

## **Elaina Wang (Youth) 2<sup>nd</sup> Place**

### **Title: Virtual School Can be Challenging and Fun**

I participated in the virtual school for the whole year during the pandemic. In the course of learning online, one of the most important things I learned from the virtual classroom is being patient and understanding.

One issue happens frequently during the virtual school was that a few kids had bad internet connection and they kept going offline. My homeroom teacher, Mr. B, decided that our class would wait for those students to get back online before he restarted the lesson again. It was frustrating to wait for a long time, but if I were the ones who dropped offline, I would be grateful that the whole class could wait for me. One of my classmates suggested that we do homework instead of waiting for those students, and Mr. B thought that it was a great idea. At the end, we were able to give those students enough time to get back online and use time wisely.

Another special situation happened when my social studies and science teacher couldn't hear the class, and the class couldn't hear our teacher either. After he went offline to fix his problem, one of my classmates spoke up and told us that he didn't understand what our teacher was talking about. I suggested that we taught our classmate what he didn't understand and filled in his gaps in wisdom, and everyone surprisingly agreed. By the time our teacher rejoined, the kid that didn't understand what my teacher was talking about became full of knowledge.

The pandemic brought many challenges to our daily lives. Being patient, caring for others, and showing your understanding are very important during this hard time. I learned many things from virtual school experience, and now I can use them in my normal days.