



The Tusker Tribune



SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

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Editor's Note: The next several issues of The Tusker Tribune will feature articles based on broad overarching topics. This week, students write about various school topics—should school start later, online versus in-person learning, best and worst aspects of middle school, and advice for entering middle school. So enjoy reading the various viewpoints featured here.



Middle School Pros and Cons



**By Andrew Underkoffler
Tusker Tribune Staff**

The best and worse things about middle school today? Well, I'm e-learning and wearing my frosty snow pants (Frosty is really snazzy) and I am in my bed right now.

I'm having a very splendid time and my friend is making weird noises and I like learning online because the day seems to go faster.

But I also don't like learning online. It's a little hard because you have to do everything remotely and it's annoying.

What I like about middle school is that I get to see my friends but what I don't like about middle school is that I actually have to go to school.

In-Person Learning Is Better



**By Peter Brennan
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Is it easier to learn online or in person? It is easier for me to learn in person because I can focus better.

It is hard to focus on lessons at home when your phone is right next to you and there is a boring lesson going on in class.

So personally, I cannot wait for this quarantine to be over. What about you?



Advice For Entering Middle School



**By Olivia Wiegand
Tusker Tribune Staff**

The best advice to give is that make sure you get all of your projects and homework in on time and try and do well on your tests!

To do well on your tests, you should study as much as you can and ask your teachers

for help if you do not understand what you are learning. Or, you can go to extra help on certain days!

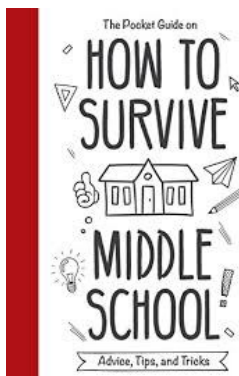
Another piece of advice is to drop any fake friends or any

mean friends and find new ones! It will help you do better in school.

A third piece of advice is to try and shower almost every day because if you don't shower everyday people will start saying that you smell bad and stuff like that.

A fourth piece of advice is to be nice to everyone and you will make a lot of friends.

And lastly, don't be afraid to ask your teachers or anyone for help.



Split Schedule Makes Learning Tough



**By Jenna Quas
Tusker Tribune Staff**

In my opinion I think the worst thing about middle school is having different days in school based on your last name.

I get that there's not enough teachers and it's done to spread fewer germs, but I have friends with last names between A-K. I don't get to see anyone anymore because of the different sides.

Also my friends' moms are HORRIFIED of the coronavirus, so I can't see them unless I'm in school with them.

Also I believe that having only half of my classes in one day is AWFUL because we get less learning time.

Lastly, not having lockers and not switching classes is hard. We sit down the whole day and when we go to lunch and recess and gym, we have to carry our 100-pound backpacks, too. I go up so many stairs every day with my 100-pound backpack. Think about how we feel.

M T W T F S S
In-person Remote

It's Easier to Get Work Done IN School



**By Zoe MacSweeney
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Is it easier to go to school online or school?
I think that it is easier to work in a school because at home, you are more distracted because of all the things around you.

I think it is much harder to do e-learning because I have a lot of distractions in my house, like my dogs, my family, having fun when I want to, and when I need food, not being able to go away from the camera or turn it off without having my teacher call my name to come to the camera or asking me to turn on my camera.

I think that in school, there are more limits. It's harder to be distracted and easier to pay attention because your teacher is right there **in front** of you. There are no dogs or other distractions, and everyone in school is working, so you know you're not missing out on any fun. Also, your eating habits are affected because you're on a schedule and you have to wait for lunch period.

I know that people want to go online but it is not as good as in-school time because it benefits kids and helps them to pass whatever grade they're in.

Another good part about being in school is you get to socialize with other people and your classmates because when you're online, you can't even see them and you end up having to do a lot of catching up to do. You need socialization for your own sake.

Homework Adds Stress to School



**By Bledin Rexhepi
Tusker Tribune Staff**

The worst thing about middle school is homework. It is annoying because I think that we get a lot.

I think this because in other grades, we didn't get that much homework as in 6th grade.

I'm happy that we have only four periods a day instead of eight right now, because if we have eight periods, we will get more homework than if we have four periods.

I'm also annoyed that we must do everything online instead of paper. It's annoying because sometimes we can't find the homework that is assigned.

Another thing I find annoying is when the teachers say we have a project due tomorrow. It makes me so stressed out because then I have other homework to do and I think that I'm not going to get everything done.

One other thing that I don't like is that that we must wear masks in school and that we have to social distance.



A Later School Start Time Makes Sense



**By Alexander Lewandowski
Tusker Tribune Staff**

I would rather have school later. I say that because I do not like getting up at early every day, and, especially on Zoom days, I like to sleep in. When I do, though, all of a sudden, I realize I only have 15 minutes to get everything set up.

Also if we do school later in the day, we can do more things in the morning. For example, you have enough time to eat breakfast, you can get more sleep, and you can do a lot more activities both inside and outside.

