

Good morning/afternoon.

Thank you for taking the time to let me talk today. My name is Alexis Haislip and I am a sophomore at Century High school in carroll county. I am a three sport athlete and have a part time job. I am the oldest of 5 kids in our family with an 8th grade sister, a Kindergarten brother, and preschool twin brother and sister.

When the shut down happened and we were all working and doing virtual learning it was nearly impossible as our internet was terrible. There were 4 of us trying to use the internet at once which caused it to kick us off of the system multiple times per day. I was not able to participate in sports any more , my social life came to a complete halt because everyone was scared of the virus. My parents had looked at home school options to keep our brain engaged and signed us up for other outside activities. In January comcast finally came to our road and made their internet available to us- which is so much better than what we had.

My parents had to enroll my little brother into a private school, in person setting because they were not able to sit with him all day long and help him with his virtual learning. They both work as well. My sister and I are left home alone all day to do out school work on our own, little to no contact with the outside world, just watching a screen all day long.

This virtual learning has really had a toll on our mental health. We don't have any real reason to try hard. School was our outlet. Yes, our parents are signing us up for other activites so they can try and create these same experiences for us- but its all fake. We want to be in school, with our friends, playing our sports, and learning how to do things kids do. Right now its as if we have no control over our lives. We are just here...