

# Portage High School

## Counseling Department

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April 6, 2020

### **Meet Alice Girino from Milan, Italy, celebrating her 16th birthday.**

Alice will be an exchange student at PHS in the fall. Mrs. Kallenbach asked Alice to share her story with American teens about surviving the COVID-19 pandemic.



### **What is your daily schedule like?**

**AG:** Here in Italy, we have been in quarantine for almost 4 weeks. The situation is serious and we are so scared. The thing that helps most is not to leave the house and protect the elderly. In all of Italy, we can only go out to go shopping, to the pharmacy or to go working. However, between yesterday and today, the number of deaths has dropped so we are finally feeling confident! Stay home!

### **How do you keep up with school?**

**AG:** My school organized the video lessons on Google Meet or Facebook so we can keep up. The teachers give us homework, researches and videos to do and sometimes we have oral tests.

### **What hobbies keep you busy at home?**

**AG:** I am always home so I cook, I study, I take lessons, I do workouts, I watch movies and TV series and I play with my cat. I live in a large apartment building and at 6 pm they put on the music and we all sing together to support each other. To stay in touch with my friends, we make video calls and we talk everyday.

### **How has this affected your family?**

**AG:** My mom works in a bank and still works there because the government hasn't closed them. My mom can't kiss me and my brother or otherwise give us the love of before because working she is now at risk. In this period, my dad is at home but he lives in another house (my parents are divorced). I am lucky to have a brother only a year younger than me because we keep each other company.

### **What has been the hardest?**

**AG:** The hardest thing is that I can rarely see my grandparents and my dad for fear of infection and I miss them so much.

### **What positives have come from this?**

**AG:** There is also a positive side, small but there is. I am learning to appreciate everything and everyone much more and not to take anything for granted.