# Semret: This is Semret Yehdego and this is my podcast for my history final. The topic that I chose was the aftermath of COVID on the class of 2024 and I chose this topic because I feel like it's something that has impacted our junior class as a whole but isn’t spoken about enough and I'll be interviewing a couple people from my class to see their experience and how they handled COVID. Today I will be interviewing you guys on the aftermath of COVID on the class of 2024. And today we have...

# Ismail: Ismail

# Laura: Laura

# Loren: Loren

# Tyler: And Tyler

# Semret: OK and the first question is what was the beginning of your freshman year like?

# Loren: So the beginning my freshman year it was very lonely I did my first day of school in the kitchen at the table and I had pajamas on

# Laura: Uh sort of the same for me I didn't have pajamas on but I was in the kitchen and uh I was like in front of the camera so it was very different

# Ismail: Uh I would say it was really lonely because I really liked the aspect of school since I'm like the only child so not having anyone like at home, my parents like working every day it was like really boring and like lonely I guess

# Tyler: Yeah same for me my freshman year was very lonely I didn't really have no friends like that and yeah

# Semret: I agree with everyone my freshman year was also very lonely and I have siblings I have a younger sister so we kind of did our our and we had to like put headphones in because we were in the same room it was weird and my second question is did you lose friends during quarantine because we didn't have that social interaction we had with our classmates or friends because we're on lockdown?

# Loren: I wouldn't say I lost friends like falling out but I definitely stopped talking to like the people I used to talk to and I only really talked to one of my friends like throughout all the quarantine well maybe one or two but I definitely stopped talking to like all the other ones.

# Laura: I just I wouldn't say a straight fallout but I did stop talking to a lot of people. Um I think part of that had to do with like us not even finishing our 8th grade year so it wasn't really it was a lot to say but no room to say it I feel like because it was like just through text and we couldn't really do anything about it anyway um but yeah I really like secluded myself and just like stayed to myself and didn't really do nothing.

# Ismail: I would say I lost a couple of friends and it kind of like showed me like who my actual friends were and like who like school friends were so I kept in contact with some people but some people especially because most of us went to different high schools so like going to different high schools and then also not being able to like being out with people kind of like uh not messed up but like kind of weakened like some friendships.

# Tyler: Well um also even though we didn't we didn't get the like chance to graduate from 8th grade none of my friends really came to collegiate so I didn't really I didn't necessarily I necessarily lost all my friends from middle school but I don't I wouldn't say it was like a down draw rather than like I just went into my freshman year and not having no friends because of the quarantine situation so it was kind of hard to gain friends because of the how many how many limited people were at the school.

# Semret: OK the third question is what was your social life like after quarantine?

# Loren: You mean like going back into school?

# Semret: Yeah like how did you interact your social life like how did you’re your..

# Ismail: social life?

# Semret: yeah your sophomore or did you guys come back in person your sophomore year

# Laura: you mean freshman year

# Semret: yeah your freshman year yeah well when you came back how did that like how did talking to people or interacting with people affect you again

# Loren: Um I... so when I came back like it was very weird for me because well for one I had cut my hair so I looked different and yeah it was just like meeting all these people that I knew before and I was like a whole new person but I wouldn't say it was like hard because I think I am a social person but it was definitely different because I was different

# Laura: Um I would say when I came back it was definitely exciting because I lacked a social interaction like it was, I felt like it was easier to make.. I feel like I'm easier to be friends in person versus online even though I was able to make friends while we were both virtual um it just kind of solidified it because I feel like you can't have the same interaction that you can online versus in person

# Ismail: Uh I felt like it was really weird because I know like freshman year like even like I guess I'm a social person like I was literally just like emailing people and I was like like I don't know just reaching out to people and I would like FaceTime people but like actually coming in person was like really weird to like see people and like a lot of people look different and then also like us just wearing masks and like all the like the different rules and things was like really weird because I wasn't used to it and like people getting sick and then some people had to like go home and then some days we like had to stay home because you're sick so it was just like really it was weird I guess

