

NDLOVU'S 8/9 CLASS NEWSLETTER

June 1, 2020

Perspectives on distance learning

By Kate M.

Distance learning was a sudden new change for everyone. Turning homes into classrooms required families to make new routines. Parents are working to know the expectations of distance learning and what it means for their child. Students are balancing home and school responsibilities, and teachers are trying to find the best ways to keep kids connected and engaged. So how has distance learning changed our world?

Kids have mixed emotions on learning at home. In a *New York Times* article (“What Students Are Saying About Remote Learning”) they asked kids what they thought about distance learning. One girl named Hannah states, “If you had told me a few months ago that I would be praying to go to school, I would’ve laughed and called you crazy, but I would do anything to go back to my school.” Some kids could totally relate to this while others love to get to work at their own pace and have more freedom. While students are learning at home some parents are working from home, how are families balancing these responsibilities?

This pandemic is not only keeping kids at home, parents have to figure out how to balance their work, home and kids school life. So how do they feel about this? Well in a different article by the *New York Times* one person said, “There was a moment this month when I was helping my eight-year-old with his school science project while spelling the word “mermaid” out loud for my five-year-old while browning meat on the stove and while building a work call.” A lot of



parents feel overwhelmed by everything that is needing to be done. But on the other side of things, some people feel that this is giving their family time to connect better.

How are teachers feeling about learning at home? Many teachers miss the ability to see students every day, and work with them, according to an article (“Teachers and Students Describe a Remote-Learning Life”). But to every negative, there is a positive. Because of this pandemic, we have learned how to use technology in ways that we might have never known we could do.

Overall, distance learning has provided both positive and negative outcomes. The opportunities for using technology in education are expanding. People are learning new ways of doing things. That said, many people are missing friends and familiar routines. Families are more connected, yet feeling completely overwhelmed. Only time will tell the true impact of a world pandemic on education.

Is distance learning a new normal?

By Emmi E.

With the new way of things and with quarantine making it hard to have any interaction, distance learning is a very helpful solution to not being able to go to school. The one thing that everyone is wondering about is, Is this a new normal? Or how long will this last? A lot of people want to go back to school in the fall, but is that possible?

Right now for Wisconsin the safer at home order lasted until May 26, 2020, according to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. This means that stores will start opening and we will slowly go back if it's not extended. But on the other hand, Vox magazine says that scientists think we could be social distancing for at least a couple more months unless we let hundreds of thousands people die.

In conclusion, there really is no way to tell if distance learning will be a regular thing. For now it's the best option we have. Most students would prefer to go back to "normal," but some also like the convenience of doing school on their own time.

Is distance learning better than regular school?

No	Yes
<p><i>By Austin K.</i></p> <p>For my newsletter assignment I made a Google form to see how everyone else is doing with distance learning. I was curious about how other people were feeling about it. In the form are questions about how you feel about distance learning, and how you feel it compares to school. If you would like to participate in answering the survey questions, copy and paste this link into your browser: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScSPQ5I9P8ZHDYk5jB-XRByc-nL3VOps3xykY1UFaLrZr3AJQ/viewform?usp=sf_link</p> <p>In my opinion, distance learning is worse than actual school because it is harder to get help and there is not as much work, so we are learning less.</p>	<p><i>By Ty P.</i></p> <p>Is distance learning better than regular school? I think yes for at least two reasons.</p> <p>One reason I think distance learning is better is because you fit learning in your at-home life. This prepares you for later when you have jobs.</p> <p>Another reason I think it's better is because you set your own pace of study. Unlike school, where you are timed during and in-between classes. When you're at home, you can set your own pace.</p> <p>I think these are two solid reasons why online school is just as good or better than regular school.</p>

How to improve your art skills

Over quarantine and art related things to do when your bored

By Carly G.

Over quarantine, I have found a lot of spare time, and that means lots of time to work on and improve my art, while trying new things. In this article I will be sharing tips on how to improve your art skills, and also things I have been doing along with other ideas for art related activities to do while you're bored at home.

TIPS ON HOW TO IMPROVE

If you really want to improve here are some tips. Try to draw or be creative every day or as much as you want to improve. Making art every day is an important part of improving your skills because even if you're not happy with all of your work, you will still improve over time. And everyone knows practice makes perfect; no, it doesn't, because nobody is perfect and as artists it can be hard to remember that.

Tip number two, try to stay positive. "Artists are their own worst critics," so if you feel negatively about your work just ask for outside opinion aside from your own. Try asking a friend or family member for an opinion; trust me it will probably be positive.

Tip number three, never give up. Your eraser is your best friend; if something doesn't look right, just keep trying. If you are using a reference photo to draw, try to simplify the image into basic shapes and lines. And if the art idea came from your head then try to rethink what you are drawing and how it could look.

Tip number four, watch/look at lots of tutorials. Whether it's a video, picture or an art book, a tutorial can really help a lot. In my opinion, art tutorial videos are the best because you can always rewatch them and get new things from them every time, while also following along with them. You can also learn great new tips and techniques too, while learning how to make art.



