

Hello Parents, Guardians, and Students. Hello families!!!

I am a bigtime bummed that we all cannot meet in person. It is the world of now, which, thankfully, will not always be the case. But for now, as you know, everything has changed, at least somewhat. Some for the better perhaps, and some, well, who knows? But at least, we still have community.

Part of every community are schools, and a lot has changed in these institutions of community. I have heard and seen a lot of those changes as you have, first hand. Families have experienced the change in school from the home front, a difficult timeframe (an understatement to say the least). So today, I want to give my experience from the students' workplace, this high school, and specifically, the classes I have as an educator.

World Culture and Art, during second period, has one distance learner student. The course is designed to be a discussion based one, so things have been a challenge. It seems to be working, albeit at a slightly slower pace than in previous years. Google Meets via a link that are found in the Goggle Classroom set up for the course are helpful in communication and conducting those very necessary discussions. Sometimes it is a hit or miss, but we make the best out of any situation.

English class, a combined Junior and Senior English course, is during third period and has been in a unit of review that just finished up in time for the quarter grades that are upcoming. Students worked hard in class workshops to review notes, get on-board repetitions done, and have had time to ask questions to get clarification of concepts, remember Standard English Conventions, cement in the minds MLA formatting, and finally recall grammatical structures and their functions. The assessment of the Review Unit Test is wrapping up, but these areas of our English language will be ones we visit time and again all year during Sentence Notes. Students will have the opportunity to get them in their skill-set toolbox. All are proceeding at their pace, and we are all moving ahead in this work.

The Freshman course of Success 101 has been an interesting jump into the minds of our school's youngest students. They are exploring their passions, what they value, what they may want their future lifestyle to be, what career will get them there, and how to get the skills to get that career. One thing leads to another in this course, and now, students have the opportunity to earn their "pink slip" to take to the DMV after they complete the DMV Student Guidebook and Testing course within a course. Getting a driver's license is a big stepping stone to success, and many of our students seem excited to take that step!

Physical Education during sixth period is with both Freshman and Sophomores, and students have generally been very understanding of this year's COVID-19 protocols. It has been a smoky start to the school year as you all know, and with this too, the students have been generally understanding when it comes to health concerns in going or not going outside. The students, prior to the smoke, help to set up the new PE-Disc Golf course. It is a mini-course, only 5 holes for now, but it is a course that future PE students will have the opportunity to play.

All in all, though a difficult start, students and staff are settling in and doing that education that we do. I know I appreciate them all. I appreciate the willingness to give it a go and make best of a highly strange and difficult time in our country and indeed the world. Together our community will survive these times and be stronger for it. Thank you all for taking the time to read about a small piece of our community school.