# Tyler: And just like I said most of my friends really didn't come to collegiate with me so it was honestly pretty new just like any other any other like graduating from eighth grade to high school so it was still me like being able to like try to get new friends and everything but the weird thing about it was we had to wear masks so I didn't really see anybody's faces which made it really weird and it was kind of hard to interact because you know you would usually like talk to someone if you can like really see their face and like you know see their personality

# Semret: See their expressions

Laura and Loren: yeah

Tyler: yeah and it was really hard reading everybody's expressions and you know you kind of had like probably the wrong idea about how people felt about you when they have mask on and it just it messed up my social interaction with people and but now I'm I'm glad that you know we have the choice of wear mask and you know you can just you can it's easy it's more easy to get my friend now

Semret: Mhm. OK my 4th question is how did you like hybrid being on and online (meant on and offline)

# Loren: so I never did hybrid like I was at home the whole year but thinking back I think I probably should’ve like did it because like I kind of went through a lot and I was just in my room the whole time so yeah I think I probably should have did hybrid instead of doing it all online

# Laura: Uh me personally I did like hybrid um I found myself not able to focus at school I mean at home doing school because I had two other siblings that was in the next room doing their own work and then my mom was at home as well so she would be in the living room so it was like a whole lot of commotion and I also had a dog so even hearing somebody going down the street and she'll start barking so for me it was easier for me to focus coming back in the classroom but also like I said I missed that social interaction so yea I'm glad I did that

# Ismail: So for me I really didn't do a hybrid freshman year so I don't really have like an experience on it I'm not sure do we do it sophomore year

# Semret: sophomore year it was kind of it's like when people had symptoms of COVID or you had you had COVID then you would stay home for a little bit but

# Ismail: See yea I didn't really do hybrid I just did online all freshman and then I came back in person I mean sophomore year

# Semret: OK well you being a person both you and Lauren being people who did um who stayed virtual the entire time while people were going in how did you feel like the attention you were receiving as teachers were like more focused on the kids who were in the classroom do you guys feel anyway on that?

# Loren: I feel like for me it was the same because like my teachers they had it where like they just had it recording them while they were teaching and like they did interact with students who were actually in the class but I think I feel like they still made an effort to interact with online students

# Semret: What about you Ismail?

# Ismail: I feel like some of the teachers did that I just feel like for the like for math is a little bit harder because like if I feel like if I wasn't person I could have got more help like he could like stand there and like help me with the problem rather me just like I don't know explain it like it's in person is like easier to get help with like homework and things than online because they can like talk to you and like actually help you like right there

# Tyler: Well for me being at home I'm I'm more distracted by all the things I like necessarily doing on the daily basis so like maybe like you know the type of breaks we get in class when if I'm if I were that like those breaks doing something like very unproductive but at school is it's like I'm more I'm more forced to like complete my work and get my work done which is very helpful and and I don't I don't really think that being hybrid has really had an effect on like my academic level.

# Semret: OK the next question is um how were your athletics affected? Did you guys play sports your 8th grade or your middle school years and we're planning on playing sports your high school years?

# Loren: So yeah middle school uh I played volleyball and I was in band and volleyball that was in the fall so it didn't get cut short but I didn't I wasn't able to participate in volleyball my freshman year and band was cut short and we had to do band online which was like really weird like um I don’t even wanna get into all of that but yeah we didn't get to have our spring concert and we missed out on a band competition in Eureka so I definitely missed out on the activities that I was participating in and then when it came to freshman year I didn't do anything at all so yeah I definitely missed out

# Laura: Um for me in middle school I played basketball so coming into your high school years you think aw this is where it gets serious um but whole time when we came they were still trying to figure out how practice was going to work and things like that we ended up having one or two practices if I'm not mistaken but um then they just cancelled the whole thing um because of COVID so so it was kind of hard

