

The pandemic by Evelyn Velazquez

Coming to Andover has been an experience that I will never forget. I have met some amazing people not only my age, but role models such as all my wonderful teachers that I have been blessed to receive. Yes, the journey has been long and time taking but all that was needed was a little bit of patience and respect towards others. I am at Andover right now, even if the pandemic is still going on. Quarantine has been difficult because staying indoors isolated from all your family and friends is not easy. This situation feels abnormal considering I was raised in a Mexican family where being together was a way of living. My parents were still going to work risking their lives to support me and my three siblings. Covid has been something extremely hard on not only me academically but for my entire family. Even if the pandemic has been hard on my family, they encouraged the trip to Andover, the reason being that it would help me get away from the pandemic even though we still have many rules here at Andover. For example, up to a few days ago we had to wear masks everywhere even outside. This was especially hard because it was extremely hot for a time and having to wear masks everywhere was ridiculously hard with the climate outside. I know the rules are put in place to keep us all safe. Andover has been a big adjustment to me especially when I am a very family-oriented person. In addition, sometimes it was hard having to grow up with strict Mexican parents since they grew up in a hugely different time than me and my siblings. They will never understand that to live in this world you have to be open about things rather than be trapped in the same cycle that their parents, my grandparents, taught them which in my case those customs expired many years ago. I do not blame them for their beliefs they do not know any better I do not hold anything against them either, but it does make me feel as if more responsibility has been weighed down against me like those same responsibilities are holding me back. When covid first started I thought like everything was weird and unusual. Now I would say I have become immune to the spectacle that is the funny thing of wearing mask or getting a vaccine. Even being trapped indoors away from people it has all been normalized in not only my life but everyone who surrounds me. I have become accustomed to the weirdness of it all, I do not choose to blame society for the horrible experience we have endured. I choose to stand beside it as it did for me, my community has been phenomenal at wearing their masks staying inside and respecting guidelines. Now things are better and here at Andover the rules might be strict and sometimes even frustrating to follow but we all must contribute to get back to "normal."