



# Saint Peter's Catholic School

Olney, Maryland

*Unlacking potential through faith and knowledge since 1957*

May 2020

## Students Reflect on Their Experiences During Distance Learning

*Gabby Georges, 8th Grade*

Online school has become a very typical or normal thing for students to be part of. I am one of those students that takes online classes Monday through Friday. I believe that everyone is going to have very different experiences and feelings towards this new way of learning. For me, I find that it is easiest to start my work as early in the day as possible. It helps me focus and I tend to get my work done around 1 or 2. I keep all distracting devices turned off (Unless I need to ask a friend for help) and I try to keep my schedule as if I was still attending school in person. I have snack, lunch, and I try to keep up with my specials as well. I email my teachers when I need help, and I am so thankful for the patience they exhibit throughout the school day. I end my work by going through to make sure I didn't forget any assignments or emails, and then I look forward to catching up with friends for the rest of the day.



Although my days are organized and scheduled, I noticed that I am starting to miss the small details during the school day that one can't possibly schedule. I miss sitting with my friends at lunch and laughing until our bellies hurt, winning during a Quizlet Live, or even just having fun, light-hearted conversations with your teachers. All these things don't feel the same through a screen. They happen, but no one has the same excitement or energy towards them anymore. I also miss the big things. As an eighth grader, I was just reaching the part of my school year when all the large, exhilarating, school spirited events took place. I miss my eighth grade versus teacher basketball game, tech week for our annual spring musical, Confirmation, and Field Day. After I realize all the events and memories I am missing, it makes online school feel a bit dull, but at the same time, this pandemic has taught me to enjoy everything in every situation because it might not last forever. So, I then choose to find things that are exciting about online school. I enjoy zoom classes because I can see everyone's face and I also enjoy the fact that I can finish my work at a faster pace.

Learning through a screen has opened my eyes to see how we shouldn't take the smallest things for granted, but it has also taught me how to be responsible for my work and take control of my learning so I can do my best. I know that everyone will probably have a different experience, but this was mine and I am very thankful for the lessons this has taught me. I pray that when this is all over, people will see the beauty in life and how lucky we are to be alive. I also pray that kids my age will come out with more

knowledge in how to do things for themselves, and with a new sense of responsibility. We can and will make it through this pandemic, we just need to believe in God and turn to him in times of need.



*Matt Bowers, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade*

Work in quarantine has not been that bad. I wake up at or before 8 each day, and I go downstairs to eat breakfast. While I'm eating breakfast, I start on the homework for the day. I usually do my subjects in order of what my schedule would be like in school. I would sit down, put my AirPods in, start playing music, and I guess you could say I started grinding from there. Obviously, I did my best on the work, but I got it done quickly and efficiently (usually done by 1). It also hasn't been that lonely either. I usually do group FaceTime calls with my friends, or I communicate with them through Snapchat, Zooms, or texting.

I have also kept myself busy when I am not doing schoolwork. After I'm done with my work, I usually play videogames. I'm usually playing NBA 2K 20 or I am watching YouTube. I'm very passionate about Rock n' Roll, so I sometimes grab my guitar and start "rocking out". It really annoys my family, but what else is new. I've also been watching a lot of movies. My personal favorites of what I've watched are Ferris Buehler's Day Off, Rocky III, and Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure. There are also moments where I get bored. Usually I'll do a puzzle, discover a new type of music, or just think about the world, but I never stay bored for long. In my opinion, homeschool hasn't been all that bad.

*Rita Hauge, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade*

Quarantine has been very different than our normal lives. We are no longer allowed to go to places without a mask, or even see our friends without being six feet away. This is a period in our lives that is completely different than anything we have ever experienced before and all of us are out of our comfort zone, not knowing what to do. Our schools are closed, and both the teachers and students must adjust to the new way of learning through distance learning. However, our community has grown closer together because of this experience and we now see so many more families becoming closer by going outside for nice walks during this beautiful spring weather. The teachers at the school I attend, Saint Peter's School Olney MD, have been exceptional at helping us adjust to this new way of learning and give all the students a great example of how to continue to stay close to our Lord even when times are very hard.



My experiences of distance learning have been filled with both joy and hardships. The new way of learning had to take some getting used to in the beginning. The teachers were great at answering any questions we did have, but the whole new way of learning was quite confusing at first. Luckily, after the first week of getting adjusted, this distance learning has started to become easier to navigate and we are continuing to learn many new things, just as if we were in school. Our teachers are amazing at

helping when we have any problems or questions, and they are always there when we have a question about an assignment. Sadly, because of this distance learning and no longer being able to go to school, we have missed out on all the fun activities. I am an eighth grader; therefore, the end of this year was going to be filled with fun activities since we will soon be leaving the school. However, now we can no longer do all those fun things, such as playing in the student versus faculty basketball game or having fun with our friends on field day. All these things were going to bring such great memories, but even though we can no longer participate in them, we must be thankful for all the other memories that we were blessed to have during our eighth-grade year. I have had a very good distance learning experience, and even though I am very sad about the fact that we are not in school with our friends, I have tried my best to stay positive and focus on all the blessings we have received.

During distance learning, I have realized that when hard times come, the community really comes together and helps each other out. Our school had a spirit week and got everyone connected through sending pictures of exciting activities that we have been doing. Our life is not normal right now, and even though our world is going through some very hard times, it teaches us that we really need to rely on God for all things, and through the power of prayer we can get through anything that comes our way. This has given us a perfect opportunity to help others, especially those who are lonely and cannot see their families. Even though we cannot physically be there with them, we can support them through our prayers and small acts of kindness such as a nice card. In conclusion, distance learning has not been the ideal situation for the ending of our school year, but with God at our side and the amazing help of the wonderful schools in our area, we can make it filled with many fun and joyful memories.