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Remote learning is expected to have lasting impacts on diverse student groups in specific ways

An In-Depth Look:

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CENTER 16

Fall 2020 // pilot's log // Hasbrouck Heights High School



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With the Covid-19 pandemic continuing to impact our world, schools across New Jersey, and the country have adopted online school plans. The Hasbrouck Heights school district is one of over 300 districts in the state who began their year with at least some form of remote learning, and as of mid October, at least 30 of these districts who adopted in person plans have had to go remote.

“So I don’t think anything first replaces students in front of a teacher. The benefits of online learning are very limited. I live with my two children -- a third and eighth grader, and they struggle with online learning. The benefits are that you can have access wherever you are. For seniors, in colleges there will often be a lot of online learning, so getting acclimated to dealing with online learning can be beneficial for when you transition to higher learning. But ultimately, nothing replaces the teacher and the students in front of them. For online learning, we wouldn’t do it unless we have to, so to me, the benefits are limited,” Dr. Matthew Hellfant, Superintendent of schools, said.

Hasbrouck Heights intended to begin the year through a hybrid schedule, but as health concerns were brought forward, the school found itself beginning the year remote.

“I’m not sure if you attended the public Board of Education meeting on August 20, but that’s where we kind of made our public case about some of the safety and health factors that were not necessarily the sole problem of the school itself (meaning that it wasn’t because the superintendent, the Board of Ed, or the administrators weren’t prepared) but there were just a lot of unanswered or unanswerable questions about certain things in terms of how to best protect people in a public space that the State of New Jersey put forward for all schools to follow.



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