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## Pandemic Paranoia and Proximity: A Transformation

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## Pandemic Paranoia and Proximity: A Transformation

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A new school year

Grades      Classrooms

Teachers      Lessons

Challenges

Altered schedules

Textbooks sealed and shunned

Classrooms depersonalized

Insidious threats

From unseen aerosols

Unsocial atmosphere

Untraced contacts

Atypical behavior

Waves, not hugs

Voices commanding

“Keep Six Feet Apart”

Unnatural Separation

Clear viscous gel

For sanitizing

Protecting

Insulating

Assuring

An ominous environment

Pandemic      Paranoia

And

Proximity

School and society

Based in reality

Intense toil

Risks outweigh rewards

Social            Distancing

No longer        The practice

A young boy

And a young maiden

Must be mandated

                    To maintain

During middle school        High school

Dances            Proms

Study sessions        Dates

Distancing now including

Classroom seating

                    Hallway travels

Greetings

                    Inquiry

Casual chatter

                    Heightened emotions

Attempted outreach

                    Disjointed        Engagement

                                    Dispirited outlook

Human touch        Removed

High fives            Shunned

Fist bumps            Prohibited

Hugs                    On high alert

Robotic students

                    Masked

Gloved

                    Shielded

                                    Separated

Shunned

Lockers      Off limits  
Sealed tightly  
    With firmness  
and precision  
Hallways transformed  
    To highways  
Divided  
    Controlled  
        Unidirectional

Lessons  
    Hybrid  
Virtual  
    Internet Intervention  
        Zoom  
            Meet  
            Google  
    Chat Box  
Electronic education  
    Technological diversification  
Classes condensed  
    Constrained  
    Compartmentalized  
Separation  
    Space Imposition  
Sirens in homes  
    Alluring distractions  
        Minecraft  
    Fortnite  
        Pokemon  
    Roblox  
        Instagram  
    Snapchat

WhatsApp

Tik Tok Tik Tok

Go Guardian

Register Monitor

Trace Track

Learners challenged

Procedures transformed

Redefined

Repurposed

Relied upon

Focus

Brevity

Clarity

Videos

Instructional

Investigational

Inspirational

Legislated Separation

Devastation

Emotional Incarceration

Uncharacteristic Avoidance

Simplicity

Now complexity

Breathing regulations

Stress intensification

Unsolved enigmas

Daily challenges

To SEL

PBL

Group activity

After-school clubs

New lesson designs

Activities Postponements

Cancellations Expectations

Of persistence

Of continuance

Procedures to adapt

To follow

To obey

Challenges to overcome

Frustration to mount

Scapegoats to seek

Searches conducted

For targets

Frustration

Ventilation

Heroes reimagined

From typical categories

Essential service

In classrooms

Teachers Aides

Custodians Administration

In districts

In homes And communities

Bus Drivers Students

Parents/Guardians

Methodical inversion

Of Disney Maslow

And more

Consequences

Constantly dire  
Hope  
Losing luster  
Nature separated  
From nurture  
Uncommonality  
Unfamiliarity  
Compromise  
Concession  
Social Convulsion  
Classrooms reflecting community  
Lessons losing touch  
With humanity  
Society shunning  
Sensitivity  
Pandemic Paranoia  
And  
Proximity  
School mirroring society  
A transformation  
Based  
In reality