



Photo by Ella Wang

A playground sits silent and empty since the lockdown began in March. It will remain closed during May because of its high touch points.

ARYA CHAUDHARY : 6TH GRADE

Dear Future Self,

I feel sad that school is closed. I am bored staying at home. The thing that I miss about school is seeing my teachers and friends. I miss playing with my friends at lunch, going to the library, and going to the game room. I have Zoom meetings with my class so I don't feel lonely. Since we can't meet in person, Zoom is good, because we can still see each other.

Due to coronavirus when we go walking or to the store we wear gloves, and masks to protect ourselves. After we come back we have to wash our hands, gargle, and drink hot water so if there is coronavirus, it will die.

Now that I have so much time at home I keep myself entertained by studying and playing with my brother. We play board games, build Legos, play in our tent, read, watch tv, draw, exercise, and color. I am excited that I am able to learn cooking.

I want coronavirus to be over so that we can go back to school, play outside, go to restaurants, go shopping, and go on trips. I also want to see my friends.

From,
Present Self (4/24/20)

ANONYMOUS: 7TH GRADE

Life now is pretty tough. We're in quarantine because of the coronavirus pandemic, and are not allowed to go outside for more than a month (other than for essentials). Staying home is good in some ways, but bad in others. I get to spend more time with my family, and focus on things other than school, like cooking, playing piano, and singing. But I also can't see my friends, or go to school. I really don't know how I feel about this.

My dad, my brother, and I go walking sometimes, so we don't feel too stuffed at home. I get more time to play pieces that I personally like (since I can't go to my piano classes anymore). I get to play fun games with my family. We do things that we didn't have much time to do when we weren't under quarantine.

Right now, I'm especially focusing on the piano. Hopefully, with all the practice I get in these 5 months, I'll be a lot better than before. Also, my dad said that if I taught my brother the basics of piano with the book that I used when I first started playing piano, he would pay me \$50. While that is the reason I started teaching him, I realized later that I liked teaching him. I got to have quality time with my brother who I usually don't talk too much, because he's 5 years younger. This would also be good practice if I actually decided to become a piano teacher, which is something I could be when I grow up.

Is it better in the future? Will the coronavirus go away soon? Will I get a job where I get to play the piano? These are questions to which only you know the answers. I hope we find a cure to this pandemic soon, and things go back to normal. I also hope for you, that life is great, and you get your dream job.

ANONYMOUS: 8TH GRADE

Everyone is freaking out because we have no procedures in place to counteract this, so everything is kinda being made up on the spot. People are misjudging what they need because of the panic, so if they see something that is relatively low in stock, they tend to buy it up. People are even fighting over toilet paper! Hopefully this will pass soon.

Since people haven't experienced this before, many are stocking up on 'necessities.' There are some people who are buying face masks and sanitizer and selling them at a higher price for profit though. People are greedy to say the least.

I'm an introvert at heart, and enjoy the company of my family more than anyone else. We have lots of entertainment, and plenty of games. If anything, I miss going places, like the beach and to Monterey. I haven't gone to the grocery store, and I've gone outside to rollerblade, but honestly, I'm just living life as it comes. I don't really care too much, and I just try my best to live happily.

ANONYMOUS: 8TH GRADE

I hope you've been well. How are things going? When did you open this letter? Currently, the world hasn't been doing so great... We are going through a "pandemic," as people are calling it. There's a virus that originated in China. It is called the coronavirus, or COVID-19. Its symptoms are very much similar to the flu. This virus is highly contagious as it is airborne. It started as a joke in America. People underestimated this virus, but once it came to America, citizens overreacted. They emptied out many grocery stores, such as Target and Costco. The toilet paper, hand sanitizer, gloves, and masks are all limited now, as the stock is scarcely low. At this point, America has declared it a national emergency. And with that, schools closed down. Originally, everyone was supposed to return to school on March 30, but the date has been extended to the end of the school year. All of our assignments are online. I prefer to attend online school because I get to wake up later and eat while doing classwork, but a lot of people are bored at home and miss going to school and seeing their friends. All in all, I hope things are better in your time in the future.



Photo by Sarmila Jagadeesan

The new normal: warning signs in every public space.

