

February 1, 2021

Hello,

My name is Amanda and I am a Junior at Marriott's Ridge HS. I play basketball, lacrosse and field hockey. Since March I have missed out on playing of all of these sports. I am currently being recruited to play lacrosse in College and I recently went on a college visit, there were 8 other recruits all from other states. I got to talk with each of them and they are all back to school at least 4 days a week and have been playing sports/ and or conditioning. This was devastating for me to hear especially since Howard County is not doing the same. Howard County has put our lives on pause and robbed me of all the experiences I should be having academically and with sports and friends. We have no say in anything that is happening to us. This is not how we should be living because it is not living just existing.

Virtual learning is not learning at all. I just finished my 1st semester of classes and I barely learned a thing. It is extremely hard to learn math and science virtually. Junior year is extremely important for college and SATs. My math teacher taught while holding her new born baby who was crying and screaming and making noise the whole time. Have you ever tried to learn math while your teacher is holding a baby – not easy. My mom had to hire me a tutor who taught me whole course and I am still struggling. I had to teach myself Science and English, which has been very stressful, time consuming and almost impossible.

I really miss playing sports, seeing my friends and teammates on a regular basis and going to school to learn and grow. Howard County has failed me and every other student, I blame the teacher's unions and our BOE for this mess. I will never get this year back. If other states and counties are back to school and sports why aren't we? Why are we being punished? Why are you failing all of us? Why aren't you trying to get us back in school?

Very disappointed with Howard County, I deserve better!

Thank you,
Amanda Windsor