Overcoming the Unknown

“It’s not a matter of if, it’s a matter of when.” We hear things like this from people we look up to every day- parents, teachers, state officials, and world leaders. I wake up to what I think will be a normal day- rolling out of bed, brushing my teeth, eating a bowl of cereal, getting on the school bus, and starting my regular classes and activities. But then an unexpected disaster hits the world- a fast-spreading virus that’s taking lives. All of a sudden, my unrestricted life turns upside down and becomes home confinement and virtual learning.

Before March 13th, life seemed familiar and somewhat certain, but then Covid-19 found us, and life as we knew it changed. It all happened so quickly. The announcement went off last period on a Friday afternoon. “School will be closed until further notice and no students should be on campus.” Six weeks go by and we are still under quarantine, missing our friends and enrolled in “Zoom-School.” Nobody would have ever predicted that we would be out of school for the rest of the year. What happens next is anybody’s guess.

Bare shelves, closed shops, and masks or bandanas are the new “norm.” When will this nightmare end? But this isn’t a bad dream. It’s real. My mind won’t turn off thinking about death, sickness, people who are alone, jobless, and are losing faith. It keeps me up at night. This crisis has changed how we live, and when it ends the world will never be the same.
Does everything really happen for a reason? I suppose nobody ever knows for sure, except God. With so much uncertainty that this pandemic has brought into our lives, I can only hope that the world will take something positive away from it all. Since this happened, I’ve learned to appreciate life differently and live through this day only. As football legend Walter Payton once said, “Remember, tomorrow is promised to no one.” Living in fear is almost like not living at all. I choose to live my life unafraid.