

Stories of Genesee Hill: Remote Learning

In December and January of the 2021-22 school year, the Genesee Hill PTA asked members of our school community to share stories about children's experiences with remote learning during the pandemic. Below is a summary of the 42 responses we received. We'd like to thank everyone who participated in this and hope that it sheds some light on how remote learning has affected children, teachers and families.

During one online class my kinder popped the screen out of the basement window, climbed out of it and went outside to play. His teacher is wonderful but he's high energy. Screens often don't keep his attention.

Remote learning is extremely challenging. My child has a disability. They're now required to be online more than their peers. Using things like speech to text helps give them tools that weren't available in the classroom though.

As a teacher my workload has dramatically increased. I feel I'll never catch up.

Our privilege has shown through and we've fared well. We work from home and our children are independent. We've enjoyed spending extra time together as a family.

My kids give up quickly and don't persist through hard tasks the way they likely would in person.

We've had some trouble connecting to live classes but mainly the kids have been pretty independent. Attaching documents to Schoology and showing work in math has been a little challenging.

I am barely hanging on.

We miss the school playground! My kids loved playing there and I'd love for them to get more exercise.

The 'digital divide' for my child is not due to lack of access or opportunity. He's on the Autism Spectrum and has anxiety, depression and ADHD. He did well academically before remote learning but cannot relate to people through a screen. He now attends online classes but doesn't participate and only does a tiny percentage of schoolwork. If he goes back in the fall of 2021, he'll have lost a year and a half of education and social connection. We'd never take the spot from another student with a greater need but he'll suffer in a different way.

So much time teaching online has changed my posture, vision and well-being. I have more headaches and trouble sleeping

We're grateful to the school for its support.

I've been blown away by my 5th grader's abilities to navigate his computer.

Our children having the motivation to log into, participate, complete assignments for classes and stay "on task" has been hard. One parent has had to reduce work hours to make sure our child doesn't fall behind. We've seen him make progress and feel connected to his work in a new way but overall it's been extremely challenging.

My 2nd grader has been fine-she's a great rule follower. My kinder daughter has struggled a bit more. Our stable home internet connection and iPad we received from the school have helped us a lot.

My child loves doing small group read alouds in her fourth grade class.

Many fifth grade students have learned to organize their time well and get a head start on organizational skills needed in middle school.

Home environments present big equity issues. Some students are at home alone. Many students need one-on-one support and don't get it.

There has been a decline in physical health for students and educators.

My teaching team and administration has been wonderfully supportive but I can't say the same about the district. I'd like to see a transition plan that shows how we can get back to teaching in person in an organized and safe way.

My kids are less distracted by peer behavior.

My student told me she's happy she learned to use computers so well in 2020! I'm impressed with Microsoft Teams. The biggest frustration is trying to use on-screen interface for so many assignments. We've gotten around it by printing but what about families that don't have a printer?

My kids feel very attached to their teachers but less so now to their friends.

Remote learning has been different for each child. My older one has anxiety and dysgraphia- online learning has worked well for him and creative lessons have even gotten him excited about learning. My younger daughter needs community to learn and has wanted me to touch base with him throughout the day.