My ideal school start time is 2 PM—that's not too early or too late.



You Get More Work Done Learning In School



**By Nick Goncalves
Tusker Tribune Staff**

I think that learning in school is easier because at home it is easy to get distracted.

Also I don't like to do tests or homework on the computer because it is much easier on paper.

Another reason I like to go into school better is because the day goes by faster and I get to see my friends.

Also, at home, when you have recess, you just eat and then you have two hours left sometimes until your next class and then you have nothing to do and you get bored.

The last reason is that I don't like to be in the Zoom because it is very hard to understand what the teacher is saying because of your internet or you can't see the shared screen, and then you don't know what to do. This is why I would rather be in school.

Best and Worse Aspects Of Middle School



**By Alex DiPasquale
Tusker Tribune Staff**

The worst things about middle school . . .

The first thing is that the food is so so so so so bad, it sometimes seems as if it is not cooked!

The second thing is recess is so boring. It would be great if we could bring things to recess so we're not bored.

The third reason is that class sometimes gets so boring, especially if you're e-learning.

The next reason is that there is so many tests and lots of homework.

Now let's cover the good things about middle school . . .

The first thing is that you get to move to class to class every 40 minutes or so, during a regular schedule, so you do not get bored sitting in class all day.

The second reason is that you get to see your friends every day at recess, at lunch, and in the hallway.

The third reason is that you sometimes get to go outside if you finish your work.

E-School is Better!



**By Frank Illuzzi
Tusker Tribune Staff**

I think it is easier to learn at home. I think this because you don't have to wear a mask.

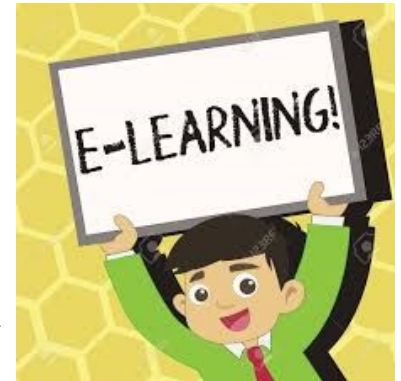
Another reason why it's better is that you have more freedom to move around throughout the day. And, you don't spend any time on the bus so there is more time to work on school-work.

You also don't have to worry about constantly washing your hands and using sanitizer. Nobody wants to get sick, so if you stay home, you will not be in contact with as many people.

You will have more time to be with your family because you are home. Also, you have more control over your schedule. Studies show online learning may be more engaging than classroom learning.

Finally feedback from teachers is faster and frequent with online learning.

In conclusion staying home is better than going to in-person school.



I Get More Done When I'm in School



**By Ella MacSweeney
Tusker Tribune Staff**

I am going to tell you why in-school learning is better than online school.

I think in-school learning is better than online school, I get very distracted and most of the time I don't do the work.

However, if I am in school, I get all of my work done. In school I can ask more questions without someone telling me that I ask too many questions, or the teacher can't hear me.

In school, I can also see my friends and talk to them and have fun.



It's Easier to Learn When You're In School



**By Tristan Iglesias
Tusker Tribune Staff**

I think, by a lot, that it is easier to learn in school. I think it's easier because when you are in school, you do not have much to do except learn and do your work, so that's what you do and think about.

When you're home, though, you know that at your house, there are so many things that are fun and you would much rather want to do than be sitting in front of your computer listening to the videos and teachers on Zoom.

That can cause you to lose focus of what you're doing and when it comes to having to do your work, you will have no clue what to do, and you'll get upset and need help.

Also, you will have to e-mail your teacher a bunch of times and you'll have to keep looking back at the videos and you will not have a good time.

When you're in school, you will want to be home and have fun, but you can't do that unless you finish your work, so that's what you're focusing on so that you can get home and have fun.



More Attention Paid To In-School Students



**By Hudson Ruby
Tusker Tribune Staff**

I think that working online is harder because you are not face to face with a teacher and the teacher pays more attention in his or her classroom than on Zoom.

For example, say my math teacher has a problem and someone on Zoom raises their hand in a way of showing that they know the answer. Most of the time, the teacher will call on someone in the classroom and if the people on Zoom don't get called on, they will not do as well as the other people in the class.

This could lead to having not good grades or even failing the class.

Also, it could be harder to keep up with the lesson that the teacher is teaching. This was my response on why I think that being on zoom is harder and being in the classroom is better and easier.

Hybrid Schedule Detracts from 6th Grade Experience



**By Troy Rossi
Tusker Tribune Staff**

The worst thing about middle school is that we have to wear the masks. They are so annoying. They kill my ears all day long. It makes it tough to participate. I was talking about something in class and my teacher thought it was someone else.

This year, I thought it would be so good—lockers, good basketball courts, moving classes, and the auditorium, but we can't watch movies, we can't move classes, we can't play basketball, we don't have lockers, and there's nothing to do at recess besides soccer.

