

PINE-RICHLAND RAMPAGE

Virtual Reality

Students Share Their Experiences Learning Behind the Screen

ABBY MORELAND STAFF WRITER

This school year has been tough for all of us; whether you chose to do online only or the hybrid model, there are lots of struggles that we all face. We all have had to plan our morning as if we are going to school that day or doing online, but 100% virtual students have a more consistent routine. When asked if making this decision to do all virtual was hard freshman Nicoali Ezolt said, "I just ran with it." This motivation could be helpful for all of us as we need to look on the bright side of things and not worry too much about the uncertain things that may happen.

There may be lots more distractions when at home, but the focus is always on school. When thinking about distractions, freshman Gabriella Williams said, "My phone is always by me." This is an issue I think we are all dealing with, but as we are now into the swing of things, we learn to maintain our focus on school work and try to eliminate easy distractions like our phones. It may be tempting to reply back to that Snapchat that you just got, but for most students that only happens the days they are at home, but for students like Gabriella, it is an everyday struggle.

Another struggle challenge virtual only students face is managing time. We all have to manage our time as high school students and taking higher level classes, but for virtual students they have to manage time after school. Although we get five minutes in between classes at home, that is not enough time to do a whole assignment. It may be hard but getting into a routine is key for these students. Sophomore Brandon Wees said, "I wake up around 7:00/7:15 so I have time beforehand to work on things." Brandon got into a habit of getting up at a reasonable time to be able to work on things before homeroom and have time to prepare for his day. He is able to spread out his work throughout the day and catch up on some small assignments in between classes.

While trying to adjust to doing school virtually, students are also adjusting to the different learning platforms teachers



Rampage Staff interviews five virtual only learning students 10.7.20.

Varying Views on Virtual

SOPHIA DEJESUS STAFF WRITER

As I look around the rooms of my classes, I feel that I am missing so many fellow students that I have yet to meet. The classrooms feel a little empty every time I come to school every other day. Even though it is hard for me to do online and in person classes, I cannot imagine what it is like for all virtual school students.

To gain more perspective and information about online school, our Rampage journalism staff was fortunate enough to interview five students who are all virtual this school year. Through this experience, I gained a more in-depth understanding regarding this topic.

The students first described a virtual day as follows: waking up at around 7:20, eating a good breakfast to hold them over until lunch, and taking a seat at their laptop. Sitting at their laptop and looking at their screen for roughly 8 hours is a daily routine that is very different from in-school learning.

A consistent struggle that all of the interviewees shared was distraction inside their homes or not focusing on the lesson during the meets. Background noise or lack of focus on the computer screen for so long can become worrisome for them if

Story continued on next page.

