

## Distance Learning Reflection Survey (May 2020)

### Open-Ended Survey Questions on Positives and Challenges

Students and parents were asked about their most positive experiences and their most challenging experiences during distance learning. A summary of major themes is provided directly below, followed by a few, select representative quotes by respondent group.

#### **Summary of Positives**

1. The live interaction between teachers and students via Zoom is a valued component of distance learning.
2. The self-paced, flexible learning schedule has led to the development of time management and self-regulation skills, which fosters deeper content understanding and student success.
3. Teachers' continued commitment to meeting student and family needs has improved connections with families.
4. Parent engagement in student learning has increased.
5. Students were able to get more sleep and families had more time together.

#### **Summary of Challenges**

1. Maintaining student focus and engagement has been a struggle.
2. In-person or real-time interactions are needed to support the learning experience.
3. Problems continue with technology and connectivity.
4. Balancing the workload associated with the distance learning experience is difficult.

### Positive Experiences

#### **1. The live interaction between teachers and students via Zoom is a valued component of distance learning.**

Students:

"Zoom meetings so I could talk to my teacher and ask questions, and see my friends."

"The most positive experience in distance learning is getting to log on to zoom every week and getting to see my classmates and teacher!"

"Being able to talk to my teachers and classmates has been my most positive experience during distance learning."

Parents:

"Virtual meetings are crucial to both of my children. That interaction with others is a huge highlight of their day. It's something to discuss at dinner, it's engagement that I wish happened everyday."

"Zoom Meetings with teacher and classmates to discuss/clarify assignments."

"I love that his teacher does zoom daily. She challenges them and teaches but also uses it to let them catch up and share."

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### **2. The self-paced, flexible learning schedule has led to the development of time management and self-regulation skills, which fosters deeper content understanding and student success.**

Students:

"I have been able to work more independently and at my own pace, which has been helpful for understanding."

"It been really nice since I have been able to move at my own pace, so I am able to get ahead or slow down when I need to."

"My most positive experiences during distance learning has been getting to work at my own pace and it has been a good way for me to practice time management."

"I've been able to work on being a more independent student and self-teach myself things. I think distance learning has prepared me more for college."

Parents:

"My daughter is able to take her time and fully understand the concepts."

"Working at our own pace and having the ability to go back and review things that have already been covered without feeling bad for asking questions or not understanding something."

"The students feel a better sense of independence and autonomy over their schedules and distance learning has taught them how to manage their own time to complete projects."

"My son developed a strong sense of responsibility and being self reliant."

### **3. Teachers' continued commitment to meeting student and family needs has improved connections with families.**

Parents:

"100% engaged, creative and committed teachers who have nothing else but the students well-being in mind. I could not be more pleased with their level of dedication to our children and their learning! It continues to be amazing!"

"I can tell my child's teacher really cares and wants the kid to be successful. She is available, approachable, and has been flexible with all the glitches that have come up."

"Teachers have been great responding to emails and always willing to help."

### **4. Parent engagement in student learning has increased.**

Parents:

"The most positive experience is being able to watch my child learn and interact with her teacher. I would've been unable to do this during a 'regular' school day."

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“The most positive experience for our family has been getting to know our children as students. I like to see their participation in the zoom meetings and see their problem solving first-hand.”

“Having a more active role in my kids education and feeling like I am helping/making a difference in how they learn.”

### **6. Students were able to get more sleep and families had more time together.**

Students:

“Being able to get more sleep, spend time with my family, do things I normally wouldn't be able to in a normal school year.”

“I am happy that I have been able to get a lot more sleep. I always feel energized in the morning. It makes me ready to work.”

“I like being able to sleep in later...Under my own schedule, my brain is fresher. Now, I am working on homework starting around 11 or 12 'o clock in the afternoon with a fresh mind, versus starting my homework at 4 'o clock in the evening with a mind fatigued from the previous school day. Ultimately, this flexible schedule works in favor with my teenage sleep schedule.”

Parents:

“I have enjoyed the additional time with my kids and the opportunity to extend their learning.”

“Spending more time as a family and witnessing firsthand my child's academic strengths and weaknesses.”

“Spending quality time with my child, and seeing him becoming more responsible.”

## **Challenging Experiences**

### **1. Maintaining student focus and engagement has been a struggle.**

Students:

“My most challenging experiences have been staying focused on work.”

“Although I love independent work, I really feel that being unable to see and talk my peers and teachers contributes to my lack of motivation for schoolwork.”

“Having motivation to do the work.”

Parents:

“Keeping my students focused on school while there are other distractions at home (parents, younger siblings, household living). It is difficult to keep students engaged to complete their work, especially if it is review. They benefit from peer support and their teacher as authority.”

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“My child is not engaged with school at all. He clicks into his classes, does the bare minimum and that’s it. He is barely passing.”

“Keeping my kids on task and motivated to learn.”

### ***2. In-person or real-time interactions are needed to support the learning experience.***

Students:

“I learn better visually. My most challenging experience would be that it is sometimes hard to understand a certain thing when it’s not a face to face communication.”

“Not being able to have questions answered in a way I’d understand it because I can’t ask questions in real time.”

“The most challenging experience during distance learning is emailing and asking questions. I can still ask questions over email, but it can take multiple emails and time for the answer to be completed.”

### ***3. Problems continue with technology and connectivity.***

Students:

“My most challenging experiences during distance learning involve the technical issues we encounter using certain resources for completing specific assignments.”

“My most challenging experiences during distance learning was when my WiFi was being unstable or was unable to connect while I was on a zoom meeting or when I was doing an assignment.”

“Not all teachers have the same formats. Some use zoom. Some use stream some use upcoming. Some use classwork. Some use student vue. The formatting is too different for each class as far as platforms. There should be specific and consistent platforms for all classes.”

### ***4. Balancing the workload associated with the distance learning experience is difficult.***

Students:

“The most challenging experiences would have been the amount of homework in a week and sometimes not having enough resources to help you complete the homework.”

“My most challenging experience during distance learning is having to manage school work with the work that I have to do at home to help my family.”

“Having a lot of work from each class can be very difficult to manage, especially when you have siblings or other responsibilities at home you need to take care of, along with having to do good in school is a lot to handle at times.”

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### Parents:

"We have 3 children, no outside help, and we are both working full time. To expect us to also teach our children school work is impossible."

"Two full time parents working swing and nightshift has been very challenging...Finding the time to sit daily with each child (we have three) has been extremely challenging."

"Working full time 9 hours a day...massive guilt on each side while working and not sitting with kids, then sitting with kids and not working. The guilt is overwhelming and also lends to an impatient teacher on my end."