

THE TNS NEWSPAPER

24 March 2021

Student Led Newspaper

Hybrid Learning vs. Online Learning

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Being a teenager is tough. Being a teenager in 2020-2021 with a virus outbreak, killing many each month, and the scare of hurting close ones and loved ones is unimaginably harder. On March 13, 2020, the governor told schools to close for two weeks. Everyone was excited for what seemed to be a two-week break from having to go to school. But two weeks turned into a month, which turned into three months, which turned into strict online learning for nine months. Attending school online takes pretty much all the fun out of learning. You are stuck in your room for up to eight hours being glued to a computer screen, whether it be engaged in synchronous meetings or just doing async work. It can't help but dampen your mental state, killing your motivation and productivity. After an extended forced leave from in-person learning, the school entered a new era of hybrid learning. Although some people enjoy not having to get ready every day, online learning's benefits just don't outweigh the negative effect on your mind.

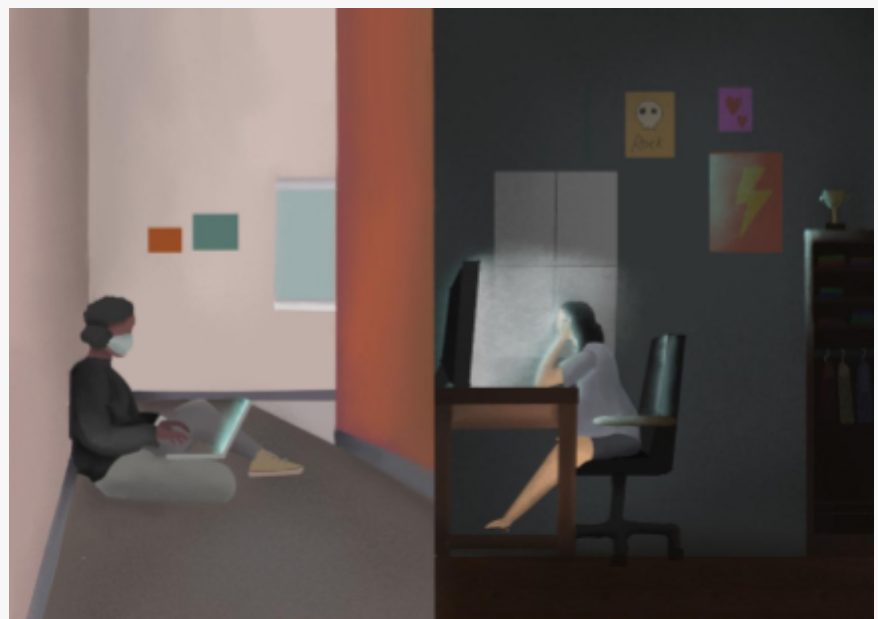


Image by Rafi Lister

TNS started opening hybrid learning in November 2020, a new way for students to go back in-person and experience high school typically but far from the ordinary course. Hybrid learning meant getting tested every other week, keeping 6 feet distance, not being able to go out for lunch or walk both ways up and down stairs, and many other precautions to keep the community safe. Although some chose to sign up for hybrid learning, most of the students wanted to stay home. Whether that was for family reasons, transportation reasons, or a self-choice, the school now feels smaller than ever...

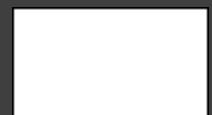
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The opportunity to create a TNS newspaper club has been a fantastic experience over the last few months. It has created a place for some incredibly strong writers to express their journalistic skills on various issues/topics. The Newspaper is a new project, and we would love feedback on what readers would like to see in the future. So please don't hesitate to talk to any contributors.

Thanks for reading!

- Editor, Leigh Howland

Contributors to this issue are Ana Hoeflerle, Naomi Shaw, Rafi Lister, and Andrew Earnest. Please, if you have any interest in trying out writing or contributing in any way, reach out to leigh.howland@tnsatlanta.org



Hybrid Learning v. Online Learning

... Online learning for students isn't without benefits. Students have the freedom of being home during lunch and free blocks. Also, online means much less commitment to get up as early and get ready every day for school. There isn't supervision from other teachers in your room. Although online learning looks pretty appealing on paper, there are many more negatives involving Online learning In a form released to the student body, one response on the topic of staying home was, "It's hard to have any motivation to do anything school-related online." Another said, "I just feel drained after a day of online." These voiced reflecting those of many who stayed online for the first cohort of 2021. nline, most of the weight is on the students, to try their best to learn virtually. It's hard; students are stuck in the same room for eight hours, dealing with household distractions, staring at a computer for hours long, losing the one-on-one connection and help from teachers and possibly classmates.

On the other hand, hybrid learning was a way for students to be connected to the school environment better and be connected to friends again. The New School opened in the new year for four days a week in-person learning. So with that, a third of the school signed up and joined. Hybrid learning has given many students the "high school experience" again that they were missing. But the in-person experience is far from normality. A 12th grader at TNS said, "Sometimes hybrid makes me a little sad because it feels like a weird imitation of something I won't get back." They aren't the only ones who believe that.

You may not have any physical connection to your friends or go out to eat anymore. You can't see when someone is genuinely smiling. The grades are separated by 12th and 9th, and 10th and 11th. In some cases, you barely have interactions with your friends not in your group. But even with those negatives, being in-person is much better than learning from home. At least you get to see your friends every day, talk to others, and not be so entirely shut out from the world. You get the help and guidance you need from your teachers. One person said, "[their life] Improved tremendously just because of human connection."

Further backed by another response stating, "[in person school] Made it better to see and talk to people in person." This in-person routine has had a strong start, but when more and more students join in-person learning, everyone gets to have that back again. Overall, having the support from friends and having a school community being stronger makes it easier to get through covid.

Throughout the past year, The New School has allowed many more students to see the benefits of in-person learning. We are a community, and during this outbreak, we have been more disconnected than ever. It has been hard to build our community up again, and with more students, we can all succeed a bit better. Let us hope for only progress for the rest of the semester and this crazy time of learning.



Picture taken from ig @tnsatlanta