ANONYMOUS: 8TH GRADE

I miss school and my friends. It's so boring at home. Eat, play with dogs, go on my phone, read, and do homework. It's just the same thing every day. I miss the crazy things my friends would do around me. I found it funny. I miss some of the classes too, such as gym, English, or Publications. It's crazy how at first I was ok with school ending, but now I want it back.

At home I spend most of my time with my dogs. They're fun to be around and always cheer up my day. Sometimes I'll bring my Nintendo switch to them and act as if they can see everything I'm playing. My dog Happy is OBSESSED with her ball so whenever she comes up to me with it, I always feel the need to put down my electronics and just start playing with her. My dog Stella is another story. She's a couch dog and a bit aggressive. The only time she gets up to play is so that she can bite Happy. I don't know why...

There were only a couple of times where I was allowed to go outside. It was always crowded. My mom and I went to Costco once and there was a LONG line of people just waiting to get toilet paper! We couldn't even get in the drink aisle. I hope you don't have to go through another crazy pandemic in your time, but right now everybody's trying to make the best of it!

HALLEY M. BUENROSTRO: 7TH GRADE

Dear Halley Marie Buenrostro,

I hope by the time you read this you'll already be living the best of your life. I'd certainly not want to have you in a horrible situation physically and mentally. Or maybe you're confused. Confused on what you're doing and whether it makes you happy. To be perfectly honest, I have no clue what job you'll be performing in the future. I just hope it makes a lot of money so you can survive and buy all the macaroons in the world.

I'd certainly hate to see that I've lost my imagination once I become an adult. Are you like that now? Just another brainwashed adult...? If so...please remember...the days you would lay in bed for hours listening to music. Imagining yourself in a world full of fantasies and mystical creatures. Going on fun, dangerous adventures to save the world. It's important to be yourself. Especially now. Creativity and "perfection" is key. And hey, listen, it's okay to ask a question. And it's more than okay to ask for help. Stop living in your head and actually do things.

And right now with school, "little" you is getting occupied with busy work... I'm certain that not everything is about figuring out how many apples Jack has after eating half of them. No. It shouldn't be about that. Especially now. Yet it is. We can't do anything about it right now. All we can do is wait. Staying at home. Like a caged animal...? Though sometimes we're able to leave our cages and explore. :)

We were always so realistic about things huh? Ranting about life and the real reason on why we're alive. But oh well. You were just a kid, it's not like you can blame me. Nobody gave it a second glance, and that's alright. And maybe you'll want to reread this a couple of times as you grow older and older. Relive your childhood memories. I'm still confused about myself but I really hope you aren't anymore. I wish you the best. And when the times get tough again. Just take a deep breath. Calm your thoughts. Think about flexibility and love between yourself and your friends and family. Once you start smiling, tell yourself, "I can do this" and then go do it.

Easy peasy. Now stop reading this and go do whatever you have to do. You've grown up. You did it. I know you'll make me proud. And I know you made mom proud too. But I still have to live my life.

Sincerely,

13-year-old You



Photo by Ella Wang

School lessons are now entirely at home.

BHAIRAVI SENTHIKUMAR: 8TH GRADE

I remember the moment when I first heard the news. Of course, I was a little disappointed. I never got to say bye to any of my friends. Though, at the moment, I was a little more ecstatic. A two-week break from waking up early, going to school, and my extracurriculars, was just what I needed. For the first time in what felt like forever, I had a little more free time.

During the first week, I mostly did nothing. It was great having all that time to just relax. It was just another winter break, in addition to the virus. The only thing I worried about was the large amount of work given by my teachers that I didn't even understand how to complete. But I still felt like I had more freedom in my daily schedule than I did before the shelter in place.

Later on

As the shelter in place continued, I began to find it weirder and weirder. Half the time I was consumed by schoolwork. Creating my schedule wasn't so great anymore. I would barely go outside anymore. Sleeping and waking up late didn't help the fact either. During the rare times that I would go out for a walk around the neighborhood, I felt like I was in the middle of a zombie apocalypse.

Yet as I went out for a short walk that one day, I felt like I was the only one there, probably because I was. Other than another person jogging several feet in front of me, I was secluded. For a minute, I loved it. All the noise from others was gone, and I was the only one there. But it got strange.

