

WINTER 172 TIME Hands-On Learning

After COVID, what are you most excited about doing again?

"Going to movies and being able to hang out with friends more often."

-Hadley Johnson ('22)

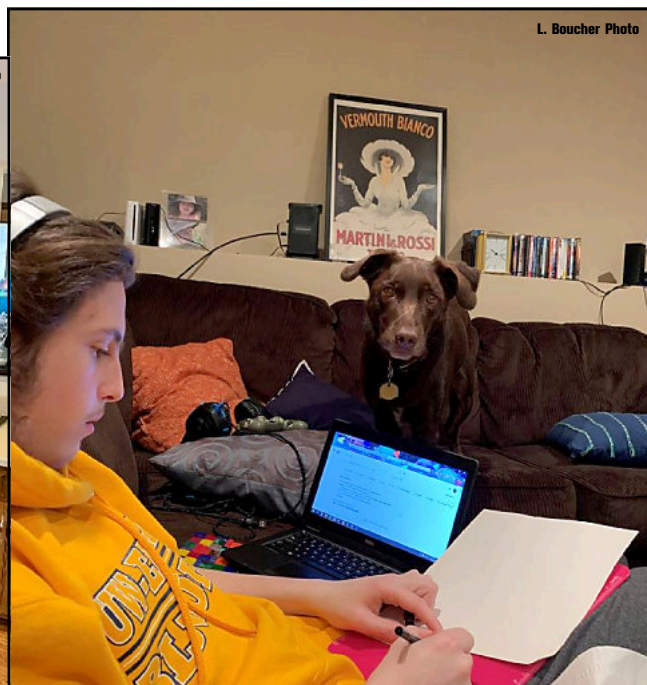


Getting the angles: Emma McAfee ('21) photographs different angles for her homework project. A distinctive part for school online is having to prove you did the work. It was challenging for students to adapt and make their homes a viable place to learn. McAfee gets up on the countertop to get some photos of her model of an animal's digestive system for Ms. Staci Brown's Biotechnology class.

Most would agree that through the tough times of COVID that having a pet around when doing schoolwork gives students a sense of comfort. It has been proven that animals help students' mental health. Sophomore Garrett Boucher works on homework with his dog Rolo nearby.



C. McAfee Photo



L. Boucher Photo



R. Dizon Photo



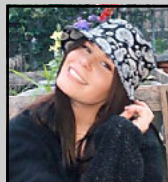
S. Hietpas Photo

Garages, basements and spare rooms in homes became labs. Students adapted to these tough times along with teachers even if that meant bringing a dead rat home. The Dizon sisters adapted by making their own controlled lab environment for Ms. Krajewski's class.

Mr. Long's CIS Human Anatomy class has a hands-on rat dissection in order to understand organs in the body. As an essential part of the class curriculum, Long had students like Jack Hietpas ('21) pick up a rat and materials to complete the dissection at home.

Look at it This Way

What habits have you picked up due to distance learning?



"I've been sleeping in a lot more, and working a ton. I get a lot of my tasks done too."

-Ada Gerber ('22)



"Better eating habits, getting my school work done in the morning when I'm most motivated."

-Lea Taverna ('22)



"I've gotten a lot more sleep; I've even been sleeping in-between classes."

-Sami Pidde ('21)

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TRIM LINE

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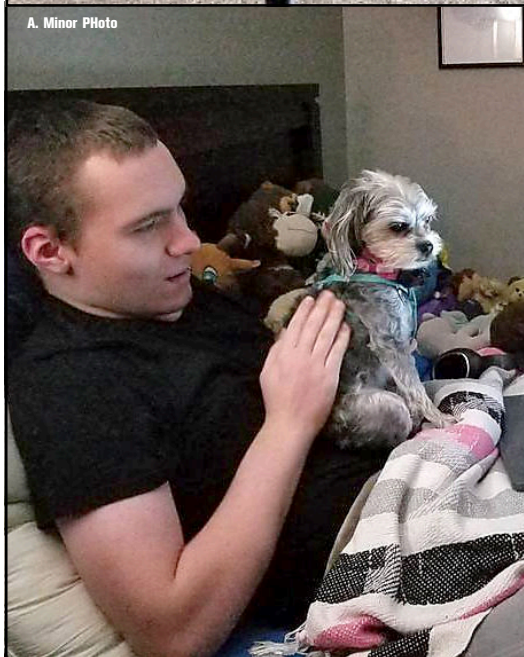
After COVID, what are you most excited about doing again?

"Hanging out with my family and friends without worrying whether or not they have Covid."

-Maifue Yang ('22)



J. Baumgartner Photo



A. Minor Photo



S. Finwall Photo

Practicing music at home was especially challenging this year for the hundreds of orchestra, band and choir students. Jenna Baumgartner ('24) rehearses at home while logged into the Zoom class with her fellow musicians from the Philharmonic Orchestra.

Dylan Minor ('22) and his adorable puppy are tackling online school. During one of the hardest years for school, a pet was one of the best mental health partners to tackle this challenge.

Homes became studios for many students taking art classes. Materials were easy enough to pick up at the school, so these highly hands-on classes were able to carry on. Sophomore Ella Sevilla works on her project for Mr. Koltun's painting class.

Hands-on work from home: distance learning brings on many

CHALLENGES

"When I first heard that we would be dissecting rats this year despite distance learning I was surprised," said senior Elayra Dizon, "I never thought that I would be doing something like this at home. Although I was curious, I was also a little nervous. I had only done dissection once in 7th grade life science, and I had a lot of questions."

Dizon was not the only one surprised to find out that CIS Human Anatomy and CIS human physiology classes would be proceeding with their rat dissections despite holding

classes over Zoom during the 2nd quarter. Distance learning threw a wrench in teacher's plans, forcing them to rethink and shorten their curriculum.

Organizing dissections had many of its own challenges; distribution posed perhaps the largest challenge. "The week after Christmas break, we were instructed to pick up our materials from the blue tote containers at the school entrance," said Dizon, "Inside the blue totes were plastic bags that contained everything we needed."

Dissections took place over 3 weeks. Students were required to finish the complete dissection, marking their progress in a series of 9 check-points. All of the materials were purchased through a grant provided by the Stillwater Partnership Plan.

"None of this would've been possible without the generous grant provided to me by the Partnership Plan of Stillwater Area Schools," said Mr. Doug Long, "Every year, the Partnership Plan provides thousands of

dollars to our teachers for innovative activities to engage students."

In a year where many students chose to disengage it might seem like coordinating a rat dissection would be a Herculean task. But it went surprisingly smoothly.

"I was unsure of what to expect in regard to student engagement, completion of the assignment, and overall learning," said Long, "But I was thoroughly impressed by the work my students did on this."

By Drew Jurek