



The Tusker Tribune



SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

Issue Number 3

<https://www.somersschools.org/Page/11489>

Fall 2020



Drawing by Thalia Etelemaki

If I Were Principal at SMS, I Would . . .



**By Analise Bobadilla
Tusker Tribune Staff**

If I were the principal of the school first, I would tell all the students and teachers that masks are required so that way they are all protected.

Second, I would tell the teachers that students must have at least one big test in the year because than we can see how well the students are learning.

Third, all students should read at least one book over the summer so that way they are not on their phones so much. Fourth, the students should have a mask break outside 6 feet distance that way they don't share bacteria. And finally, fifth, all students should write at least 2 stories in ELA



**By Chloe Lee
Tusker Tribune Staff**

If I were the principal, and in charge of the school, I would do these five things.

The first thing that I would do is fix the school lunches. I will do this because the lunch is not that good, and we can agree that most of the school dislikes it.

The second thin that I will do is let everyone choose where they sit in class. I would do this because students have the right to make these decisions.

The last thing that I will do is get our lockers back. This is because most people were exited to go to school cause of the lockers but now you can't. If this happens, I would assign each student a locker, with an empty locker in between so they're separated.



**By Damien Zherka
Tusker Tribune Staff**

If I were principal of the school, I would make recess last longer, and I would make gym last longer.

I would bring the basketballs back to recess, and I would make spaces in school where you could go without a mask if you wanted to.



**By Dean Palazzolo
Tusker Tribune Staff**

If I were principal of the school, the first thing I would do is build a zip line from the bus loop to the playground.

The second thing I would do is build a rollercoasters to ride on during recess.

The third thing I would do is put a ropes course up.

Then my fourth thing I would do is put a pool in and only I can swim in it but if I invite you, then you can come in.

The final thing I would do is extend the playing field so there's more room to spread out.



**By Frank Illuzzi
Tusker Tribune Staff**

If I were principal, the first thing I would build a new modern school.

There would be no such thing as a wooden chair—they all would be couches or more high-end chairs.

There would not be buses—they would all be helicopters.

Everyone would have a fast computer and everyone would be in a bubble so no one would have to wear a mask.



**By Hudson Ruby
Tusker Tribune Staff**

If I were the principal of the school and found myself in charge, the first thing, I would do is spend more money on the school lunches. The next thing I would do is give my students no homework.

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Principal

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The third thing I would do is I would make every Friday a half day and make every Monday a day off from school.

The fourth thing would do is that I would buy better recess equipment.

The last thing I would do is give all students a 10 minute phone break after each class.



**By Jayden Newman
Tusker Tribune Staff**

If I were principal, the first five things, I would do are...

Extend the recess a little bit because it is a little short right now and I would also get more things to use out there.

I would buy better food in the cafeteria or have the vending machine full of better things other than water or chips. I would want candy, Snapple, and other things so there's more variety of food and drinks.

Third, I would allow kids to use their phones in class if you need to, because someone could be calling you, and it may be important. But how are you going to pick it up if you can't use your phone?

Fourth, I would have everyone eat their lunch at the same time so it can be easier to go for a fire drill if one occurred.

Last, I would cut school a hour short because now, as soon as I get home, I have to go somewhere, so I need a break.



**By Joseph Guerrero
Tusker Tribune Staff**

If I was the principal, I would make some changes at Somers Middle School.

First, I'd knock down the whole school and build a new one, because our school is old.

I would provide better food, because the meatballs bounce.

I would install escalators because the stairs get crowded, and I would add more technology throughout the school and make it like a "smart home" so everything loads more quickly.

I would build a place for bikes and skateboards because at lunch and at recess, it would be fun to do those things at school and eat outside.



**By Jordan Millar
Tusker Tribune Staff**

If I was the principal, the first five things that I would do would be:

Allow phones to be used in class but only for learning and not texting or games.

I would also extend lunch and recess because you have 20 minutes of each and by the

time you get there, you only have about 15 minutes left.

Another thing that I would do is when it snows, I would allow kids to go in the snow and have snowball fights or other stuff to do in the snow because we are not allowed to go in the snow.

I would also allow costumes for the week around Halloween, and if your costume is just a mask, I would allow that.

Lastly I would still have homework but a maximum of 10 questions because sometimes it's too much homework.



**By Kieren Ryan
Tusker Tribune Staff**

If I were principal, here's what I would do:

At the beginning of the period, I would make the teachers do all the work students do.

Then I would make you read for five or ten minutes depending if you do well on the work.

After you finish the reading and work, I would let you leave class early or stay and do what ever you want.

But if you did not behave or did not do your work, you would stay and redo the work from wherever you are—by Zoom or in class.

But if you behaved well, finished your work and did a good job on it, you would get a piece of candy.



**By Kristen Strang
Tusker Tribune Staff**

If I were principal, I would allow all kids to stay home and do school online. I would allow this because some people do not like to come to school.

I would also allow kids to use their phones in class. I would allow this because kids should be allowed to text their parents or friends while you are in school just in case there is a problem or something.

