

Lessons Learned About Education During a Pandemic
March 3, 2021
High School Students

Question 1: What is one word that sums up how education is different during a pandemic?

- Lonely
- Crazy
- Adjustment
- Uncollaborative
- Independent
- Frustrated
- Frantic
- Monotonous
- Distanced
- Interesting
- Adapting
- Sleeping
- Distracting
- Uncertain

Question 1: What could have gone better this year? Please turn your critiques into a positive request/ask of the district.

- Sympathy and understanding from teachers when you're sick and can't necessarily get work done on time.
- More support from teachers when it comes to mental health supports for students.
- Pacing is difficult because students are absent - half of the class may know what's going on while the other half doesn't.
- Assignments could get procrastinated.
- It's hard for VLO students to really build relationships with teachers.
- VLO students are missing the collaboration aspect of school.
- It's hard for VLO and remote students (due to absences) to just watch a video. You're not having a conversation and learning in person; you can't ask questions of the teacher when you're watching a video.
- Block schedules are hard. We don't see our teachers as often and are just trying to get all of the work done and get it turned in on time. It seems more like busy work instead of really having the time to understand the concepts. We don't have time to go in-depth in learning because you're not seeing your teachers as much as you normally would.
- Block scheduling is not conducive to learning. So much information is given in 90 minutes. It's too much to comprehend. Then, not seeing the teacher regularly, you can't reach your fullest learning potential.

- The long blocks of classes - teachers are putting so much information on kids that we just need to take a break sometimes to regroup.
- Pacing is hard. Students have lots of empathy for teachers. - Having to keep pace with kids who are quarantined, snow day closures, etc.
- VLO students don't know their teachers. I'd love a weekly Zoom call with teachers to build a connection - not just office hours.
- I'd love to have more consistency with the way teachers are using Canvas - It makes it difficult for students to do their best.
- It would help students if teachers were more clear with how they will lay out information on Canvas.
- Inconsistencies with the way assignments are posted on Canvas isn't something that's new, but it needs to be addressed.
- The inconsistencies put stress on students.

Question 3: What new things did you experience this year that you'd like to continue?

- More passing time between classes has helped us to be more prepared for class - we have time to make sure we have everything we need.
- Video lessons are helpful. It gives a great outline about what we're going to learn. Then, follow up with in-person teaching. Video lessons are very different from video lectures, which are not helpful.
- Video lessons are helpful to look back on to reinforce the material. They can also help with students who may have anxiety about raising their hand and asking questions in class.
- Mandatory XH every day is helpful. It helps kids catch up - they can finish work, ask for help, etc.
- Teachers recording their notes in class and then posting it on Canvas is helpful because you're able to hear the teacher explaining it the same way they did in class.
- Teachers allowing kids to Zoom into class if they're sick (or quarantined) is very helpful
- Group work combining in-person and VLO students would be great. Can collaborate between classes.
- The quality of online learning has changed drastically since last March and it needs to keep moving forward.
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