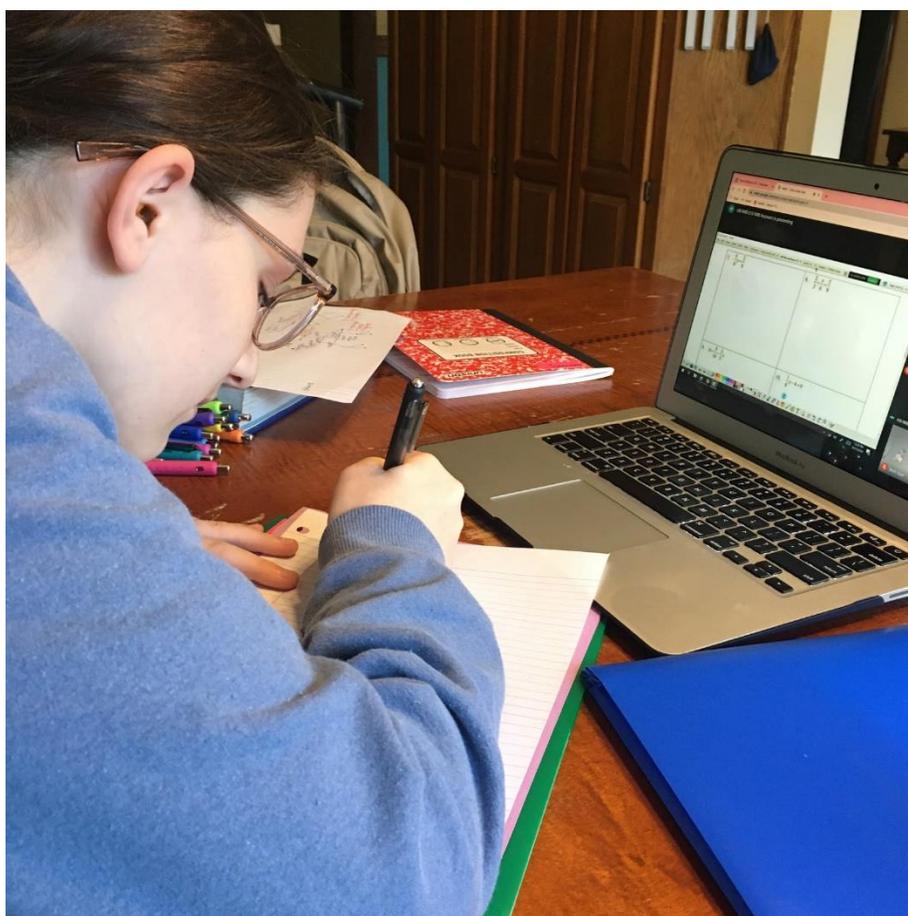
PR LOCAL

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are using. Between balancing Blackboard and Google Classroom, students are juggling a lot of challenges, but these are issues that we all need to adapt to and get used to.

Workload looks a little different for virtual students. Although Brandon, Nicoali, and Gabriella all think virtual learning is less stressful than physically being at school, we all have our own opinions and need to work together to be positive about it.

Weekends are always free, and that is the time when most virtual students find time to hang out with their friends in a safe way. And although they do not see their friends in person at school like some of us, they do still communicate with them whether it is about school, or just to talk.



Junior Savannah Kisow during a virtual lesson. Photo by Allie Kisow.

they do not get the correct notes or class material. To correspond with this struggle, freshman Gabriella Williams said, “The hardest part of being at home is looking at the screen 24/7.”

Freshman Nicolai Ezolt said, “It doesn’t feel like the same in-school experience.”

Seeing that this is the case, paying extra attention to what is needed to be done is extremely vital if you are all online.

Overall, the students expressed feelings of positive and negative aspects of all virtual learning. Some things are easier while other things can present themselves as a challenge. Even though some students are hybrid or virtual, I think that all of us have the same passion for going to school every day.

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JUST FOR FUN

What to Look Forward to

This is the Best Time of the Year

ABBY MORELAND STAFF WRITER

I know that this time of year can be stressful, especially with online school and the dreary weather, but we need to look on the bright side. This time of year can also be the best. It is a time to wrap up the year, have fun, enjoy the holidays, and look forward to the new year.

This year has definitely been a wild ride, and I know some of you may be losing motivation to do anything, but I am here to tell you that you should not lose hope just yet. Think about this: there are about 73 days left of 2020, so instead of complaining about all the bad things that might have happened this year, think about how great this year will end: just like every year-- the holidays.

First of all, we have Halloween coming up next Saturday. That is super exciting because everyone seems to be extra excited about it this year. Kids may not be able to trick or treat in the same way that they may have been used to in the past in some neighborhoods, but we can still have fun. People are still planning to hang out with friends and do their own twist of Halloween this year. Maybe stay home and watch a scary Halloween movie and drink hot chocolate, or find a friend and go to dinner, or just stay home and sleep.

The next best thing about this upcoming season is our five-day weekend next week. We have a short school week next week because of the PSAT on Thursday and the end of the quarter on Friday. The following week we have off due to parent teacher conferences on Monday and Tuesday. This is something we can all look forward to. Having a nice long weekend is much needed for everyone. Without having a day off of

school yet this year, I think we are all so caught up in our busy schedules, that a five-day weekend is beneficial for all of us. I know I will be spending that time catching up on my sleep, and probably most students will too.