I would also allow kids to eat whenever they want. I would do this because kids must eat to be healthy.

I would also allow kids to have "no homework" passes and use them whenever they want. I would allow this because kids do not like homework.

I would also allow kids to leave class whenever they want. I would allow this because kids do not like to be in class to learn.

Lastly, if kids are in school, I would allow kids to leave the school to go to a store. I would allow this because they want to leave and get stuff they can't get at school.

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Principal

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**By Libby Hochman
Tusker Tribune Staff**

If I were the principal and found myself in charge, I would do these five things.

I would hire the most creative, funny, nice, and fun teachers for the school.

Next thing I would do would be no homework from any class over the weekend and no tests on Fridays and Mondays, so they don't get too stressed out.

I would also allow kids to pick five different classes each quarter so that they have choices for ELA, science, math, gym and language.

Next, all the students would get to pick from a different restaurant every day and get to order what they would want for lunch. I would have a different restaurant each day, and all the kids choose from that particular restaurant.

The last thing I would do would be let kids have four days in the whole quarter to have a day off of school to calm down and de-stress and have kind of a mental day.



**By Martin Curma
Tusker Tribune Staff**

As principal of Somers Middle School, I would do the following:

I would have more breaks between classes.

I would have less homework assigned.

I would make the school day shorter.

I would have a one hour nap time each day.

I would have a longer recess and shorter classes.



**By Nick Goncalves
Tusker Tribune Staff**

If I were principale, I would make sure that in every class, there is five-minute mask break.

I would also make the periods shorter but have more periods, and no homework.

I would let people switch classes and move around.

I think there only should be remote learning and no switching from in-school to out of school. There should also be a game or Kahoot in class before every test to help kids study and have fun.



**By Noah Hechler
Tusker Tribune Staff**

If I was the principal and I had five things that I could let the kids do, here's what I would do.

I would let everyone go outside and have an extra recess because school is not as easy as you think. Sitting in a chair for over an hour is really hard and kids lose their focus all the time so

I think extra recess will benefit the kids in the school.

Another thing I would let the kids in the school do is I would let everyone have a five minute brain break. Brain breaks are when you get this app on you computer or you use sticks and you chose an activity. For example, one activity would say, "do 30 jumping jacks, and then you would do them and you would choose three more sticks,

This would help you get your mind off all the school work that you have and it will get you to feel more energized and not tired like usual.

Another thing is I would let the kids in the school do their homework at the end of their class period because kids get so much homework and they already do enough work in school and they should not have to do so much at home.

Another thing is that I would let kids play games on their table at team time or when you finish all of you work. I would let them play games because it would relieve stress and it would make everyone in the school way more happy and not sad because of a bad grade or other stuff.

My last thing is that I would tell the teachers to let kids go outside and do class work because it could get really hot in schools and really stressful, and going out side with a nice breeze would be much better than just sitting inside and doing nothing.

So these are my first five changes I would make if I were principal.



**By Peter Brennan
Tusker Tribune Staff**

The five biggest changes I would make to this school, as [principal, would be the following:

I would make the lunches they serve better, I would make traveling to classes easier, I would have a longer passing time between classes, and I would not have teachers assign so much homework. And on the weekends, I would have a rule that no homework can be assigned.



**By Randy Contreras-Valencia
Tusker Tribune Staff**

If I was the principal, these are the first five things I would do.

The first thing I would do is say that teachers are not allowed to give homework to kids.

Another thing I would say is, kids can play games during team time or maybe in class.

I would also make the classes shorter and make recess and lunch longer.

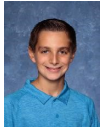
I would also make Friday as part of the weekend.

Lastly, I would allow kids to play on their phone during recess and lunch.

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Principal

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By Troy Rossi
Tusker Tribune Staff

If I were Principal and I was in charge of everyone, I would assign no homework, I would make a game time for everyone to play game for an hour, or just do homework, and I would also have an ice cream shop in the building, along with a 7-11, and a Dunkin Donuts.

In addition, you could be on your phone all the time, and, you would have more than one recess.

That's my plan as principal.



By Zoe MacSweeney
Tusker Tribune Staff

If I were the principal of this school, the first thing I would do is I would have team time every day because kids would be able to work on their homework in school instead of at home.

I would also make the weekend longer so Friday would be part of it. I would do this because going to school for five days in a row is tough. Teachers could give a little more homework over a longer weekend.

I also would want more lunchtime and recess because we do not get enough time to have fun and finish our lunches, so 10 more minutes would be nice.



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The Tusker Tribune is the online Somers Middle School Student Newspaper. It is published weekly (except during school vacations) on the Somers Middle School Website. It is entirely student-written by 6th, 7th and 8th grade students from:
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Editor's Note

This is a special issue of the Tusker Tribune where we focus on one topic. So students were asked what they would do if they were principal of SMS. You will find some common threads that all students seem to support. You will also see some very unique suggestions. It was a very revealing creative writing prompt. The Tusker Tribune will be doing more of these focus issues on a single topic just so we can see how students differ in their approaches to writing about the topics.