hit the Spring Break of 2020. I was still in high school, expecting to return from my trip to tell my friends at school all about my top bucket list destination, Maui. However, when I was on the island, my friends kept sending messages saying, “good luck getting back into the mainland” and “you might as well stay where you are”. My family of four put on the TV in the hotel to see the start of this phenomenon. After returning home, we were forced to quarantine for 10 days. Luckily, my family could afford to miss that many days and we weren’t living from paycheck to paycheck. It was a quiet time for the beginning of this shut down. Minneapolis in particular was astonishingly quiet as well as stores being sold out of common supplies such as toilet paper. This was definitely an odd time and I felt as though no one had any answers. Seeing family members was a thought that was suspended as well as even hanging out with friends. I ended up graduating a quarter early my senior year because I had worked hard and only had filler classes left such as foods and so I didn’t see the point of it if it was all online. I had also expected to break more school records that Spring in track like the previous year as well as graduate and have a sufficient last goodbye to my whole grade. We did get a graduation where we had a timeslot to walk the sidewalk outside of school and onto a stage to take pictures with our family only. It ended up working out in that I had a few more months added onto my summer to work and save money for college. Ultimately this whole time has taught myself to not take for granted the small aspects in life like seeing relatives, friends, and contradictorily teachers. Making use of diverse experiences is also an important concept I learned to adapt to. Slowing down life and having a new outlook on the world formulated my life throughout that time and changed it for the better.

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