

**V: In the Midst of Chaos: Schooling Experiences
During a Pandemic: *Better Face to Face***
Equity Spotlight Podcast Series
Crystal Hill Morton, MAP Center Equity Fellow – Indiana

TRANSCRIPTION

Crystal M.: On March 19th 2020, COVID-19 forced schools to abruptly close and shift to online and hybrid learning, uprooting the lives of caregivers, students, and all school personnel. This podcast series will center the voices of caregivers, students, and school staff members as they discuss their online and hybrid learning experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic. Through this podcast series, multiple stakeholders will gain first-hand insight into the various ways caregivers, students, and school staff members navigated and continue to navigate schooling during a pandemic.

Crystal M.: The goals of this podcast series are to provide stakeholders first-hand accounts of caregivers, students, and school staff members experiences during online and hybrid learning, and provide opportunities for stakeholders to better understand caregivers, students, and school staff members' challenges and triumphs so they can support caregivers, students, and school staff members during the continuing pandemic and beyond.

Crystal M.: We would like to thank the students, caregivers, and school staff members for taking the time to share their experiences with us. We appreciate you all.

[Transition Music]

Crystal M.: The question I have for you is, can you describe your experience with online and hybrid learning during COVID-19? And you can talk about from when it first shifted, to how things...you can span the time. So how has that been for you, that online and hybrid learning being for you, during COVID-19?

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Student: Well, when I first start [sic], I was like, "I mean, yeah. I get to stay home. And I *guess* I could do work." But I was trying to like balance it out. I was going to the classes, my dad was waking up 7:00 o'clock in the morning. Then was like, "You going to class, right?" And of course, I gotta be up.

Crystal M.: And this was when you were going to your virtual classes?

Student: Yeah, when I was going to my virtual classes, my dad was literally come in my room with his shirt off, even though I'm on Zoom, they could see him. And he was like, "You in class, right?" It was hard. I didn't like it at all. Like, at all. I know I get to stay home. I get to be under the blanket while I do my classwork. But I knew like...I just felt I can't. And that maybe not that I don't have enough trust in myself to do it, but I know that since I'm so comfortable here, it's not pushing me to actually do my work. Now getting up 6:00 o'clock, 5:00 o'clock in the morning, making myself go to school, getting on a school bus and being in class and knowing I can't fall asleep.

Crystal M.: Mmmhmm (affirmative).

Student: Or knowing I have to sit up, and somebody's looking at me, somebody's watching me, that—that actually, like, really helps me do my work. So that's why I didn't really like virtual at all. I just kind of felt like, I know it was like, I should be responsible enough to do it on my own. But I just felt like, I'm by myself, and I got to do this. And it kind of made me not want to do it even more. But I know if I really needed help, I could go ask my dad. He'd try.

Student: And then on hybrid, I guess you could say I'm hybrid now. Because some days I go to school, but then I don't go to Zoom the next day, but I don't have to go to school, either. So, that's kind of the hybrid situation that I'm in.

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It's not like I have to actually go on Zoom, and it's much more better [sic]. Way a lot more better [sic]. You can actually look at my grades and tell like, "Okay. She was most definitely online then. And now she's back in hybrid." I don't really like email. I don't like having to email teachers.

Student:

I don't like having to wait for an email. It kind of makes me anxious and I'm like, "Oh no, I didn't get to answer that question." And now it's 7:00 o'clock at night, and most teachers fall asleep at 10:00. I don't like this. I don't have enough time to ask the questions that I want. So now, I got a notebook and when I'm at home, I write down a whole bunch of questions that I know I'm going to have. Because I'll forget. But if it's in my binder, my planner really. And if I put it first in above all my assignments and stuff like that, it is questions that I had on my assignments last night.

Student:

Because I will forget, and just go on about the day and not get my questions asked. So being *in* school, I can just ask the question face-to-face, and there's no going around. There's no, "I didn't see the email until late" or "You sent the email out too late," something like that. I get to ask you, and you give me exactly what I need. I can stay at the school now if I really need to. I really haven't. I don't I really think the fact that I stayed home and the fact that I'm doing hybrid is really what changed, was really what put me into high gear, including my father's foot. But I know myself, and I kind of do need that.

Crystal M.:

So, what's some advice you can give to your teachers? If you had to give them some advice right now, thinking back to your experience when you were virtual, and even your experience being hybrid, is there some advice you could give to them? You would want to give to them?

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Student: For the most part, I feel like my teachers, they said they were going to do something like they said...let's see. They said, "Okay maybe after 5:00 o'clock I'm done receiving emails and I'm hanging with my family." Okay. After 5:00 o'clock, they were done sending emails. And not really much of advice, but some teachers would be like, "Email me all night, if that's what you need to do." And I appreciated that. And some teachers told me, "You can Zoom me on the weekend if that's what you want to do." But I don't really have...I feel like they did what they needed to do. It was kind of with me.

Crystal M.: Okay. Are there's some things you can say that they could keep doing that they did well that really helped you?

Student: You can tell some teachers, they actually do care for you. Ok, if you [sic] the bad kid running around the classroom, they might treat you a little different, but some teachers you can actually tell. And those teachers who actually look like they're giving their all and actually trying to help you, I like those kind of teachers. Need more of those.

Crystal M.: You said they give you their all and really try to help you.

Student: Yeah.

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[End of Audio]

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