

Andrew

### Learning From Home

“*Where is it?*” I ask myself. Before I had to start virtual school, I had the hallways as proof that I am not alone. Now, I have no such proof. I miss them. They are like a river, a river where I see others in the same situation as myself. They comfort me in knowing I am not alone. There is usually a current that sends wave after wave against my efforts to reach another place in which I sit, listen, think, and write. The waves are like problems. Each time that I reach the other side of a wave, it feels like I have mastered a challenge. I like accomplishing and overcoming struggle and problems. As I swim against the current, I look around. There are others, swimming the same way, breaking through the same waves. But now there is no hallway, no river, no others swimming around me that I can see. Now there is no comfort, no proof that I am not alone.

We rely on our eyes more than ever, now that we cannot come near enough to reach out and feel. No, we must stand far away and watch. Unless we close our eyes. We can then *imagine* that we are not alone, not the only one swimming upstream, against the current. We can feel, if we choose to reach out with our hearts. We can then feel the struggle of others and realize that it is quite similar to our own. We realize that we simply have our own rivers, not one big river that we share. But it is still there. Perhaps if we swim upstream long enough, our rivers will meet. We still fight wave after wave of problems and challenges. We still fight together. Remember that.

Remember your river. It is still there, sending you waves of endless challenges. It has only found a new home. Remember that you are not alone, that each person around you is fighting through a similar challenge. Remember that despite the fact we cannot come physically near each other, we can touch each other with our speech and our hearts. Remember to overcome

each challenge that life throws at you because of what it will make of you to overcome them.

Little by little, we will make it through. Together, we will make it through.