I also thought I would see all my friends in my classes but I stay with the same exact kids all day.

This year would be great for projects with friends but we can't do that because of coronavirus. It's so annoying when we have to stay six feet away from everyone in the classroom. It's super duper annoying to also have to do that in the halls.

Keys to Middle School Success



**By Libby Hochman
Tusker Tribune Staff**

The best advice I would be to someone who is about to start middle school is to make sure you know your locker code and how to put your code in.

It will really help for the first few days, so you do not have to take 15 minutes to open your locker.

Another tip is to hand your assignments on time and complete because by just one missing or incomplete assignment, it can bring your grade down a lot.

Also, always pay attention in class because if you blank or doze off for just a minute or two, you will miss a ton of stuff the teacher just went over.

Always start studying a few days before a test, not the day before the test, because it will get you really stressed.

If you have homework that is assigned Monday and due Thursday or Friday, don't put it off till the day before because if the homework isn't due for the a few days, it probably means it's a big assignment, so do little bits of it every day until it's due.

Hybrid Schedule is Less Stressful Than Normal Schedule



**By Randy Contreras
Tusker Tribune Staff**

The best thing about middle school is that our school ends early. Even though we must wake up early, we also get to leave early.

I think this is good because, since the virus is in the way, we are being safer by ending school early.

It is also helpful because some kids have some stuff to do after school—it could be an after school program or a sport you play.

Since school is ending early, it gives us more time to do our activities and to do our homework.

Let's say you play a sport and you have practice with your team today. When school ends, you will have enough time to do your school work and go to your practice. So now kids don't have to stress

about having homework and teachers can start giving homework without kids saying reasons why they should not have homework.

It is also helpful for teachers because since we were ending early, every class is an hour long, so

that gives teacher enough time to teach the kids, and teacher doesn't have to stress about kids wasting time in class by not listening to the teacher.

HYBRID SCHEDULE



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Somers Middle School, 250 Route 202, Somers, NY, USA.
Any SMS student is eligible to write stories.
If interested, please e-mail Advisor Dean Pappas at DPappas@somersschools.org

Too Easy to Slack Off If E-Learning



**By Jordan Millar
Tusker Tribune Staff**

In my opinion, I think it is easier to learn in the classroom. I think this because when you are in the classroom, you have no choice but to listen and you cannot go on any electronic except your tablet.

However, you also can play games on your tablet and easily get distracted while you're on your tablet playing games.

You also can easily get caught playing games on your tablet because when the teacher goes around the classroom and the teacher sees you playing games, you can get in trouble and maybe lose your tablet so you can't play games and you have to listen and pay attention.

Online it's the same rules. You can't play games, you can't go on your phone and you have to pay attention. The only difference is that the teacher is not there to look at your tablet if you're doing the work or if you're playing games. So some people might not listen and might go on their phone and play games and pretend they are listening but re-

'Glitches' Make Online Learning Harder



**By George Sullivan
Tusker Tribune Staff**

I think that online learning is harder than in school. One of many reasons is that videos are glitchy.

Another reason is that it is harder to sit in your house looking into a screen and stay still.

Also, this reason is that you can't hear your teachers clearly and it gets glitchy. This



reason is that it does not always work the way you want it to, and you get angry and have no idea what you're doing and your teachers get frustrated and it does not

work.

Another reason that it is tough is that taking tests is very hard and you don't know if the people online e-learning are cheating.

This is why I think that online learning is harder.

Hybrid Schedule Makes Middle School Tough This Year



**By Juliana Maffei
Tusker Tribune Staff**

The worst thing about middle school is not being able to see your friends as much as last year.

Firstly, we must stay six feet apart in the hallways, classes, lunch, and recess etc. We do not get to interact with them and be able to talk to them easily.

Secondly, I have some friends on the other half who I have not seen in almost a year! Therefore, I wish we can all go in school at the same time.

Thirdly, we only go in school two or three times a week and those days are the only times I get to see my friends, and even then, I can barely interact with them.

Lastly, we do not have lockers this year! Last year we got to interact with our friends a lot because in the mornings and afternoons, we got to spend some time at or lockers. My locker was really close to most of my friends' lockers, and that was really fun!

In conclusion, the worst thing about middle school is not being able to see your friends as much as last year.

Kids Concentrate Better in School



**By Juliet Gherardi
Tusker Tribune Staff**

I believe that working in a classroom is easier for kids because when you are in school, it is easier for them to concentrate.

But when you are at home, there could be distractions and other things that make it hard to focus on Zoom. I also think working in school is better because you can still see your friends while being socially distanced and wearing masks.

I believe that working at home during tests is an advantage because kids could be using notes or looking things up. I would rather work in school because I can focus more and learn better.

I also think that kids should be in school because it gives them a better chance to get better at something they are not. Lastly, I believe kids should be working in school because they can see their friends, focus more, and learn better.



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