

## ➤ Story #1 (Secondary):

With 29 years of teaching, I have been behind this year:

- I arrive 7:15. leave after 5 work thru my 30 min lunch and scramble on my prep.
- students arrive 8:29 and are my responsibility until classes actual start @9:05
- 4th period teachers had to take a large chunk of their lunchtime to assign seats and escort students to the cafeteria areas.
- I have hybrid classes 1st-3rd and virtual classes 5th-7th. The virtual students number 45, 57, and 69. It takes me 30 min to zoom and take attendance which is not accurate because students send emails, texts, and calls to describe technician issues.
- I have no fridge nor microwave to place or heat my "snack" that was once my lunch.
- I have no lounge.
- I am trying to teach in person, answering calls and texts with my principal/district wanting more and more of my precious time.
- I do not need more on my plate. I started behind when I could have used this summer to prepare mentally, physically & socially.

I need more time to implement changes with less PL/District/Zoom demands. Have you tried to Zoom? It is a nice casual catch up not effective collaboration nor academic standards for teaching. Never have I felt so discouraged, unorganized, unsafe, unprepared and unwilling to take on more. We have to do better; for students, staff and families—we must.

## ➤ Story #2 (Elementary):

Our second grade teacher hasn't been able to socially distance her students because her numbers are so high, and she was just told she getting more students next week. I am maxed out in my room—one more student and we won't be socially distanced either. I know there are a lot of classrooms around the district that have too many in-person students to be socially distanced. We were told that safety was the first priority, and that social distancing was non-negotiable, but now we are just told, "Do the best you can."

## ➤ Story #3 (Secondary):

A link I have had on my LMS page for this entire week (and it worked even yesterday afternoon for students) was blocked on Friday. It left me in a major lurch with no warning. Teachers do not need to have more to do. Our content filters are too strict if a simple "Be Kind" video is blocked. Teachers' lives should be made easier in these times, not more difficult. It seems we won't know if a Youtube video will work for a student until they actually try it, and this can change from day to day. While there is a system to get a video or link unblocked, it is a time-consuming process, and material that is relevant to this week's lessons may not have any applicability two weeks from now. Plus, why would anyone think there would be a need to fill out a technology request to unblock a video that isn't blocked? Are we supposed to anticipate that a link that works for students for several days will suddenly be blocked? Are teachers really expected to get on a student computer and check every link for every student every morning? I have kids who are at all different levels. I wasn't planning on them watching all of the videos—just telling certain students to watch certain ones (whatever they needed based on their prior knowledge and readiness to learn). In an attempt to be proactive, I spent part of my weekend compiling a list of videos that I want to get approved (middle school math related). Unfortunately, the link for approval doesn't work from my house. Evidently, you have to be physically present at school (on the school network) to use the link. I'm trying to do the right thing here. I'm sad and frustrated.