Now it's still hard to believe that we won't be going back to school for the rest of the year. There's a small part of me that still thinks that by June, my classmates and I will all be in our seats talking to each other like normal. By a miracle, the virus would suddenly just stop, and things would go back to normal. Though, I guess that would be a long shot. At the end of the day, I'm just glad that the country is taking precautions against the virus. Better safe than sorry...

ANONYMOUS: 7TH GRADE

I really miss wrestling, and I wish I could do it with someone. Wrestling made me so happy and I don't think I knew how much it meant to me. My teammates supported me through everything, and they most likely still will. Wrestling also gave me something to do instead of being on my phone and not doing anything. It also kept me fit and gave me a good work out while doing something I love.

I finally figured out how to land a front flip and hopefully, I will have figured out how to do a backflip by the time I get this back. I hope when I get this I have built up a lot more muscle, and if I haven't, I want to start building my muscles up.

ANONYMOUS: 7TH GRADE

Dear Future Me,

Right now, this is a crazy time. I never thought a time like this would come, where just going for a walk could mean contracting or spreading a deadly virus. It's as if the whole world is on hold, and is about to come crashing down. It almost doesn't seem real though. I have felt the effects of the shelter in place, but not of the coronavirus. So far, no one I know has gotten sick.

There are a lot of things I can't do anymore (this is a list for future reference.) I don't go to school. I don't go grocery shopping (and even if I did, the shelves have been eerily bare). I can't go outside often. The library has closed. The news is being broadcasted from home, which is weird to see. We can't fly. The playgrounds have been blocked off. It's not as bad as some other countries, where there are curfews, complete lockdowns, food shortages, and police are questioning you as to why you are outside. It almost feels like one of those sci-fi books that start with "Everything was great, but then the virus came..."

I've been scared. I'm not really scared of getting COVID, but I'm scared it's going to have lasting effects on the economy and the world. I'm also scared of someone I know getting it.

I have done a lot of baking. We've been watching a lot of movies as a family. We try going on daily walks.

The main things I want you to remember are that you are lucky and that you should appreciate all that you have. You are lucky you get to go to school. Don't complain about having to go shopping. We are lucky when we can go to the store whenever we want. Don't take toilet paper, hand sanitizer, blood donations, or doctor masks (all are in short supply) for granted. I know you would rather read than go outside, but don't waste the ability to go out. Don't complain about getting the flu shot (there is a reason shots are important) or the ability to go to the doctors without being scared you are going to get a deadly virus. Also, don't forget that despite all of the craziness, there is a lot of good in the world, and people can come together for the better of humanity.



Photo and text by Isabella Hembruch

Finding time to help out

As many things supplies are in short supply, people are helping each other out in any way they can. One thing many people need is masks. According to the CDC, masks are essential for slowing the spread of COVID. So, people everywhere are making masks to wear, give to family and friends, and to donate. The CDC does state (from cdc.gov) that these masks are not surgical masks; “those are critical supplies that must continue to be reserved for healthcare workers and other medical first responders.” These cloth masks, however, can protect people who do not come in contact with many people (you, family, neighbors, etc.). There are many websites, including cdc.gov, webmd.com, and essentialhealth.org, that have instruction for making masks; some do not even require any sewing.

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YEARBOOKS: What are you waiting for??

If you already ordered a year book, don't worry... you'll still get yours! Because the plant was closed, there will be delayed production and shipping, and there are no exact delivery dates yet. Thank you for your patience.

If you haven't ordered a yearbook yet... you still can! Go to www.yearbookreordercenter.com order #6803 (credit cards only) today to get your copy. There are only a limited number of books, so order yours soon! AND all orders will get a free insert with special COVID-19 coverage.

The Yearbook Staff has dedicated a lot of time and effort into these historic books. Don't forget all of the positives from this year!

MOTIVATION:

“You gain strength, courage, and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face. You are able to say to yourself, ‘I lived through this horror. I can take the next thing that comes along.’” *-Eleanor Roosevelt*

“Believe in yourself and all that you are, know that there is something inside you that is greater than any obstacle.” *-Christian D. Larson*

“I shall pass this way but once; any good I can do or any kindness I can show to any human being; let me do it now.” *-Stephen Grellet*

“You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you know.”
-Christopher Robin



Photo by Isabella Hembruch

Toilet paper in many local stores have been out of stock and limited for purchase.

