

Jura Lunder

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ELA Personal Narrative

### The School Year of 2020/2021

I write this while listening to my 5th grade teacher's voice filling my ears. My peers chime in. Then, quiet. The only sounds are pencils scratching against paper, and the quieted sound of breathing through masks. Masks? Yes. Face masks. But I am getting ahead of myself. I learned that I was going back to onsite school in August of 2020. It was my mom who enlightened me. "Jura, the school just texted me!" she announced. "You are switching to onsite classes in two weeks!" I was ecstatic. The summer had not been fun. The Covid-19 pandemic had been bad enough, killing who knows how many people each day. But then, there had to be forest fires too, making so much smoke that we had to not only wear face masks in buildings, but also outside as well. After that summer, school sounded like heaven, even when my mom told me that everybody had to wear face masks, bring their own hand sanitizer, and stay six feet apart. But that school year turned out to be loads different than I imagined, in some ways good and some bad.

In the first week of waiting, we bought supplies. We bought normal school supplies (staples, pencils, highlighters, etc.), but we also bought masks, hand sanitizer and tissues. Once I had gotten those things, I waited. And waited. And waited and waited. Then, it was the first day of school at Greenville Learning Center. When I walked in the building I had to get my temperature checked. Then, I took my seat. And after all these months, I am still sitting in that seat in front of the teacher's desk while I write this narrative.

While there are some pros to this school year, there are quite a bit more cons. One pro is that we get to have two desks, which lessens the clutter. It's that way so that we don't have to get up to get our stuff and bump into each other. But I wish it could always be that way. Another positive aspect is that we get three independent study days. That sounds like it could be a con, but it's not for me. On I.S days, I whiz through homework, and then I have the rest of the day to myself without any siblings at home. Unfortunately, those are the only pros, so moving on to the cons. In a word: masks. Have you ever smelled one? They reek of bad breath, even if you didn't think you had bad breath to begin with. I guess they are there to protect you, but they're gross. Another con is that we get to have less field trips. Everything is closed because of Covid, and it's also not like we can just all go in a car together, masks or no masks. Another cons is that we do less art, because we're not here on Tuesdays.

Now that I think about it, I have lived through a time that will go down in history. I adapted pretty smoothly to it too. I hope next school year is not like this one was, but if it is, I will be ready.