

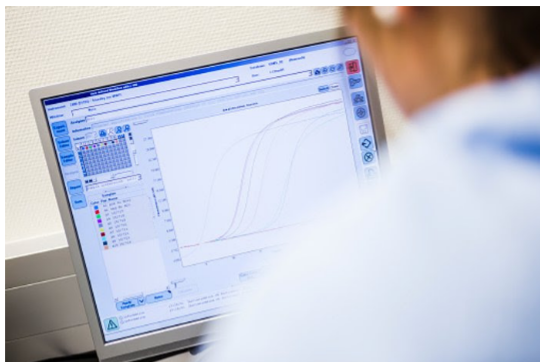


e-learning: how are our teachers and students doing?

As an educator, I wanted to hear from teachers about their experiences with on-line learning and what effects they are seeing on their students. Here are some of the stories.

It's been a little crazy. I have no idea how I am going to assess everything. I have some that are doing the work, which is good; most actually are. They are excited about the activities. I'm trying to make it fun. I have been making videos or a voice recording for rhythm work. Some of them will be worksheets they complete and send back. They are all electronic. It's hard turning what we do daily into an online- based class. I won't be doing a concert with these students.

-- Kat, Music teacher



What is real? Students write a thesis statement and 3 journal entries from the year; Real is connection - this is what makes life real – relationships. Now that it is missing, the students realize how important relationships and connection is. We are all connected.

--Monica, Humanities professor

Cognitive dissonance – a teacher puts out energy but, because it is online, we are missing the receiving of energy from the student on the other side of the screen; very exhausting – we need a nap after the online teaching.

-- Adam, Physics professor

I've been calling a lot of students; the main problem that sinks my heart is when a student's phone number in Skyward is outdated. Because kids are in the system for so long, updating necessary information for families isn't a priority. Also, it reminds me how we take so much for granted. Of course, the Coronavirus is exposing the inequities in education, medical, and wealth that we thought were smoothed out with Obama's election. I called a parent last week, a mother of five. Three of her children are elementary. After sharing her frustrations with technology breakdowns, in a somber tone she said, "The most painful thing is my second grader is discovering that I'm illiterate." I just listened and offered what I can. I know the Coronavirus stops at no one, but the experience is killing some more than others. As a parent and a teacher, I try to find ways to build those whom I know this impacts the most. -- Ayan, Language Arts teacher

It's going ok. Definitely not the way I prefer. Too much screen time! Spend a lot of time on the computer. It's been a little tricky making sure all students are able to open all attachments and links on their devices. Some can and others have difficulties. We have great videos to share, but might have to move away from that a little more. Have to differentiate just in case some students don't have the resources needed.

-- *Todd, Physical Education teacher*



It's going okay. It's amazing how much we've done in such a short time. It's a lot of work and takes a lot of thinking out of the box. It's great to connect with the kids and their families. It's obvious how much they miss us and all the systems we have in place at school. Some of the difficulties include how to know that the student is doing the work and not their family members and, of course, the language barrier and equity factor for families who don't have their own computers or iPads. We have passed out school devices, but they are old and not always compatible to the lessons. All in all, we're working together and doing the best we can. Families are grateful for the help and any connection with school. -- *Kirsten, Elementary co-teacher*

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