ANONYMOUS: 8TH GRADE

Dear Future Self,

I just want to say good luck for how this virus will affect you and me. My friend told me that we won't have school until September. I don't know what to think of it, but you will get through it. I miss school since this is now happening. I do not even hear from 80 percent of my friends.

Being at home is pretty boring for the both of us. By the time you (future me) reads this in maybe a few weeks or so, if you even decide to reread this, we might even still be doing the same things every day, which is waking up, doing homework, playing video games, possibly taking a nap, eating dinner, and sleeping. There is nothing so far you could change. Hopefully with you something happens.

Going outside isn't a thing anymore with us, unless it is for getting food for home. I always stay home while my dad or aunt does something. I haven't been out for a long time. I am assuming you won't either. Normally every week they buy stuff from the grocery store, however, I never usually go. Maybe you will sometime, but I doubt it.

Exercising is a bit limited at our house. It is just us and our grandma exercising. Other than that nothing else happens when it comes to exercise. What could I do for myself in the future? If I were to talk to you it would be easier since you would know what you needed. I will figure out something to do eventually. Goodbye for now future self, as I don't know what could go on later then.

SARMILA JAGADEESEN: 8TH GRADE

Dear Future Self,

It's kind of weird that I'm talking to myself and that our lives will be completely different, but here goes nothing. Is quarantine and self-isolation over? Did someone find the cure for COVID-19? How many casualties were there?

Did we ever get our freshmen experience? If so, did we make any new friends, lose any old ones? What about the P.E shoes that I left in the Walters lockers. Did I ever get those back? Did we have to re-do 8th grade?

What about volleyball? Did I get into the school team? Did I ever make varsity? Do we want to play volleyball in college? What clubs did we play for? How about the friends in club we've made; any lifelong connections there?

Do we ever visit our grandparents in India? We were supposed to go the summer of eighth grade, but I'm pretty sure that got cancelled. Many said that summer of eighth grade was the last chance to travel internationally because SAT prep is coming up. Do our aunt, uncle, and cousin ever come to visit?

Did we ever go to Paris, Rome or Greece? If we didn't, do we have any plans to go? How about that big backpacking trip we've wanted to go on with our friends, the one where we backpack through Italy?

If this letter gets reread after I've graduated from high school, all I have to say is CONGRATULATIONS!!! Did we get into the Ivy Leagues and UCs you've wanted to? Are we going to college far from home? If you are already at college, what's our major? How are our roommates? Are they nice? Is anyone from back home going to the same school?

I know things will change and I've learned to accept it. So relax we are doing great. Things will get better in time. Just take a deep breath and cherish every moment.

BRIANNA NGYUEN: 8TH GRADE

Some things I miss are seeing my friends every day. They always put a smile on my face even on bad days. They make me laugh, cry, and have all sorts of emotions. I miss them so much, and not being able to see them is hard for me because they're the people I look forward to when I wake up in the morning.

In addition, I also miss most of my classes. All the teachers and peers I had were awesome. They were extremely fun to hang around.

Although, being home all day gives me more time to work on my homework and get everything done, it isn't as easy as actually being at school. Most of my teachers expect me to understand the homework and to get it finished. It's harder now because distance learning makes everything more difficult for me to understand.

I've been having more time to hang out with my family, make some good breakfast in the morning, do all my homework, and watch a lot of movies and Netflix shows.

I wish right now I could be outside, having fun, and hanging out with my friends at school. This year is my last year in middle school, and I'm really sad I didn't get to experience everything my sister experienced. Like going to the 8th grade graduation party, dances, the DC trip, the honor roll party, and the Great America trip with everyone.

ANONYMOUS: 7TH GRADE

I'm feeling like this quarantine is very boring. It's very difficult to stay inside but I have to. I'm surviving just fine with my parents and my puppy. I miss my friends and being able to play volleyball with them and I kind of miss being in a classroom with other friends and playing on the computers and stuff. The things I'm doing now that I have a lot of time is just schoolwork and random things. I don't really do a lot of different things at home. I don't like having to stay in the house and especially for the rest of the year.

