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Class of 2022

Eta Omega Scholarship

“How the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted my college and career aspirations.”

On March 13, 2020, our school released students to go home due to the spike in Covid-19 cases. I was excited because we were just about to start our soccer season. My mom picked me up from school. We both thought that I would return in two weeks. Two weeks turned into an entire school year. Initially, I was excited about virtual learning at home. After a couple of months, I realized that being stuck in house wasn't that great. I couldn't see my friends, my teachers or play soccer. My social life came to an abrupt halt. This unfortunately extended into my junior year. I was beginning to feel trapped with no outlets. Eventually, I asked my parents if I could get a job just to get out of the house. I applied to Chick-fil-a and was hired about a week after the interview. I finally had the opportunity to be outside of the house and not stuck behind a laptop for eight hours. Living through the Covid-19 pandemic made me realize several things – one being I did not want a career in which I had to be stationed behind a desk for 8 hours a day. My desire to attend college was still there, however, I knew that I had to do something that required me to be able to move around. I began to think about careers in the engineering field – especially after participating in the MIT Lemenson InvenTeam program with my classmates. I started to consider various fields in engineering where I could move about – use my hands to build things. I also considered sports medicine – where I would be able to work with patients one-on-one – or be in the presence of sports teams where I could be near a field – whether it be a soccer field or a football field – anywhere but behind a desk.

Although attending school during a pandemic was depressing at times, it allowed me to sit back and think about what my next step was going to be after school. It motivated me to think outside the box as to what I may enjoy doing as a career. I still haven't completed figured it out – but it's refreshing to know that I was able to rule out one thing – no desks!