

Story #1 (Elementary):

At my school, there always seems to be a student in the “isolation area,” waiting to be picked up. No one tells us when we are sending someone home for a COVID related reason, and we are told that we will be informed “on a need to know basis.” I have the sibling of a boy sent home on day 1 with symptoms, and I only found out because the sick child was across the hall and that teacher knew I had the sibling. She comes to me every day while brother is quarantined. I guess that doesn't count as need to know?

Yesterday, I was all ready for my math zoom, and was prepared w a video, followed by practice together on the writable version online. Screens froze, kids in class had needs off topic, a kid online wanted to share his unrelated screen with everyone. It was a disaster, and as my eyes filled with tears, I almost bolted from the school because of the panic and anxiety coming on.

I am pretty good with technology, but methods they showed us in training have massive glitches and have to be making us look like fools! I don't even know how to adequately collect the work of my online kids, unless it is some app where you can monitor progress. Turning in work digitally has been a failure for most of us so far.

I have been teaching for over thirty years. I am contemplating how I could find another job at this stage in my career. I would scrape out stalls at the zoo if I physically could. It would bring more satisfaction and sense of accomplishment than this!!

Story #2 (Elementary):

This attendance thing is crazy. It took me 15 mins to go through SeeSaw and find out who turned in assignments for the day at 1:00. My kids had to sit and color because I couldn't use my computer for teaching and for attendance. I really think attendance for remote learners should be taken at the end of the day and logged somehow for that day. It doesn't make any sense to take it and then retake it only to find later on somewhere that kids have turned in SeeSaw assignments, but Clever and the LMS show them as inactive. There has to be a better way. There has been no clear direction given to us and that frustrating and irritating. We don't know what to do. One suggestion is, “well, create a poll.” Ok, sweet—so I can create a poll, but again that won't tell me if a student is working throughout the day or just at 8:30. Then I have parents calling the office after I mark their child absent and telling the office that the student was online. They weren't online that I could see when I sent attendance. I'm exhausted from trying to figure it all out on my own. I will be spending my evenings and most of the weekend creating online assignments since I cannot get anything done during the day. We need help!

Story #3 (Elementary):

I am a special area teacher who is exposed to nearly every student in the building, and who shares an office with another specialist whose desk is about 4 feet from mine. She is currently out sick with COVID-19 symptoms, but she has not yet been tested. Maybe she doesn't have it, but do I feel comfortable? No. The overdose of technology and my efforts to learn it in a short time span have been overwhelming. I am not sleeping or eating well, and I will myself to get up and go to work, knowing that I have another long day ahead and hours of work on the computer after that, mostly feeling like I've wasted the time spent because I don't really know what I'm doing on the LMS. I haven't cried yet, but the wine glass is full every night...and I don't drink. I was already planning to retire at the end of the year. I don't want to, but I may have to do it earlier than that to save my sanity.