

Teaching at Chelsea Public School During the Pandemic

My name is Jane Wilkison and I teach middle school English and Social Studies at Chelsea Public School and the year is 2021. It has been the most exhausting year of teaching in all of my professional career. First off, when we went to remote learning I thought it would be easier, but it was more stressful and more difficult. Students need their teachers to be alive and real at the middle level. I found many students were non participatory, no matter how engaging we made the lessons. Once back in school, the wearing of masks made each day a chore beyond belief! Speaking all day through a mask, reading aloud to students, chatting with colleagues, all wore on my system and I found myself, for the first time ever, falling asleep at 6:30-7:00 p.m. at night. The first of the in-person months, my classroom had been torn apart and then relocated with all of my books and supplies sent to different rooms to insure students had proper distancing from each other. I was misplaced and ill-equipped. The words, 'six feet' became our usual mantras and the washing of desks and sanitizing everything became a natural part of our days. When someone took their mask off, I found myself staring at his mouth, just because I hadn't seen entire faces in a long time! This has been a time I'd like to be over and a time I'd like to forget!

Dear Chelsea

My name is Tommy, I am a 7th grade student at Chelsea Public School. It's been pretty weird this year with the pandemic. You have to wear a mask in public and in school. They have made a vaccine though. More and more people are getting vaccinated every day, and I'm glad about that. We've come a long way though. In the beginning you could barely leave the house. We also had to do remote school on the computers. I both liked that and I didn't like it. I liked getting my work done in the morning and doing other things the rest of the day. I didn't like staying home and looking at a computer though. I also missed biking to town with my friends and going to Will's store when we got there. I liked coming back to school in the fall though. That's all I have to say.

-sincerely Tommy, 7th grade

Dear future citizens of Chelsea, Vermont, I am writing this letter during some of the most bizarre times in history. As of right now things are starting to get better we are finally allowed to go places but for over a year it was not like this- we were not allowed out of the house. We couldn't go to school and sports seasons were cancelled. All of our lives were put on hold and in some ways they still are. Things are starting to look better, there is a vaccine, we can now travel, and hopefully before summer starts this will be all over and I will not need to bring a pocket full of masks everywhere. There are 28 days left in school and there are still masks being worn everywhere, but in a few weeks people 12 and up might be able to get their vaccines which will be perfect for summer. I guess what I'm trying to say is this has been really tough for everybody in school or not. I just hope that one day when I look back on this I can realize how great it feels for it all to be just a memory.

Dear Chelsea,

We live in such a small town. I don't know if anything has changed but there aren't even a thousand people in this town. Our school is also very small, not even a hundred kids which can make it hard sometimes when you want to do stuff like sports which I love to play but there are almost never enough kids so the older kids have to play with us and it SUCKS. We haven't been able to go anywhere you can't be with your friends. You have to stay six feet away from everyone and wear a face mask everywhere but your house. There is only a certain amount of people let in to everything. It may seem like nothing but if you break any of these rules you will get yelled at. You have to take your temperature every morning and then put it down on a sheet if you have any sign of a cough, sore throat, or just any sickness you can't go to school for three days and you have to get covid test were they stick a q-tip up your nose till they touch brain. But now we have vaccines and it is coming to an end . I hope nothing like this happens in your future.

From: Owen of the Chelsea 7th grade

May 10, 2021

Dear Future Reader,

I am Cadyn, a 7th grader at the Chelsea Public School 2020-2021. Though it is now May and most people have their COVID-19 vaccinations, we still haven't, because we're not able to yet.

So many things have changed, and changed again, and changed back to the way they were before. For example, school started very late compared to past years and we only went for a half day everyday outside for the first half of the school year. When it started getting cold we went inside but outside classrooms were fun. But now, we are inside and have normal classes with masks, of course, but we are planning to go back outside again soon.

We all have to wear masks all day at school and in public. Trying to play sports with a mask on is soooooo hard because you can hardly breathe, but at least we have sports again, because they were canceled for most of last year. Some of the mask rules have been lifted and it is so great.

I think that because of COVID-19, all of our lives will be changed at least a little bit. Everyone was hit because of COVID all across the world, and I hope I never forget it.

Sincerely

Cadyn

Time Capsule Of Seventh Grade Year

By: Imogin

My seventh grade year has been shocking. One example is covid-19 because we have to take our temperature in the morning at school and home and we cannot see our friends. We have to wear masks and we have to be in quarantine for a while too. Another example, is that we have been stuck at home. A third example is that we haven't been able to go on field trips. We can't visit family that live far away because of Covid-19. I want this to be all over before summer because I want to be able to go to the beaches and go to the fairs. As you can see, there has been a lot that we can't do at school.

My name is Kiara. Right now, the year is 2021. I am 13 years old and live in a small town in Vermont called Chelsea. The world is in the middle of a global pandemic. We can barely see our friends outside of school, and have to wear masks everywhere. I can't complain too much though, a lot of people's lives are a LOT worse than mine right now. I hope life gets back to normal soon.

Time Capsule Project

By: Dylan 7th Grade

Hello to the future people of Chelsea, a lot of people are maybe having a rough time right now because of the Corona Virus that is really bad. Everyone has to wear masks everywhere and some schools are still open but some have shut down, too. They have come out now with a vaccine for the Corona Virus to help people stay safe and a lot of people have got it but there are still a lot of people who have not yet. Everyone is hoping that it will be over soon and i really hope that it will be over before the summer starts and we get out of school so we can have a normal summer and see our friends again.

2020-2021

Chelsea, VT, is getting back into routine after having a lock down. The Covid vaccine has been around and it is helping. We still need to wear our masks, I will never forget having to wear masks all day in school. Playing sports is a lot harder when you need to wear masks. It is harder to see friends till the vaccine comes out. In 2020, all sports and school were shut down. Covid was a hard time but we made it through.

From: Ethan form the 7th

Grade

When Covid first began, I was only in school for a little bit and then we were all told to go home until we could come back to school. After that was said, there were some changes that we were all told that we were not going back to school for good. When I heard about that, I was really surprised about that because this had never happened before in my life. When Covid was happening right now, I felt a little upset because I couldn't go anywhere like stores and grocery shopping and I was really disappointed about that. When we were told that we couldn't see any family and friends, I was really upset because I couldn't see any of my grandparents and my great grandma and that makes her feel upset because she couldn't hug any of her grandkids and her great grandkids like me and my siblings. I really think that masks are really bad because whenever you have to do anything like going to the store and all that, you have to have a mask with you and I really think that's just boring and upsetting and what I'm saying is like if you go into a bank or a store and you don't have your mask on and you were told that you need to have your mask on, I mean that's just really upsetting and frustrating.

Logan Grade 7

My day to day life has not changed. I go home and sleep or play games. At school things have changed long lines to the bathroom and everyone is wearing a mask.

Other people don't like wearing masks but I don't mind it and the cleaning is fine to me.

I love the smell of hand sanitizer.

This part is for future me hey Darrell if you have a job I am surprised and good job but I know you don't have a girlfriend by darrell 7th grade

I didn't like wearing a mask. I also didn't like not being able to see people. Also I didn't like not being able to go places. I also didn't like doing online school. But I did like Being able to go hunting and do school in the afternoon.

Matthew grade 7