

# Hidden Pandemic Struggles

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I was a straight-A sophomore student attending Long Island City High School like any student in high school we didn't enjoy school that much only thing that keeps us going throughout the day is our friends but on, March 2020, during a seemingly normal algebra 2 class, we were told that school was gonna be closed for 2 weeks as a precaution for COVID 19, a virus I'm sure you all are very well familiar with. During class, my friends and I were talking about how nice it is that we are having a 2-week break, and how we were gonna hop on our games and play all night as any sophomores would, but little did we know it wasn't gonna just be 2 weeks it was gonna last an entire year.

The first 2 week of the lockdown was generic and like any school break, no work, no worries, just relaxing with me and my friends and playing video games late into the night and all day. Even though I was a sophomore in high school, my mind was still childlike and not aware of the situation I would be in, and about one month in of being lazy and playing games all day and night, online classes started. Obviously, my friends and I knew this was coming after rumors have spread, and also got an official email from our school saying the online school will start within a week. Soon comes the day school started and my relief of not having to wake up at 6 am in the morning and take an hour-long commute to school was gone. This was very exciting to me because it meant I could catch on to more sleep and may be better when I was on remote learning. This was however very much not the case cause Remote learning was easy at first I really didn't need to attend class on time. This affected my learning very greatly in the fact that I wasn't retaining any information due to the lack of efforts the school's education system has done in order to maintain students learning progress. This automated system made me lazy thus allowing me to play video games with my friends while in class. Eventually, I would stop doing homework it would pile up and it'd become a loop, seeing the huge numbers of homework piled up stressed me and I would try to relieve the stress by playing more video games and having fun with my friends. Missing homework deadlines and increasing piles of homework continued fueling my gaming addiction, in an endless and vicious cycle. I have attempted to chip down the huge pile of late homework, asking my teachers for extra time due to the struggles of being in the pandemic not only mentally but emotionally.

I continued to play games having no worries because of how relaxed everything was due to it being online, and I easily accessed the internet for help. However, this didnt help me when I was doing a test. I failed all the questions not knowing a single thing about the topic. I soon saw the problem with my lack of support, determination, and hard work to improve in school. It was actually the school's education problem due to making every student stare at a screen every day learning about something not many people are interested in. I soon realized I wasn't the only one who had homework struggles and stress. A lot of my other classmates also got lazy and didn't feel like doing their assignments. This ultimately made me realize that the education system had

no real solution to this. Many of the students were not completing their assignments, and the school finally contacted the parents of those who were missing a lot of work. I was one of them, but my parents were immigrants and didn't understand the education system here, all they knew was that I have assignments due and I needed to do them or I wouldn't get into the perfect college or get the perfect job. After having a hard time arguing with my parents about why my assignments were not due, I was actually able to complete some of my missing work, but it ultimately made me stressed. My parents weren't helping and only yelled at me telling me I couldn't use my computer anymore for games. This situation was a mess and I do admit that it was partly my own fault, but I realized maybe the education system has failed me with no place to escape to. There were no real supervision from the school and no help that I could seek out. I felt helpless and fell into a kind of depression thinking I'm not going to make it out of high school and I'm going to be left back a grade. I was lost I didn't think I was going to make it through the year.

Thinking back now from COVID-19 being a deadly virus that would kill almost everyone to a time when the mask policies have been lifted. I realized being lazy was part of everyone's nature and people were deemed to fail due to the lack of precautions the education system has taken. I not only had a hell time doing remote learning but I had the access to do whatever wanted. This ruined my life and the students around the states who were also failing a lot of classes, I just wish I was taught to be more strict with the education system but that was not the case. My priority even writing this essay now I was close to doing it last minute. That moment has taught me that high school could be much better with proper solutions from the education system. The high school education system only rewards students who follow instructions like robots and won't put into too much help for those who are lost. The pandemic in high school doesn't create a great transition to college either. High school didn't teach any real-world applications and when you transition to college you are basically on your own stumbling around until you figure things out yourself. Even now I'm still learning new things that should've and could've been taught in high school like how to manage your money or how to get a job.