

# STUDENT VOICES ON COVID-19

For our first edition of the YEP News, we asked students for slice-of-life quotes about their experiences living through the COVID-19 pandemic, remote and hybrid school, and social distancing policies. We also wanted students to highlight how routines and celebrations have changed during this time, such as how they approached Halloween or how they are taking care of their families. We are pleased to introduce you to five students' perspectives on this unprecedented time, as well as a young comic artist's story of quarantine Halloween.

We would like to thank the Youth Enrichment Partnership (YEP) for all their work in the Manchester community serving students during this difficult time, whether providing food to students during remote learning or giving students safe places to learn. As you can see in the quotes below, this partnership has had an incredible impact on our youth.



## MISSING NORMALCY

COVID-19 has been stressful, to be honest. I acted like it wasn't a big deal, but this all is very tiring, stressful, and depressing. For example, school is not easy. My parents try to help me and my brothers as much as they can. It's really weird to be on a screen all day and not talk to someone at school or talk to a friend after school in-person. I miss being able to just go in a store without a mask and not having to be six feet apart.  
-Frank Robitaille

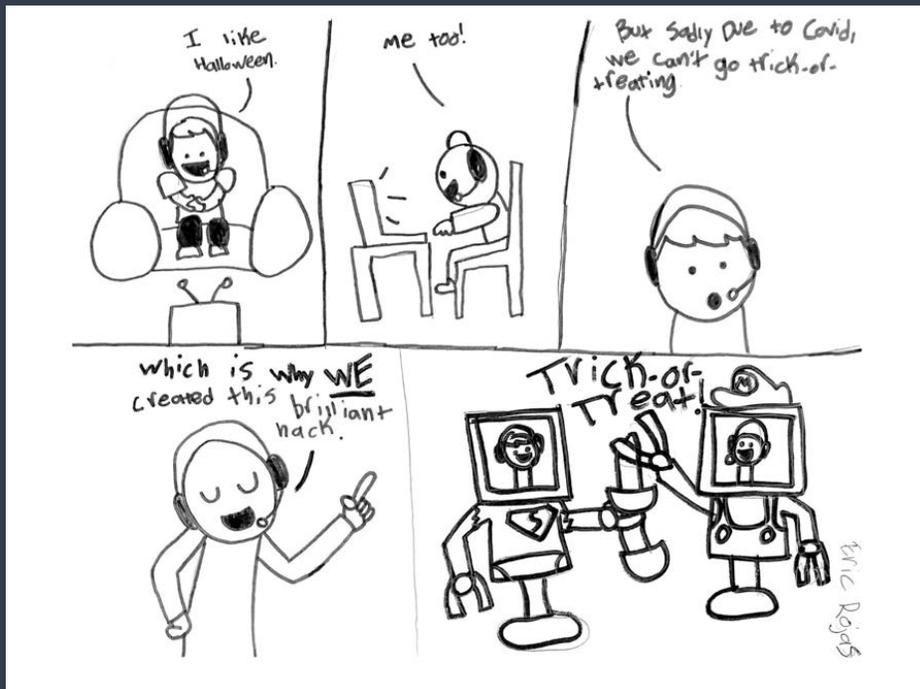


## REMOTE LEARNING CHALLENGES

Covid is hard because my mom is on me about my school work all the time. I haven't had any family members get sick from COVID-19 but the day-to-day changes have been hard for me to adjust to. Schoolwork is a lot harder for me. It is hard for me to understand some things and hard for me to complete all of my assignments on time. When I check my work and see that I have a few missing, I almost have a heart attack.  
-Brianna Sanchez

## STAYING SAFE

For me, COVID has been sad, boring, and changing a lot of things. The way I went about COVID was just to follow the precautions when I'm outside. I feel like I miss a lot of my friends but I gotta be careful now don't want that 'rona'. Covid sucks, but you gotta deal with it, right?  
-Zaleyia Hamilton



ART BY ERIC ROJAS

## SPENDING TIME WITH FAMILY

Before COVID, the most important thing in my life was family. Family was the most important thing to me because they loved me as a good family does. During COVID, the most important thing in my life is taking care of my family. Taking care of my family makes me feel safe and cared for and love and great about myself.  
-Xavier Corbett

## FINDING COMMUNITY

When COVID first happened I was grounded and very bored and lonely. Luckily, I got to go to Power Scholars over the summer. At Power Scholars, it was a little weird because we had to wear masks and stay 6 feet apart, but I was very happy to hang out with kids my age. Now, instead of going to school I go to the YMCA and do my online school there. I really like the YMCA because it helps me a lot.  
-Marilyn Toney