

The beginning of the Coronavirus pandemic was a haze for me. I remember it being a similar feeling to when I was living through Hurricane Sandy. At the start of the epidemic, my sister and I went to the grocery store because we were so nervous, we were going to be locked in our house for two weeks. It was worse than we thought. Weeks turned into months. As time went on many aspects of my life became virtual. High school turned into homeschool. Dance turned into Wii fit. All the while I still had hope that I would be able to finish my senior like “normal.”

Transitioning to school on Zoom was an easy adjustment for me because of my self-motivation. I kept up with my work and attended classes when need be. The downside to this Zoom takeover was that I didn't see my friends nearly as much as I used to. Even worse, I worried I wouldn't ever be able to see my favorite teachers again. I kept my hopes up until May when my school finally announced that we would finish the year on Zoom. I didn't have a prom or graduation which is something that almost everyone in the country shares in common. The most upsetting part for me though is that all the faculty I had bonded with for those past four years couldn't even sign my yearbook. I was so looking forward to having those personalized notes to look back at, but instead I have blank pages.

Dancing on Zoom was fun at first because I thought I was getting a “short break” from my intense training. Months went on and you could tell how miserable everyone was. Dance is a team sport, you feed off each other's energy which was simply impossible to do on Zoom. Competitions slowly started to be cancelled and ultimately so was our studios recital. I didn't get to perform my senior solo at my last competition where the whole team has a tradition called “Senior Send-off.” I was also looking forward to sharing the stage with my fellow senior

Kiki for our recital production. We have a great bond and were so excited to work together but almost a year later we still haven't gotten this experience. To make up for this loss I visit the studio as much as I can, and I am looking forward to seeing what they put on this year.