

looking on the bright side

While remote teaching was difficult, teachers found a bright side to the circumstance

“I love working from home and being in a space that is comfortable. Students have been able to show me their rooms or share about what activities they love to do when they are home. It’s another side of students that we rarely get to see in the school building.”

Victoria Rose,
SPED teacher

“I like the freedom it gives students. There is a little more down-time than there would be in person. I would enjoy that as a student, though I know many struggle with it. It’s nice to be able to make a sandwich, or go to the bathroom in your own house, or wear comfy clothes.”

Hillary Morton,
choir teacher

“I have been able to have conversations with students that would have never happened in a classroom. Students are a lot more honest and vulnerable when they know that there are not a bunch of ears listening.”

Whitney Richards,
science teacher

“The students are very good at the technology and have helped me learn it. They also have great discussions, most of which happen through the Webex chat feature.”

Meaghan Pogorek,
English teacher



cameras on

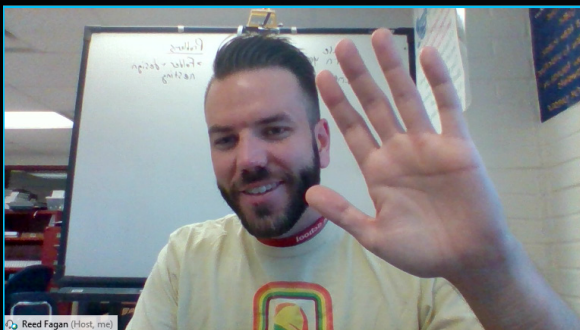
Most students don’t turn on their cameras for online classes, so teachers appreciate the students that do

“When students turn their cameras on (and they and their environment is not distracting), it makes me super happy because I can see that they are “there” and engaged. It also gives a small glimpse into their world – some students have really cool rooms or environs (had one student share video when he was camping)!”

Reed Fagan,
engineering teacher

“Sometimes I’ll turn on my camera and try and participate, or at least at the end of class I would try and say goodbye with my camera on just to make the teacher feel better. I can see it’s rough from a teachers point of view, teaching to a bunch of random names that you have never met in person.”

Yafet Sahle, 12



“Bueller? Bueller?”

Learning to teach online came with its own struggles, the most common, teaching to gray boxes

As math teacher Elizabeth Davis sat at her desk in her empty classroom she looked at her notes and wondered what today was going to bring. Going back and forth between two monitors and an iPad with students on Webex, she struggled to find ways to engage her students without their cameras on.

“It is a totally different beast than teaching in-person. I have talked to some other teachers and it feels like, you know, we are back first year again,” Davis said. “So, it is really, really weird.”

Teachers found it difficult when they didn’t know the students behind the screens. When students didn’t turn on their camera or audio it was hard for teachers to get to know the students.

“I dislike how I don’t know who is behind that screen,” foods teacher Nikki Cochran said. “I want to get to know my students and it is so hard to get to know who else a person is behind my screen even if I know who they are.”

Teaching became a difficult balancing act that required teachers to find a way to keep students engaged in the work, not swamped with work, and not keeping them on their computers all day.

“I think the hardest thing for me has been to find activities that will be enjoyable at home but will also allow them to learn with me and not feel overwhelmed with work,” Spanish teacher Stephanie Wixon said. “It is finding the balance between enjoyment and learning and time away from the computer.”

Teachers liked having breakout rooms and how students were meeting more students than they would in-person.

“I like the ease that I have to create different breakout groups,” Wixon said. “The ability students have to meet with other students you’re not just with people at your table or whoever is closest to you.”

Teachers didn’t have a way of knowing if students were engaged, but most did their best to keep the students involved.

“I don’t know if they are engaged,” Cochran said. “Kids get 20-30 minutes of us so we have to put 90 minutes of energy into that 30 minutes to try to engage them.” *story by madison elmer*

the split views

After the first 11 weeks of school, the teaching style preferred by 27 staff members was split between remote and hybrid