ANONYMOUS: 8TH GRADE

I miss school, my friends, my classes, and I miss being able to leave the house without being trapped under a mask and gloves. But, I'm maintaining life at home and I have a schedule I follow to get my school work done, that I give myself enough time to exercise, and give myself free time to relax and enjoy my hobbies.

I miss school very much, it seems like this year was going great and I was recovering from last year. When I go out and wear a mask and gloves I feel trapped and that I can hardly breathe, and everyone stares at people wearing masks which makes me feel uncomfortable. I hate being cooped up in the house even though it is for my safety. I just wish we can go back to school and that everything will go back to the same. I was really looking forward to graduating 8th grade with straight A's.

I miss communicating with my friends at school even though we can Facetime anytime we want, it just doesn't feel the same. I miss my classes and my teachers and all the interesting subjects we learn daily. I miss being able to sit in a classroom with people around me without having to be six feet away. I hope soon in the summer we can see each other face to face.

Maintaining life at home is somewhat difficult trying to keep on track when there are so many distractions around. But I give myself a schedule for my class/homework I get from my teachers to keep myself busy. I do my PE stretches and workouts then go on a trail with my family called Sabercat Creek Trail. One of my favorite hobbies is baking and so far in quarantine I have baked a delicious coffee cake and some sweet cinnamon donuts.

I hope soon that quarantine will be over so I can visit my family and friends. I also hope that this pandemic will lower with death rates and that a cure will be found soon.

ANTWANETTE MAE DE GUZMAN: 8TH GRADE

Dear Future Self,

Hey me, how are you doing? Right now it is April 24th, 2020 by the time you get this hopefully the virus has been cured and everything is back to normal. We don't have to be cooped up in our houses and watch all this stressful news. At this time I'm feeling all sorts of emotions, sad because I can't see my friends and relatives, happy because I get to stay with my family and go to sleep late sometimes. I feel stressed in a way because teachers are giving us more work than we had in school. But who am I to complain? Just do what I need to do. Mostly everyday me and my family will run with my dogs around the neighborhood. When this all started I never knew how life was so important, how fragile life is and how it can all go in one snap of a finger. Now I appreciate all things around me and how important those small details that I took for granted before.

In my daily life of being sheltered I usually just do homework, watch my shows, play with my best friend (ODIE, my dog), eat, and exercise. It has been a long time since we haven't been in school and honestly I miss school which I never thought of saying, but I guess that's how life is unknown. I also missed traveling, during spring break; we are usually out of the country. By the time we reach June in time for my birthday and vacation, my Mom already plans a vacation for us. I want to explore, go new places, learn new culture and simply have an adventure. Anyway, I'm just ready for this pandemic to be over. Imagine those people who lose their lives and are still suffering because of Covid 19. Praying hard everything will be fine soon. Keeping my spirit alive and starting a new chapter of my life, high school! I always say to myself, "Never give up and you can reach your dreams." It's cheesy in a way, but it gives me encouragement to do better.

