

Why would you like to remain in the hybrid school model?

"I would like to remain in hybrid because I feel that it works well in keeping the spread of COVID-19 in school to a minimum while also giving us the opportunity to have a little bit of normalcy."--said Ashley Cramer, 11th grader

Since Norwin moved to synchronous learning what is your opinion of it?

I like synchronous learning. I feel like it is working for most teachers, but there are some that need a little tech help. Once everyone gets the technology struggles out of the way, I feel like learning will be a lot smoother. - 11th grade student

LEARNING DURING THE PANDEMIC



Students social distance in a hybrid classroom.

COVID-19 changed the world forever. On March 13, 2020, the entire nation was shut down for what many expected to be a 2-week break that turned into the world being shut down for longer than anyone expected. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, students at Norwin High School have to be prepared to adapt to anything, including a whole different school model.

Like most schools, Norwin offers two options for students: hybrid learning and fully online learning. These decisions were made by the school board and administration; not allowing students to have any decision in their education this year. "As a student, I think that we need to be involved in the decisions of our education this year," said an 11th-grade student in a recent Norwin poll on COVID and school.

"We are the future of the world." Norwin administration determined an educational plan based on parent feedback, recommendations from CDC, and other districts.

In a recent poll done at Norwin, 52 percent of students would ideally want to go to school 5 days a week. But due to the resurgence of COVID-19 cases this late fall/ winter, the district decided on December 7 to have all Norwin students learning synchronously at home until at least January 11. Students at the high school have been learning remotely since December 1 and learning has been a challenge at times.

According to an *Education Week* article, "Students learning remotely—particularly the older ones—have been reluctant to turn on their cameras and keep their microphones unmuted...As of this month, the district is now specifying to students doing synchronous learning that they're expected to be ready to speak and be seen when a teacher calls on them." Said Cathy Keegan.

However, a lot of students are reluctant to put on their cameras during Zoom calls, and this can cause them to not participate or pay attention to the class. "Personally, all online school is stressful seeing that we are on school Zooms for 7-8 hours and then have a few more hours of homework," said a 10th-grade student. "After the mentally draining hours on Zoom and then hours at my part-time job, the remaining homework seems like too much and causes me to fall behind if not completed."

Students have a hard time keeping up with all of the assignments given from each of their classes. Students can feel overwhelmed with all of the work and keeping track of Zoom classes.

"I think it could possibly be beneficial to have Zoom meetings on only Mondays and Thursdays, and leaving Wednesdays as Office Hours days," said junior Madison Butina. "This could give students who understand the material more time to complete work and allow them to focus on assignments more, give teachers an opportunity to plan, as well as allowing students who are experiencing challenges to have one-on-one time with teachers."

By Abigail Knouse

Norwin students have had to teach themselves and find a schedule that can help them be productive during the day. With this, the changes that the district has decided can change students' sleep schedules and their motivation to be productive at certain times in the day. Students should be able to have input in their learning since many are currently learning from home.

Learning during the pandemic has caused students to learn how to adapt to the decisions that the school has made for our learning this year. As students, we may not be able to have a say in the way of our learning this year but we can learn how to adapt to the changes that our administration and the CDC recommend that we do.

Norwin student sits on zoom at home.



Norwin Poll Results

52% of students would like to ideally go back 5 days a week.

65.4% say you need time management skills to be successful at home.

67% of students think that the amount of assignments is the reason they are rushing to learn things.

As a student do you feel you are learning to be more independent and how to manage your time wisely?

"I think it has made me much more independent and responsible over my work and I'm able to complete stuff with no help." -Madilyn Zurich (9)