After Halloween and our fun five-day weekend, Thanksgiving is also coming up. Thanksgiving this year is on November 26th. We have off starting the 26th to the 30th. This break is coming up soon, almost one month away. Thanksgiving is one of the best times of the year because of the excitement for Black Friday shopping, the holiday festivities, the snow that will be falling, and December break right around the corner. November and December are like a blur. With everything going on in two months, it seems like it will be the new year in no time.

And of course, after Thanksgiving, is yes, Christmas. The smell of peppermint, the hot chocolate, the fuzzy blankets and big sweatshirts, the Hallmark movies and the sugar cookies are just a few of the amazing little things I love about December. Everyone is wrapping up the



Photo by Abby Moreland.

season and happy. Snow is falling, the little kids are building snowmen, the fires are burning, and the Christmas songs are playing. The year is finally coming to an end, and we are all spending it with our families. The winter season is definitely my motivation right now. I cannot wait for Christmas, so get ready, because it is coming sooner than you think.

No matter what is going on, there is always something to look forward to. So get ready, because it is basically the last two months of the year.

-----COUNTDOWN TO EXCITING FUTURE DATES-----

END OF FIRST 9 WEEKS-1 DAY

HALLOWEEN- 9 DAYS

THANKSGIVING-35 DAYS

HANNUKAH-49 DAYS

FIRST DAY OF WINTER-60 DAYS

CHRISTMAS-64 DAYS

KWANZAA-65 DAY

NEW YEARS DAY-71 DAYS

FEATURES

High School Newspaper Reaches Out to All Rampage Readers: Meet Advice Columnist, Emily Brough

DEAR PR: *Rampage Staff Writer Offers Advice, Help*

EMILY BROUGH STAFF WRITER

Dear PR,

My name is Emily. I am seventeen, and I am a senior this year at PR. My guess is you have no idea who I am, and that is a fair assumption to make. Not many people in my class of graduating students really know who I am. But even so, I am asking you to do something that will help you and guide you for possibly the rest of your high school career. I am asking you to trust me. Just from the time you start to the time you finish, this is all I am asking. I promise everything I have to say is relevant to you and helpful to build your understanding of the kinds of things you will and might experience as a high school student at PR.

So, moving on.

You are starting a high school experience in a way none of us could have even imagined. It is a new era of education and one that you get to live through. Whether or not you find it more helpful, challenging, or anything in between, you get to be the ones to see life through this lens of education. However, even though this new form of learning is extremely different, there are still a lot of things similar to last year, and those things are what I want to touch upon with you today.

Let us be brutally honest here: you are not going to love everything about high

school. In fact, you might not like anything at all. But as much as you do not recognize it, you are one of the most vulnerable age groups to lots of issues, including mental health and identity crises. While these are all valid issues to struggle and deal with, the way you handle them is the most critical part of getting through them and overcoming them. I will not go into any kind of sob-stories about me, so TLDR (too long, don't read), I have seen it all. Pretty much everything life can throw a person's way came to me. But again, I am calling on you to trust me when I say I know and understand exactly what you may be going through.

I know exactly where your mind is about communicating your struggles, trauma, or pretty much every negative aspect of your life with people. But I am begging you, as someone who cares, to REACH OUT! A counselor, a parent, a friend, even me! If someone is hurting you, if you're hurting yourself, or if you feel so trapped and like there is no way out, I can promise you there is at least someone in this world who CARES. I wish there was more of a way to express how concerned I am for you through written words, but all I can do is type it. I care about how you are doing. I care about what you are thinking. I care about



Senior Emily Brough

what you are going through. I care about YOU, and I can assure you I am not the only one who does. You are a beautiful creation and a perfect representation of the wonders of life. Everything in this world breathes and lives together in synchrony, even as things change, even as time continues, and you are a PART of that. Every exhale, every heartbeat, every blink YOU make affects something in the real world. You may not even see it, but you are a positive influence on the world. Please hang on to that fact, hold your head up high, and TALK.