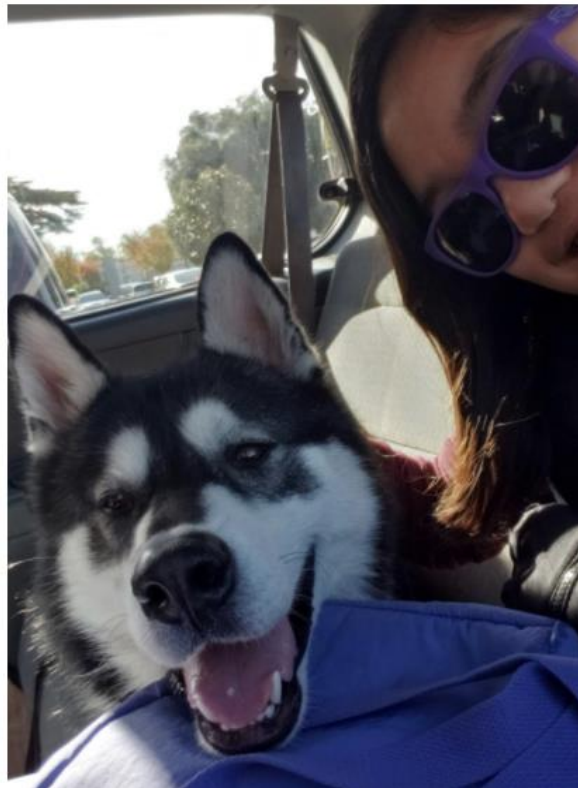


Photo by
Antwanette
Mae De
Guzman

Dear Future Me,

At this point in time, I'm feeling both happy, and sad. I am feeling sad, because there are people out there who still aren't taking this seriously, and I'm also feeling sad because so many people are getting sick and/or dying from the coronavirus. I am feeling happy, however, because there are also people who are taking this seriously, and are staying at home. Therefore, they don't have chances of going through the disease, or the terrible situations either.

I do certainly miss school. I miss going to the library with my friends during lunch, and talking to them about how our days are going. I miss going to Human Club meetings as well, because a lot of my friends are there, and it's a lot of fun to be a part of it. I also miss my teachers and classmates, as well as the fun time I had with both during 7th grade.

I'm currently surviving home life by keeping myself occupied by doing school work, homework, quizzes, and tests online, and by not going out when I know others will be.

Now that I have so much time at home, I'm watching movies that I haven't seen in a while (such as childhood favorites that I used to watch a lot), reading lots of books, and doing art. Whenever I go outside I always make sure to stay away from any strangers if they're getting near to me, especially if I'm not wearing anything to cover my nose and mouth.

I certainly hope that this is the last time a deadly virus like this comes around, and if another one does come around, I certainly hope people take it more seriously. Additionally, I also hope people don't buy many things in a panic again if another pandemic comes around. Life has certainly changed since people have been told to stay at home as much as they can, and I have a feeling that life may not be the same again even when the virus goes away.

DIARA REFUERZO: 6TH GRADE

Dear Future Self,

I may not be writing this letter in a splendid time but I hope this letter finds you well. As I am writing this letter, I am currently 12 years old and a 6th grader at Walters Middle School. Just to remind you, at this point in time, there is a pandemic going on and everyone is home in "Shelter in Place" to keep themselves safe. That means no school or any other extracurricular activities. Since school is closed we have been doing school online. I love doing school online because there are less distractions from classmates around you, but I do miss small group work during class and volleyball during lunchtime.

If you go outside the house, you may find yourself wearing a mask and looking at long lines in front of many essential businesses such as grocery stores. You will be reminded to be six feet away from others and not to hoard too much groceries. You will also be surprised by the lack of essential items, food, and other important items in the store.

Now that I have lots of time at home, mom and dad introduced me to many new activities and I also had time to get back to old ones. I can now play chords on the guitar and piano, I am also working on improving my vocals through singing. My time at home is mostly spent on school work (including PE), music, reading, and movies.

I hope you will continue our path of being successful and to always remember that if you want the world to be better, you have to be better than the world.



Photo from Diara Refuerzo

ANONYMOUS: 7TH GRADE

Hi Future Self,

How have you been doing? I have to stay home. Over the days in quarantine realistically I have gotten bored or haven't known what to do. Now I have a ton of free time. The first few days were really fun staying home and not having to go to school, but now quarantine is starting to get boring. There are some good things about this. I can sleep longer and take naps. I can also sleep later than usual. In my free time I watch several movies on Netflix. Now I'm trying to get off of my phone and computer, and play board games with my family. Other times I draw or paint.

Currently, I have been painting my nails and my mom's as well, but everything I do is also getting boring as well. So I just go in my backyard and simply appreciate nature. It's great to see how beautiful nature is without relying on a phone. Since we aren't completely on lockdown, I go outside and walk. It's really hard staying at home though, just because I can easily run out of things to do. Lately, I have been missing my friends. I usually FaceTime some of my friends, but I have been realizing I won't be able to see my friends until next year, which is pretty depressing. It's even worse for me because a lot of my friends don't have phones or I don't have their number. I hope we don't have to be in complete lockdown, but it's best for our state. Quarantine has both good and bad things, but for me it mostly has good.

ANONYMOUS: 7TH GRADE

At this present time I am at my desk. I am, if you remember, in shelter in place due to the coronavirus. We've all been in quarantine for a long time: couple of months now. I am worried about how many people are dying. It is scary, though the threat seems a bit distant, because other than being in quarantine, I am not affected directly.

