



ACS Athens

Impressions of Online Schooling

Thanks so much everyone for answering our online form about your impressions of online schooling. Some comments were fun, others serious but most positive. Here they are and remember when you have the time you can always go to our form and add a comment. <https://forms.gle/ptNhvxio66UHSAV88>

Is this a Trick Question?

When we asked "How has online schooling changed your lifestyle for the better?" one parent wrote: *"Is this a trick question? I love the quest of staying positive here! Bravo on the effort! Yes we admit we did try to stay positive. We found there were lots of positive comments: "We can control the time and we avoid traffic to and forth. Kids wake up naturally and enjoy and expect to hear from school and very happy to have more time free". "I think because of the current crisis and lockdown we are all living at the moment, online learning gives us structure and a purpose. We have to take things a day at a time and school is a tool that helps us do that."*

A Good Parent or A Good Teacher?

A parent shared this story: *When (my daughter was) asked by her grandmother if I am a good teacher, she bluntly replied, "No, but she's a good mom."* We think that's very important, we are still parents even if we are suddenly teachers now.

But to be honest - *"Yes,(there are positive changes) but can't wait to go back to the office :)."*

WORDS from parents about online schooling: *frustration - challenging - avoidance - resourcefulness - interesting - short - thank goodness - very good - different - good idea - relaxed - multitasking - proactive- more grown -up*

WORDS from kids about online schooling: *boring - exciting - I'll do it later - enjoyable - challenging - easy- amazing*

What we do with our extra time: *hug more often - share silly things - laugh more - sleep in (just kidding) - eat better lunches - spend more time with my daughter doing creative things - spend more quality time together - cooking, baking and drawing with my daughter - more family time - working harder as teacher and mother - sleep more - talking more - play games*

Things we learned - kids love to do their school work in pyjamas! and they wonder " *perhaps the teacher is still in his pyjama pants.*" " *learning that my child needs to be guided in regulating time and discipline. My husband witnessing how hard I have to work when I am home alone with my son*

Parent's Observations: *"I think for me (as I am basically her teacher at this time) preparation, organization and structure have helped us adjust to home schooling. She gets up the same time she would if she had to go to ACS. She gets ready for school in the same manner - breakfast, wash up, get dressed and brush teeth. We try to keep to the rhythm of a regular school day, with 2 small breaks and a lunch break throughout the day. When lessons for the day are done then classes are dismissed. It all depends on her and how focused and fast she gets through her lessons." " Talk about school subjects - waiting until 5pm to discuss the day we're all tired and just want to eat, shower, and get ready for bed. More family time!" "I am getting a sense of how my teen acts and contributes in class; sometimes I also hear the teachers praising her or other students which is uplifting." " I've noticed that she has grown up many years in just 2 weeks." "I can do activities with them in the morning when they are still fresh and curious."*

Positive Outcome - *"There are a lot more yeses than nos."* Overwhelmingly we noticed that a more helpful attitude around the house was a natural outcome of online schooling. *"All "teen attitude" has vanished. She has maturely decided there is no room for any negative attitude. "Since she has so much free time she takes house responsibilities like washing the dishes, cleaning the floors, hung the clothes , make pancakes etc." " Suddenly chores at home are something to pass the time -- she is not so rushed and is much more enjoyable to be around". "They seem to be more focused on their school work. They are also much more communicative with us." We no longer procrastinate or avoid chores that need to be done." " I can play table tennis with him in the morning and afternoon at home every day." Having discussions on subjects at school. Staying on schedule - each day has a purpose and reason to get started (ex. get up, get dressed, ready for teacher instructions by email!)" " More cooperation between family's*

components. Siblings are helping each other in their assignments." " Enjoy my time with him. I don't think I've yelled at him since this has started."

Tips and Tricks for Online Schooling - keep routine - make a special school space for your child - sing and dance - make and keep a schedule - make a to-do list - frequent healthy snacks - emphasize that it is the teacher asking them to do the work not the parent - - take a break in the yard for fresh air - cook together - play together

Thankful for our school

"Exploring better ACS academic programs. I'm impressed about the high level and quality". " They like it and anticipate teachers' videos and nice words for them." "I'm really grateful that she has online school, as many schools in Europe and US don't have this .. of course she is much more relaxed since she has only 2 hours of school." " I know more clearly what they are learning - what each subject is focusing on. I'm impressed!" " Seeing the active learning - they know so much!" " teachers are always there for our questions."

"You're a natural teacher more than you think you are"

We would like to share with you an excerpt from an article we found in the New York Intelligencer from March 17th, 2020 about home schooling during the Corona Virus. The full article is here: [Homeschooling Your Kids Because of the Outbreak? An Expert \(My Mother\) Has Some Tips](#) By [Sarah Jones](#)

What advice do you have for parents who aren't used to having their kids around all day?

Well, you've got to sit down and get organized. We've all been thrown a curve here. Everyone's anxious. No one was planning on this. You have to sit down as a family and make a plan and say, Okay, we know we've got two weeks, maybe more. And so you need to come up with a structure to your day or, you know, the inmates are going to take over the asylum.

I know a lot of parents are going to focus on not just supplementing the schoolwork but teaching life skills, like here's how you clean a toilet, here's how you fix your lunch. You know, different things, or do a load of laundry. Whatever is age-appropriate. They're going to try to come up with some life skills for their kids to engage in.

You don't need me to remind you, but we often didn't have a lot of money when I was growing up. What advice would you give to families who are in a similar economic situation right now?

First of all, get your kids involved in cooking. Cooking from scratch saves money. You're also teaching how to be frugal. A chicken carcass can be turned into soup. Things like that. So you're showing how to utilize the resources you have. And even if you have money, it teaches you to be respectful of your resources, I think. So it's a win-win situation to learn how to cook, to learn how to care for yourself. The other thing is, the outdoors is safe, as long as you're not close to people. And the outdoors is free.

Is it weird to be in this moment where Trump's talking about homeschooling and a lot of other parents are kind of having to try to figure it out on the fly?

Yeah. Because we did it, it seems like no big deal to me. I also had teaching experience, so it didn't seem foreign. But I think parents, if they start to think about it — you're a natural teacher more than you think you are. Are you going to be perfect? No. But start out with what you do know and learn. You know, you're only going to learn by diving in.

Thanks for reading - we hope to get more of your comments as you settle into your new online schooling routine.

Your ACS Athens PTO - from campus to computer - connecting - supporting - informing