# Ismail: So in middle school I was interested in soccer so I know freshman year I really wanted to do soccer and I was like they had like teams meetings it was about like about the soccer thing but for one like it didn't really seem interesting at the time and it also because of like COVID my parents didn't want me going to like try outs or things during like a pandemic because they just didn't want me to get sick and then by the time we returned to sophomore year I was already like burnt out from freshman year and I just like didn't really have the time for it

# Tyler: Um during middle school I played basketball and coming into my high school year I I didn't have my physical and I couldn't play basketball because of like you know the COVID the quarantine situation where I couldn't I wasn't able to go to my physical because the quarantine situation it made like my family more like they it made them procrastinate more and I really couldn't get much done during that time and I couldn't get my I couldn't get my physical and play basketball my uh my my freshman year or my sophomore year and you know I I but I played my junior and it was it was alright

# Semret: This is what I hear a lot of juniors or the class of 2024 talk on talk about and I wanted this like my bigger question is what do you guys feel like we missed out on from our transition from 8th grade year to freshman year that you guys really wish we would have done or could incorporate at this time now?

# Loren: So me I feel like uh we missed out on like being like dumb annoying freshman like I feel like we never got the chance to just be freshman and I feel like that kind of matured us like looking at the freshman now like we never got a chance to like be loud out in the hallway and like do stupid stuff or get on people nerves cause we were online and we jumped straight into being sophomores and now we're juniors and we're about to graduate so I definitely I feel like we missed out on being young and being kids

# Tyler: I feel like I feel like we one thing we I feel like one thing that we did miss out was our graduation and I was really I was really looking forward to my graduation uh because I'm I'm pretty sure I would have got ranked first but like we not gonna talk about that but yeah that's really what I really missed about uh I that's what I really missed I wish we could’ve done before COVID

# Laura: So yeah I do I can't say that just restarting 8th grade or not even restarting but being able to finish 8th grade is just the way to heal our youth like because that's a big step going from 8th grade to high school so even doing like things that I can remember that were set up the 8th grade trip, 8th grade graduation, field day at the end of the year like those things I wish we really could have did and even having that chance to be young and um be youth coming in like fresh straight into freshman year because I do feel like COVID matured us not being able to have the things that we really wanted to have matured us and even coming back online matured us because we were sort of in a position where we couldn't be immature about these things we couldn't be childish and we had to look at it from a mature view so we kind of like like that so

# Ismail: I would say we missed out a lot on like the social aspects especially with like cutting 8th grade year short and like everyone going into lockdown like a lot of people like lost a lot of friendships they could have like held on to in high school and then it's kind of hard like I've tried to like it's kind of hard to reconnect now especially because a lot of people like they moved to different schools and then like especially from my friends from school I don't even know what school they were going to like it was hard to understand those things and then the friends that i did have since we were like online and never really hung out like it's just kind of awkward now because like I haven't talked to then in two years and I don’t really know who this is anymore because like everyone changed over covid and all that. I also feel like we missed out on bonding I like the bonding like I mean, we did redo camp Wyman, junior year, but I feel like it would have a better effect freshman year for us to actually bond and meet people because, I mean, we went, but everyone already like has like their little cliques or like their little friends. So it wasn't really bonding. It was more. Of just like a field trip I guess.

# Semret: OK. Thank you guys. Those were all very great responses. I enjoyed having this conversation with you guys.

# I did my interview as a group rather than individual one-on-one interview because I felt that I would get more of a deeper conversation out of the people I was interviewing. I feel like when you're talking with a group of people or friends, I feel that you're more likely to give better responses than when you're just asked a question and you're giving an interview by yourself. The interview was great, and it allowed me to get an idea of how my classmates felt during the times of COVID during the end of our 8th grade year and our entire freshman year. I loved the discussion I had with all the people I interviewed, and I heavily agreed with what they were saying. This project allowed me to see what other people were experiencing and their thought processes during this time and it let me know that I was not alone. Thank you for listening.