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Last March, Bowling Green High School and schools all across the globe faced a challenge like no other: educating children from a virtual platform. At first, students and staff struggled to adapt to this new style of education, but over time both parties began adjusting and mastering this new "normal" of education. As a high school junior, I was shocked when I received the news that school had indefinitely suspended in-person learning. I knew the complexity of my advanced classes would be challenging to grasp in a non-classroom setting, but like everyone else, I had to adapt to these new circumstances. Despite the difficult situation, I not only completed but excelled academically. I will say something many might find odd or incorrect: Covid-19 made me an abler scholar. The challenges I faced academically during virtual learning bettered my problem-solving ability, furthered my communication skills, and established a positive sense of self-reliance.

Coronavirus posed many problems for students from all backgrounds and demographics. The biggest obstacle I faced amid the pandemic was finding a reliable source of internet. Our family home does not have Wi-Fi capabilities; thus, I had to use my cellphone as a personal hotspot. Using this strategy, I was able to access my computer files and still complete my academic obligations. This strategy was not ideal; my cellphone only allows for ten gigabytes of hotspot per month, and my schoolwork required nearly all of this limit. I am lucky the teachers and administrators at Bowling Green High School were understanding enough to recognize my situation and allow for flexible deadlines. Rural internet access is still a concern for thousands of Missourians, and the Covid-19 pandemic has exemplified the need for permanent solutions to this dilemma; no child should have to face additional obstacles in receiving their education.

Most students and teachers will agree that communication is severely limited in a virtual learning environment. Scholars of all ages thrive on high levels of interactivity within the

classroom, and teachers gauge understanding by a student's verbal and non-verbal cues. Upon switching to distanced education, I struggled to make successful contact with my teachers. This struggle was short-lived due to the outstanding work from our staff to ensure every student stayed on pace to complete their academia. Teachers at Bowling Green made various adjustments so that all students could have an equal opportunity for success. Teachers used all mediums of digital communication to verify every student was on task. Some teachers even worked around student's home lives, a sacrifice that inevitably made their job more difficult. The pandemic helped me master the art of digital communication. I learned how to craft professional emails, as well as how to use multiple online learning platforms such as Canvas and Google Classroom. Universities across the United States use these programs; thus, discovering their intricacies will likely prove to be a prudent move going into college.

Global pandemics will likely become more frequent with the increase of population; the education sector must begin creating response strategies to implement for the next outbreak. Schools must find a sensible curriculum to provide to elementary-level children. The curriculum must center around advancing the social ability of these children as well as building the foundations for future intellectual adeptness. This curriculum must be highly interactive to ensure these children remain engaged for long periods, a skill they will need for post-elementary learning. Schools must also ensure every child has an equal opportunity to succeed if a virtual format is required. I admire the work of Bowling Green R1 School District. Upon returning to in-person education, they equipped every student with a personal laptop and hotspot. This act of wisdom ensured every student would have the tools necessary for success in the scenario that school suspended once again. The Coronavirus Pandemic created obstacles that no person could have predicted. It has challenged everyone within the educational system and has required

everyone to make sacrifices for the betterment of each other. Through cooperation, we can create

solutions for our current issues and provide a more reliable future for future scholars.