

Dear Grandma and Grandpa,

12.01.2020

I hope this letter finds you well. How have you two been? I've been very busy with classes so I haven't gotten much of a chance to talk to you both. How was the weather at the lake house last month? I bet it was nicer than the dreary, windy November weather I've endured at Eau Claire. I think it has only snowed once so far, although that was much closer to Halloween than now.

I hope you had a safe and fun Thanksgiving this year. I had a friend of mine pick me up from college the day before Thanksgiving and take me back to Merrill, which was really nice of her. My Thanksgiving was just me, Mom, Dad, Molly, and Matthew (and Matthew brought his girlfriend Katie, who you've met once). Although it was smaller than usual because of the virus, we still had a good time and even got our Christmas tree that same weekend. (We didn't go Black Friday shopping; it just seemed a bit unnecessary, with big crowds of people and some of them not wearing masks or social distancing.) Overall, it was nice to be home for a weekend - so nice actually that I decided to stay home for the rest of semester since my college enacted completely remote learning starting after Thanksgiving break. I figured it would be nice to do my online classes and finals from home where I can sleep in my own bed and cook my own meals.

Since I'm home for the rest of the semester, that means I don't go back to college until February 1st, which is a long ways away. If it weren't for COVID, I'd be very excited to come down to Illinois to see you guys and all the aunts and uncles and cousins, but that is obviously too unsafe. I hope you guys have a great Christmas this year, and stay safe!

Love, Anna ♡

Kamryn,

12.08.20

I miss you! Tell me about school; what classes are you in, how are your teachers, are you fully virtual or do you go every other day? Are you planning on taking any AP tests this year? How is Mr. Olson conducting choir this year with COVID going on? I want to know everything!

For me, my first semester of college has been okay; from September to the end of November we had a hybrid schedule. Two of my classes were completely online, and the rest were sometimes in a real classroom and sometimes online. If I'm being honest I don't know what half of my teachers even look like. That's a first. I'm just grateful I was able to even be at college in the first place, and not doing it all from my childhood bedroom like the end of my senior year. Funnily enough, I'm writing this on my bed in my childhood bedroom; Eau Claire went fully remote/virtual after Thanksgiving break, and I decided it was safer and more convenient to just stay home for the remainder of the semester. I'm not too bummed though; at least I got a solid 3 months of the college experience, even if some of it was online then too.

I bet you're not thrilled about your senior year, and I totally get it. I'm just hopeful that by next August, you'll be moving into your freshman dorm room and gaining that college experience. I have no idea how long this virus will last, but all we can do is wear our masks and be safe and hope it gets better soon. I hope to hear back from you soon Kam!

From, Anna ♡