THINGS TO DO WHEN YOUR BORED

- Try making art with a new medium, gray scale with pencils, colored pencil, watercolor, Acrylic/oil painting, art makers etc...
- Try making a new style of art, abstract, cartoon(y), realistic, calligraphy/hand lettering, digital art etc...
- Draw or paint on something, shoes, notebooks, folders, phone cases, rocks, bottles etc...
- Try photography, you don't need a camera, you can take some really cool pictures with your phone, there are also a lot of really good editing apps
- Make crafts, learn how to sew, knit, crochet, make bracelets woodworking etc...
- Make art for a friend or family member
- Make a card for someone

And finally, if you interested in sharing your art, Ms. Sandy has started a Google classroom where all students are free to post pictures of their art, and give feedback to other students about their art. Ms. Sandy also gives really good feedback. She also posts weekly art challenges, prompts and ideas. If this sounds interesting to you then join the art enrichment Google classroom, here's the class code: zan2zxy. See you there!

Can COVID-19 make you mentally stronger?

By Julia A.

There have been big changes lately in our world: school's shutdown, no more sports, and working from home. Even though this is a rough time in our lives, can these things make our minds mentally stronger? In this site right below written by Ashley Ertel it talks to us about how we can stay mentally tough during this hard time!

<https://www.talkspace.com/blog/coronavirus-staying-mentally-tough/>

One of the things that she talks about in the article is having mindful distractions. In hard times like these, you always want to fill your mind with positive, healthy and helpful information. To get these thoughts in your head, you could read positive, podcast, books, and news stories. Ashley also says that none of us have experienced anything like this so just focus on the words that people are saying that want to help everyone get through this!

Another thing to help make you stay mentally stronger is focusing on your growth in the past months. What have you gotten better at during this time or what have you learned to do during this time? I know that I have gotten better at cooking during quarantine, and I've learned how to do new things in school! One thing that Ashley says is that one important thing that you need to

remember is to "bounce back" after a hard day.

For example one quote that I am going by during this time is "you can be sad and upset for a few minutes but you can't stay there forever." This means that it may be hard to focus on the positive every second of the day but you can't get to the other side of the storm without going through it. It might be hard but just remember all the hard work that you have put in already.

The last thing that the article explains is to find glimmers of hope! This means to find really anything to hope for; it could be seeing you friends again, going back to your job or going on that vacation that your family has planned! Ashley tells us that even the smallest amount of hope can be the tiny light that we need to get through the dark tunnel. Just imagine all those tired medical professors that are working day and night to save lives! Make that inspiration for you to work harder and to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Staying mentally strong during COVID-19 will make it easier for you in the end. Having positive mindful distractions, focusing on your growth and seeing little glimmers of hope can help us get through this tough time. These are just some things that you can do to stay mentally strong. Always remember that life is about taking steps, tip-toe if you must but take the step!

Learn about a new dinosaur: Kaprosuchus

By Lily B.

The kaprosuchus is an extinct dinosaur that lived in the late cretaceous period 100.5 - 93.9 million years ago. The name Kaprosuchus comes from the greek word meaning "boar crocodile". Their eyes are positioned like today's crocodiles, so their heads can be underwater while their eyes are above. The Kaprosuchus belonged to the Mahajangasuchidae family. The Kaprosuchus reached up to about six meters, or twenty feet. The diet of the Kaprosuchus is unknown, but due to their size, and jaw, it is most likely that they had a piscivore diet. The Kaprosuchus is not a dino you would want to mess with, due to the fact it galloped and had very powerful jaws. The Kaprosuchus nasal bones are fused together and are thought to be reinforcement for a powerful bite.

How you can stay healthy at home

By Alex V.

We've all been affected by the Coronavirus pandemic. Around the middle of March, we were ordered to stay at home, and as of May 21, it's starting to end, but may have to come back due to a new mystery illness linked to COVID-19 in children. However, this does mean you have to stay healthy in order to have less chances of getting infected with Coronavirus or other illnesses. The list below contains, according to the World Health Organization and Hackensack Meridian Hospital, what you can do to stay healthy at your own household, and why it's important for you to do these things during this pandemic.

- Keep a clean home environment. You should keep the house and yourself sanitized. When there's guests coming to your house, sanitize every object that is touched a lot, such as doorknobs, tables, and TV remotes. You should also wash your hands after returning home.
- Staying physically active is a major priority. According to the sources in the article, you should do at the minimum, 30 minutes of exercise for adults, and an hour for children. You can do Physical Education, watch yoga videos, or go outside and bike around the neighborhood, as long as you're taking extra precautions, like wearing a mask.
- Use a balanced diet for eating. Staying healthy means you should eat a balanced amount and various types of food. Eating

healthy will make your body stronger and healthier and increase your chances of not getting infected with diseases and viruses.

- People during this time are terrified, and uncertain on the future of the virus and their businesses. Controlling your mental health is very, very important. You should be informed of the pandemic through any trusted news source, like NBC, ABC, and NPR News, but try to minimize reading or watching news if it terrifies you. You should also have a daily routine, so you can stay organized on what you're gonna do. Lastly, take any precautions necessary in order to control your mental health, such as taking medication or limiting screen time.

This above list proves how important staying healthy at home or in general is because it states that it's vitally important to avoid getting sick from the virus or any other disease, and will help make your body stronger, and your brain smarter. It will also help avoid fearful and uncertain feelings that you may have during this time that may cause problems for others, such as panic buying.

Remember folks, staying healthy is your top priority during this pandemic. I recommend you to use the list in the article, indoors, and outdoors, so you can have a better chance of not catching any disease, so you can have a good day while waiting for the Coronavirus pandemic to end.

Sources: [World Health Organization](#) - [Hackensack Meridian Hospital](#)