



CATE SPENCER

VALEDICTORIAN WESTVIEW

GPA: 4.0

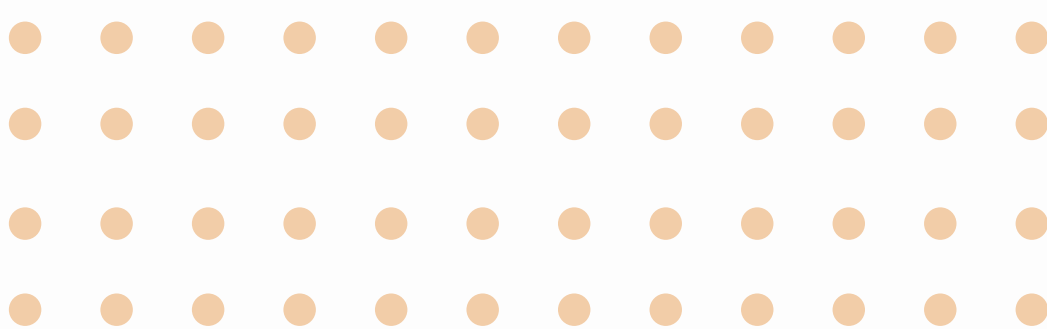
Hometown: Martin

Previous schools: I have always gone to school in Martin, TN

Favorite subjects: English and Art

Favorite teacher: Mrs. Debbie Kerley

Plans after high school: I am attending The University of Tennessee at Martin in the fall and majoring in psychology.



REFLECTIONS

from the Class of 2020

Being part of the Class of 2020 means that I am part of a class that has faced multiple setbacks. Many of us were born around the time 9/11 happened, and now, we are graduating during a pandemic. None of us thought that our last year of high school would be cut short; we thought we would get to enjoy it until May. We began our senior year in August with “20/20 vision” and ended it in March with a toilet paper shortage and in self-isolation. We are the class that had to give up our last two months of high school. We had countless “lasts” stolen from us, and we were thrown into a sea of uncertainty regarding events like prom and graduation. Despite this, we are the class that will be resilient.

I think that being a member of the Class of 2020 will shape my generation in a positive way. We had many things taken from us and had to spend the past two months at home. We were not able to finish our school year, see our friends, or leave our houses. We had to find ways to cope with the fact that March 16 was our last day of our high school career. I am sure there may have been some of us that were glad it was over, but for many of us, it was a sad reality that we have had to come to terms with. I think that all of this will make my generation appreciate the privilege of getting an education and being able to leave our homes. We have already overcome so much, and I believe that we will be able to face anything that comes our way.

Having lived in this time, I think that I think my generation will seize every chance we get to be with our family and friends. During these two months, we have had to find ways to deal with everything that has happened, so I think that we will use this experience to help us get through difficult times in the future. I expect that my class will use this incident to our advantage when we have families of our own. We will use it to teach them the importance of education, family, friends, and freedom. As the years go by, I do not think that we will focus on the negatives of the situation, but we will rather focus on what it has taught us and the resiliency we have acquired.

The Class of 2020 has had its ups and downs, but I am glad to be a member of it.