

## ➤ Story #1 (Elementary):

I feel like no matter how many hours I spend trying to keep up I just keep falling farther and farther behind. My remote parents have been great—very patient and understanding, but I still feel like I am shortchanging my virtual students. For the first time in my entire career, I feel like I am not a good teacher. I am working late into the night every night and all weekend, but it's not enough. Some things are beyond my control. There are tech issues that I can't fix. For example, is it possible to get new students' usernames and passwords working more quickly? I got two new students last week, and their usernames and passwords still do not work. That means no Clever, no Power School, no access to all this "stuff" we're supposed to be using. Helpdesk told my building coach that it takes a WEEK for it to work, but it used to be a couple of days. This is just insane. These students literally can do NOTHING the rest of the kids are doing without their usernames and passwords working. I feel terrible for them. My students have been wonderful, which just makes me feel more guilty about not being a better teacher for them. They deserve better. Teachers deserve better too. I have missed plan periods covering classes, I have cut my lunch short, I have interrupted instruction to be tech support, and I have broken down in tears in front of colleagues for the first time in my career. Everyone in our building is under tremendous stress. I am seriously considering a new career, and that breaks my heart.

## ➤ Story #2 (Elementary):

Everything that I love about my job was taken from me with the premature reopening of schools. I had to watch as my students walked into a sterile classroom without giving them any affection or love. My students are placed six feet apart. They can't move around the room. They are in masks so I cannot see their faces. They don't leave the room except for recess and gym. They cannot even play with their neighborhood friends who are in other classes. Zooming with virtual learners while attempting to monitor your in-person students is impossible. You are relying on technology for every single aspect of your day. When tech issues arise, it can negate your entire plans for the day. We can't eat in our lounge, or use our microwaves, but it's not a problem: there is no time for lunch breaks at all. I'm spending them putting out fires and connecting with students virtually. I've never once disliked being a teacher. These last three days have been awful, though. I have no desire to go to work. What does it really hold for me at this point?

## ➤ Story #3 (Secondary):

Due to a staff shortage, I share my LMS with 6 sections of a business class as requested for a long term sub (who keeps changing I think?). The class is using all my stuff and my LMS page, which I don't mind sharing, but at the same time, those 200 or so students email me, text me, etc. and ask me questions. I had a student ask me when I was going to be in class, and it took me a minute to figure out what they were talking about.

I am also trying to figure out these digital textbooks this week. I have students who have books that aren't synched on Clever and am trying to work with tech support on that. Also, what I see on my end, and what they see on their end (for the digital textbook) is different, so my directions aren't jiving with what they're seeing. That's in both of my classes. My plan for my prep period for the next couple days is to work with all my classes on how to bridge that gap. I'm trying to solve those issues for the other classes as well where there is a sub, too.

Somedays I feel like my head is underwater and I have a coffee stir stick rising above the surface to breathe through. I need a bigger straw, but I would prefer scuba gear.