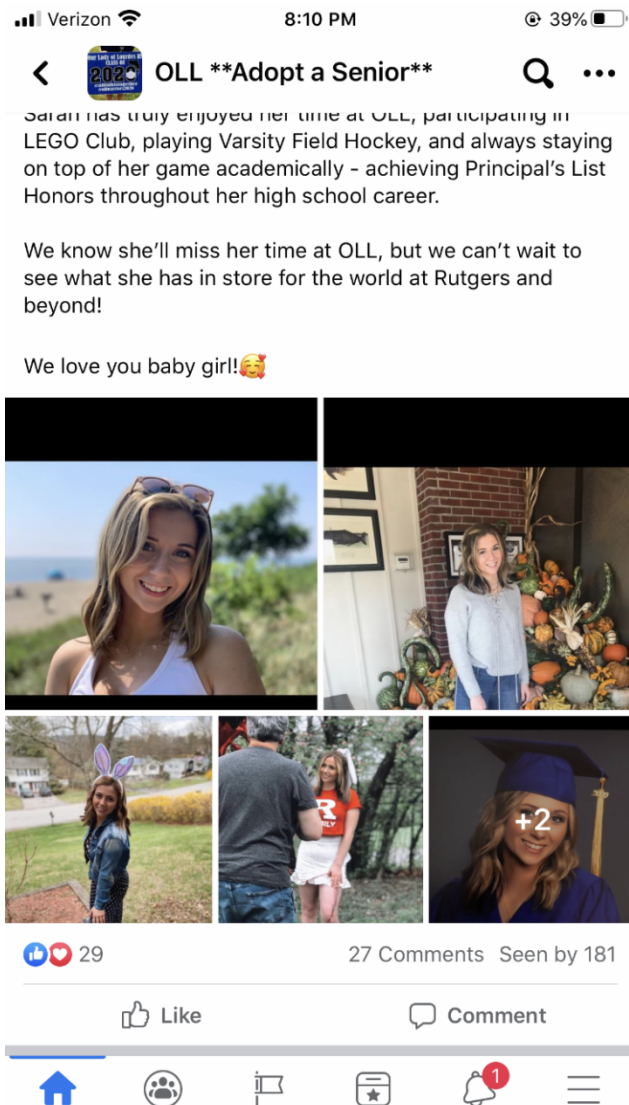


Archiving Goodness

The Coronavirus Pandemic of 2020 forced innocent and unsuspecting people to lose their livelihoods, forced students into remote learning, caused the decline of the economy, and most devastating of all, killed more than one million people. Fortunately enough for my family and I, I did not experience loss in terms of a loved one during the pandemic. I did, however, experience loss in terms of experience, where I missed the second half of my senior year due to the virus. I missed *the* glorified and anticipated senior prom, and I graduated via a make-shift drive thru in my school parking lot.

Seniors across the country, and the world, for that matter, had just missed out on some of the most defining moments of their young adulthood. But, as divided as America can appear, we always unite and show the most strength and compassion when devastation hits. On May 3rd, 2020, I received a Facebook direct message from a woman by the name of Mary. Unbeknownst to me, my mom had posted my photos and a few short words about my aspirations in life in hopes to catch the eye of a kind family willing to “adopt” me.



This program, also known as “Adopt a High School Senior 2020”, was created by parents and loved ones across the country in hopes of raising morale amongst discouraged high school seniors. This linked article can attest to how the program worked.

<https://grownandflown.com/adopt-a-high-school-senior/>

My “adoptive mother” reached out to me and explained we shared similar interests as I aspire to be a psychiatrist, and she is a behavioral health nurse. We were complete strangers, united by her genuinity and kindness. Throughout the next few weeks, I would begin to receive packages periodically on my doorstep; the first being a journal, the second a Rutgers University blanket, and the third, and most significant to me, a pocket psychiatry, which I intend to utilize during my journey throughout medical school. I would like to archive photos of these items not only because they are important to me, but because they reflect the good will of humanity during a confusing and frustrating time. I want people to be able to look back on this archive hundreds of years from now and understand although humans may have lost loved ones, their jobs, and in some cases, their sanity, they never lost their goodness.