If you decide you would like to talk with me, please feel free to email my school account, and I will get to you as soon as I can. I would be happy to give you any advice I can to try and help you out in any way possible. I hope to hear from you.

With more love than you can ever imagine, Emily.

**WANT SOME ADVICE? REACH
OUT TO THE RAMPAGE WITH
YOUR QUESTIONS AND
CONCERNS.**

FEATURES

Fall Pumpkin Recipes To Try

Apple and Pumpkin Battle It Out Week #2

ABBY LANE COPY EDITOR

Pumpkin spice and everything nice...ahhh it is finally my week. How are you, Apple?

I am just fine, thank you Pumpkin.

Well, you finally received your spotlight. So what are we making, Pumpkin?

This week the top recipes I have chosen are Pumpkin Sausages, Pumpkin Seeds and Pumpkin cake.

Oooooo, that all sounds delicious but what to choose? Pumpkin sausages sound

cool but I think I am in the mood for some cake, Pumpkin.

Sounds good to me, Apple.

A can of pumpkin and a dash of spice is all you need to feel happy and nice. Try this moist, easy pumpkin recipe to celebrate the Fall season.

Easy Pumpkin Cake

★★★★★

Prep	Total	Servings
10 MIN	40 MIN	8



Ingredients

- 1 package Betty Crocker™ Super Moist™ yellow cake mix
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 1/8 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
- 2 eggs
- 1 can (15 ounces) pumpkin
- 1/2 cup Betty Crocker™ Rich & Creamy or Whipped ready-to-spread frosting (any flavor)
- Cream cheese frosting

Steps

- 1 Heat oven to 350° F. Grease and flour 12-cup bundt cake pan. Beat all ingredients except frosting in large bowl on low speed 2 minutes 30 seconds, scraping bowl frequently. Pour into pan. Bake 40 to 45 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool 10 minutes. Turn upside down onto heatproof serving plate; remove pan. Microwave frosting in microwavable bowl on Medium (50%) 15 seconds. Spread over top of cake, allowing some to drizzle down side. Serve warm or cool.

CAFETERIA NEWS:

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FEATURES

BLOOD DRIVE:

PR students are hosting a virtual blood drive. Starting on October 25th and running through November 8th, students can donate at any Vitalant Donation Centers. In addition, all donors will be tested for the COVID-19 antibodies. Go to the web address for information and to make an appointment.
(<https://www.vitalant.org/Home.aspx>)

RAMPAGE STAFF

Design Editor:
Cameron Perkins

Copy Editor:
Abby Lane

STAFF WRITERS:

Maggie Allwein
Emily Brough
Hayden Conley
Sophia DeJesus
Emma Krizmanich
Abby Lane

Lizzi Montanti
Abby Moreland

Teacher:

Mrs. Harshman
The RAMPAGE is a student-created publication of Pine-Richland High School, 700 Warrendale Road, Gibsonsia, PA 15044.

The newsroom is room 221. The RAMPAGE is available online every Thursday. It is written by students, for students, and will make every attempt to report all school-related news. We welcome freelance submissions, suggestions, comments, and story ideas from students and staff. Since this is a student-publication, we realize we may make mistakes; we encourage readers to report mistakes to the newsroom 221.

SPANISH CLUB:

Hola everyone! Come to Chipotle on Perry Highway on Tuesday, October 27th anytime from 4 to 8 pm to support Spanish Club.

PICTURE MAKE-UP DAY:

11-9 and 11-10

Order forms may be picked up in the main office.

SENIOR ADS: The Rambler Yearbook staff is delighted to offer you the opportunity to thank, congratulate, praise, and express your love for your graduating senior by placing a Senior Ad in the Yearbook. The deadline is October 31st. Go to (www.yearbookforever.com)

**THANKS FOR
READING, RAMPAGE
FANS.**

**SEE YOU NEXT
THURSDAY!**