I am enjoying being in quarantine. However, now I would like to visit family members or go someplace. I especially miss my cousins for some reason, and am beginning to feel restless and useless being housebound.

Some parts of this quarantine have been well spent, though: I am teaching myself how to code and build circuits on a breadboard. Every time something actually works, I am delighted. Last night I finally got the lights to turn off and on with buttons. Then I experimented and set up a multicolored light with a different button for red, blue, and green, but not for turquoise, which wasn't supposed to light at all.

I am also getting closer and closer to my goal of doing pull ups, and slowly improving on guitar, though I often forget to practice. In addition, I am attempting a story about a dystopian future, which isn't difficult to imagine with recent events.

School in quarantine is interesting. I think most of my classes are adapting well, especially Publications and History. It is only for English that I wish we were back in school, because we were going to read the Pearl, among other things that are more difficult to transfer online.

ANONYMOUS: 7TH GRADE

There are so many things I can do at this time. I never get bored because I am always doing something.

I play so many video games with my friends. I just play and talk with them. This period of time is so much better because I can play way more games than on the regular time.

I miss some things about school. I miss all my friends. I used to hang out with all of them every day, but now I only play with a few on GTA 5. I miss having classes and joking around with them. Especially PE, we would always do the weirdest things.

I feel kind of relaxed because there is like so many more months until school opens and I can keep on playing my games. Also, I feel like it might get to Fremont, but we are all prepared.

I have had many experiences when I go outside of my house such as Costco. There is absolutely nothing there. All the shelves are empty. When I went to the food court they actually served you. You can't put on your own toppings, like on a hot dog. You now have to ask them. Samples have also changed. There are no more samples because of how the coronavirus spreads.

My parents are stocking up on everything they can. Especially on toilet paper. My whole bathroom is filled with toilet paper now.

ANONYMOUS: 7TH GRADE

The advice that I would give myself in 10 years is to not take anything for granted. I need to find the value in everything. Ever since quarantine started, due to the coronavirus, I've realized that I never did anything I wanted to do and I've never appreciated anything enough. I've been stuck at home, not being able to go outside. When I get bored, I sit on my bed, like a Russian nesting doll. I sit there and I think and dream about the memories I've had with everyone. I haven't been able to see my friends in a while. School was the way I communicated with everyone. Now that I don't have it, I regret not appreciating it enough.

I was so excited about the summer of 2020, as well. I was so happy about thinking about it. The fresh, cool breeze hitting my body while on a drive at night made me feel exhilarated. I was so joyful thinking I was going to hang out with my friends, complaining about how hot it is outside. I imagined myself listening to music while driving to San Francisco. I took last summer for granted. The summer's one of the things I'm going to miss the most.

During this time, I've realized how selfish people are. Every time I go to the store, everything's almost sold out because people take all of the things they need. It's like they're hoarding everything for an apocalypse. Everything at the store's gone. If there wasn't a limit, everything would be sold out in a small amount of time. The coronavirus shows how much people don't really care about others. It's very sad, but everyone knows it's true.

I feel so bad for all of the health workers, store employees, truck and delivery drivers, first responders, mail carriers, military workers, factory workers, repairmen, scientists, and everyone else who are risking themselves to save and improve the lives of so many people. The nurses in Italy have been working long, sleepless nights to save the lives of so many. All of the scientists working on a cure for the coronavirus haven't slept in days because of how much people need a cure. Everyone who's still working for the sake of other people are the most selfless people I know.

Since I've been stuck at home, I've been bored of staying on my phone and laptop a lot. Sometimes, I write poems about how I feel. I've also written letters to people about how I feel about them. I've written a lot of songs, too. I've written a lot during quarantine, as you can tell. I've also been calling friends because it's the next best thing besides talking to them in person. I've made different types of food to pass time. I've downloaded a lot of audiobooks to listen to, as well.

Another set of advice I would give to myself in the future is to live life to the fullest. We never know if it's our last day outside. We never know if anything will happen because we can't predict the future. Life's full of surprises. The world will be full of so many good things in the future if we really want it to. Everything happens for a reason, doesn't it?