

# VIRTUALLY

"I like that Zoom gives us social time even when we are not physically in school. I don't mind them, to be honest. They are a different way of teaching."

—Joshua Nelson (10)

"Someone was playing Among Us during class, and they forgot to mute themselves. We could hear the game they were playing."

—Lauren Watt (9)

"I didn't realize my mic was on, and I had a whole conversation with my brother about how he can't cook."

—Justice Williams (9)

"Zoom calls are helpful at times, but I'd rather be at school. Normally people only talk when they are asked a question while others don't like to show their faces."

—Faith Riley (10)

"One time I answered a question my teacher asked me and my cousin whispered, 'you're doing great,' to me. My whole class could hear her."

—Kayleigh Doecker (11)

"No one wants to be the first one to talk, and teachers are focusing more on what they are teaching."

—Gracie Shwalm (9)

"You can't communicate very well or have one on one conversations. Sometimes they can be helpful, but I wish they were optional."

—Cassidy Noftzger (11)

"You can Zoom into your class hour to talk to your teacher with something you're confused on. They can help you then instead of having to wait until your next face to face class."

—Talyn Willingham-Davis (9)

"One time I got onto a zoom call a few minutes late and all my friends shouted my name when I joined. After that we had a whole talk about me in the middle of class."

—Maurice Cullum Jr (11)

"It's hard to keep up with our teacher's schedules. I feel like zoom lessons can be boring and drawn out, and only some of the students show up for them."

—Rance Watts (12)

"We're usually muted so we don't get to talk much. We sometimes get to do breakout rooms but we talk about our assignment that we are working on."

—Laurn Schoen (10)

"Zoom calls are easy and quick. I do not mind them. Sometimes I don't wake up in time or I'm not motivated to work on it."

—Drew Padgett (10)

"Most teachers get straight to teaching the lessons so I think less time is wasted. We shouldn't have Zoom lessons that often; it would be easier to learn in person or through videos."

—Morgan Witte (10)

"During one of my Zoom calls, one of my dogs walked in front of my camera to get my food. Then my other dog hit a button and unmuted me."

—Hannah Merenbloom (9)

Join Audio

Stop Video

Security

Participants

Chat

Share Screen

Record

Reactions

End

## connected

With all of the complications of the year, students explain how their teachers made it a little more normal by getting to know each other in more ways than just ice breakers and games.

Not a single student knew what to expect the morning of Sep. 8, the first day of school. Everyone woke up full of uncertainty, as half of were getting ready to go to school for the first time in months and the other half attempted to logon to Canvas to figure out how their online assignments were going to work for the day.

Students and teachers alike knew it would be way harder to get to know each other and make connections since mandates required social distancing and students only attended school twice a week.

"I loved the format my teacher used because she didn't force you to memorize something or to speak a lot. We showed parts of our personality without having to say much," Allie Hillman (12) said. "She asked what clubs we were in, what pets we have and what jobs we have. It makes the environment seem a lot less awkward for the first day of school."

Building connections could sometimes be difficult enough, but with everything going on, getting closer became harder. Teachers knew that finding things personal to their students made it easier and

kept students more open.

"My Adv ELA teacher likes to do ice breakers, but not the awkward ones that nobody likes, but about things we are interested in," Blue Robinson (11) said. "I love it because I get to share my love for reading and music, and I get to connect with my classmates in a time where physical connection isn't possible."

Students began to find, as the first week went on, many teachers had their own ways of getting to know their students.

"My favorite technique teachers use is when they break the class up into breakout rooms to get to know a few of our classmates by talking with each other and asking questions," Abby Edwards (9) said. "My teacher started out by sending us into breakout rooms to answer a getting to know you question just so we could get to know some of the students in the class."

"The best connection strategy that I've done so far has been in Spanish III with Señora Dominguez," Santina Juma (10) said. "My class played a round of Gimkit with questions about ourselves that we created. It was a quick way to learn faces and new things about others."

story by Haylee O'Meara; layout by Rylie Hutchison



16 student

## ALLCOOPEDUP

"I got to manage the student section, make sure they were all six feet apart, wearing masks, and being loud. It was hard because I missed two of the football games, and I wasn't able to cheer on my friends. I also dressed up as the theme for one of the games, and I watched both the football and volleyball games online."

—Carson Bodinson (12)

"One thing I did during quarantine was get back into reading books; it was a good escape and something that helped me relax. I also watch the football games at home with friends and family to still support the school. Another thing I did was set reminders on my phone so I didn't forget to do my school assignments."

—Kylee Pinkerton (11)

Students discuss how required quarantines affected them and what they did to keep their school spirit during it.

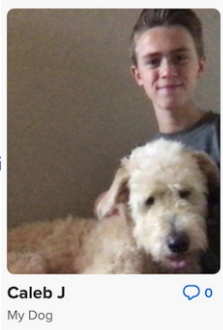
sidebars by Rylie Hutchison

"Not being able to show up to games really was a bummer, it's one of the things I look forward to during the week and without that, it's really sad. Every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday I watched the volleyball and football games online to try and show support."

—Bryan Brown (11)

## breaking the ice

Virtual and Face to face students shared what their teachers did to get to know them the first few weeks of school.



Caleb Jones (9)

"My favorite ice breaker was when my ELA teacher had a 'take your pet to school' day where we turned in flip grids showing our pets."

—Brijet Sun (9)



## BADDIE BRAYDEN

"[ELA teacher Roselynn] Zicarelli had us play this game where we came up with nicknames for everyone and go around the room saying them, like a kid in my class is Brayden, so we called him 'Baddie Brayden.'"

—Keeton Gaukel (9)

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