

April 18, 2020

I clearly haven't journaled in a long time, but now that I'm in quarantine I have a lot of time on my hands so I might as well write down some updates.

A lot has changed since last time I wrote, so I'll summarize those changes before I get into the crazy details of my life at this moment. I finally decided on Eau Claire for college for next year, we all went to the senior glow dance, and I finally quit my job at Friendship Village and started working at the country club, but I only got to work for 3 shifts before it got shut down. So that leads into the big event. Coronavirus.

A virus broke out in China at the end of last year. I knew about it and how serious it was, but I thought it was going to be more like Ebola where it didn't ever really spread far from where it originated. There were a couple cases in the United States, but nobody was dying and they were pretty isolated cases so I didn't think much of it. Next thing I know, its Friday, March 13th (freaky coincidence, right?), and the principal is on the intercom telling us that we'll be getting a two week break from school so that they can plan for new safety measures when everyone gets back from spring break. We were all crazy excited because that meant we would be getting an extra two weeks of spring break, little did we know, spring breaks would all be cancelled and we were never going back.

Flash forward to today, just over a month after things went crazy. The entire world is shutting down. Countries are on full lockdown with access only to grocery stores and hospitals. If it isn't an absolute necessity, people aren't allowed to leave their homes. The stock market is crashing and so many people are losing their jobs because it isn't safe to work anymore. The news is calling it a global pandemic and some people have even said it could cause another Great Depression. This whole thing feels like a fever dream.

I haven't seen any of my friends in person in over a month and I've never been more sick of my family. We've all been stuck in the house together for so long and I'm losing my mind. The only time I get to leave is for grocery shopping, since I'm at the lowest risk of my family members that could get sick. Everyone in the grocery stores has to wear masks and it looks like the apocalypse in there. People are stocking up on everything so they're always sold out of the essentials like toilet paper, cleaning supplies, medicine, canned food and meats, and especially masks.

It feels like the world is ending and I've never experienced anything like it.

Until next time,
Rachel

May 2, 2020

It's been almost two months since school was cancelled and I'm still not used to it. My sleep schedule is crazy because I have no need to be awake at any certain time. Some days I stay up until 4 a.m. and wake up at 2 p.m, others I'm asleep by 9 p.m. It's also been having a weird effect on school for me because everything had to shift online with no warning. I really hate having to do school like this because it's the end of my senior year so I had a whole bunch of fun classes on my schedule. I was taking woodshop, I got to be a TA for my favorite teacher, and I had a bunch of free periods. Now I have to do made up assignments online that really are only there to give me something to do. They don't even seem relevant to my classes. This was supposed to be my senior slide and the best part of the year, but instead of messing around all day with my friends, I spend most of the day in my room and I haven't seen any of my friends in almost two months. All I really do is rotate between my phone, Netflix, online shopping, and destinationless car rides.

I also just found out that I won't be getting a graduation ceremony. All I get to do is go to the school parking lot and roll down my backseat window so one of the admin can leave my diploma on the seat. On top of that, prom was cancelled and so was the seniors all night party. The all night party is one of the best traditions at our school and I'm so sad I have to miss it. On the last day of school, all of the seniors get locked into the building for the night and we get to throw a party with school money. There's always really cool things like hypnotists, laser tag, and paintball. That's just one more thing I get to add to the list of things I'm missing out on.

I also haven't been able to work for two months and shockingly I'm really starting to miss it. I never have anything to do with all my free time. I also have picked up online shopping as a hobby recently since there is nothing else to do, and it's really starting to take a toll on my bank account. I could really use some paychecks to support my new pastime.

All of that being said, I can't help but feel selfish. As much as I'm hating this, I'm really lucky to be able to not be working. My family isn't being hit very hard by these changes other than the minor inconveniences of having to hunt down toilet paper at the grocery store or having to skip my spring break. It's a really hard thing to be feeling because as much as I feel like I'm suffering, I know that so many people have issues that were caused by this pandemic that are so much more serious than mine. It's all very confusing and sad to think about. I really wish this would be over soon.

Until next time,
Rachel