# Audio file

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# Transcript

Speaker 1 (Ricky)

Hi, I'm Ricky and throughout recent years, CSMB students in the class of 2024 have gone through many things throughout life as a high schooler, we have gone through virtual and hybrid learning, moving to a new school building and at one point being placed in a dangerous situation with the shooter. My government teacher had the best idea to document such experiences we have had in our high school lives and so today I went ahead and interviewed some students about one such experience: Virtual Learning.

Okay, so could you introduce yourself?

Speaker 2 (C4)

Hi, I'm C4 Patino. I'm a Junior here at collegiate.

Speaker 1 (Ricky)

So, I am going to ask you some questions. First off, how do you feel about virtual learning before and after experiencing it during the pandemic?

Speaker 2 (C4)

So, before the pandemic. My middle school did not handle social. Socially distanced learning. Well, for the very beginning. They would give us a. Ton of like. Work packets and then just give us a deadline. So, there were really no meetings or anything. We would just kind of you know, sit at home and do work kind of. It kind of shaped up at the end where, like we were actually interacting with people and. You know, seeing other human beings, even if it was through a computer screen. I think I like virtual learning better, much better at the end, before I definitely didn't think that it was a good idea. But at the end it seemed like a feasible option. Compared with alternatives.

Speaker 1 (Ricky)

So how did it going into high school in virtual? How did that feel?

Speaker 2 (C4)

We're going into high school with virtual learning was to. It was very nice because we were virtual, the curriculum was kind of slowed down a bit, which helped with the transition from like middle school work to high school stuff.

Speaker 1 (Ricky)

So with the curriculum slowing down when you did, you think that virtual was more beneficial than in person starting off freshman?

Speaker 2 (C4)

I definitely think that being in person would have been better academically, because, I mean, you've got so much more one-on-one time with the teachers when you're in person, especially like we've experienced these last two years. Like Mr. Gilbert, for example, is always available for tutoring. In fact, he says if you need help in this or any other class, please come. See me, if available.

Speaker 1 (Ricky)

OK, so so in person was good academically, but how about socially, do you think virtual was better for your social life or in person?

Speaker 2 (C4)

Virtual was very interesting for my social life because I tend to have friends down in the county and I have friends. At school and. Those and to stay separate. So virtual allowed me to spend. More time with my friends down in the county. While being in person lets me spend more time with friends here.

Speaker 1 (Ricky)

All right, that's good. So how did the virtual learning affect your mental health and well-being?

Speaker 2 (C4)

I think my mental health was fine. I'm kind of an independent person, so not seeing humans for long periods of time was not really that much of a problem.

Speaker 1 (Ricky)

Ah, I see. Thank you for answering my questions.

So could you introduce yourself?

Speaker 4 (Ben)

Yes, my name is Benjamin Schiltz. I'm a junior and I'm the class 2024 at collegiate.

Speaker 3 (Dominic)

My name is Dominic Fush. I am a junior at the School of Collegiate Medicine and Bioscience.

Speaker 5 (Ethan)

My name is Ethan Barr. I'm also a junior and I surprisingly enough, go to collegiate school. Of medicine, science.

Speaker 1 (Ricky)

OK, so I guys I wanted to ask you guys a question. How did you guys feel about virtual learning before and after experiencing it during the pandemic?

Speaker 4 (Ben)

Well, when I first heard about virtual learning, I was pretty excited because I knew that I would have to. I would only have to get up right before school started. I would get an hour more sleep and I, you know, being at home has many benefits. You can get a snack whenever you need it and go to the bathroom whenever you need and stuff like that, so I was pretty excited before.

Speaker 3 (Dominic)

Before virtual learning I was disappointed. As I enjoyed getting out of the House, even though it's going to location, I didn't enjoy, it was better than sitting in my room all day.

Speaker 5 (Ethan)

Before virtual learning, well, actually we had virtual learning like in 8th grade. That's when like really hit. That's when like COVID really started coming down as well. So, like we were like in 8th grade and like basically got half the year cut off of us and like was staying at home. And it was. Not fun, but then again, at the same time, I think it was very fun.

Speaker 1 (Ricky)

So did you think that virtual learning was better than in person learning?

Speaker 4 (Ben)

After I did it, no, it was very nice to wake up late and the other benefits that I mentioned, those were Nice, but it's not really learning in my experience. I didn't actually do any learning at all that whole year. It was just. Kind of like virtual and then without any other words to describe it. So it was very boring by the end. Very monotonous and I didn't actually really learn anything so.

Speaker 3 (Dominic)

I am on the same page as Ben. Over here I felt like I didn't learn anything because I started getting distracted middle classes. I turned my TV on, get on my phone and just went pay attention and that really failed me long term because now I can't take notes or pay attention in class. Without being on my phone.

Speaker 5 (Ethan)

I think virtual learning has its benefits and disadvantages at the same time. Like benefits, you get to stay home and like relax. But like disadvantage, you can't really talk or like, meet new people or things like that. I'd say it's more like we had an extra long summer, but with like extra steps like we had summer like we're at home all the time. Like now we're. Hey, still at home and we can't go out anywhere or do anything. And it's not the ideal school environment.

Speaker 1 (Ricky)

OK, So what do you guys think about the integrity during virtual learning?

Speaker 4 (Ben)

The integrity of what?

Speaker 1 (Ricky)

The integrity of our assignments and classwork that we are given.

Speaker 4 (Ben)

Oh. Well, I know there was a lot of sharing of answers that year because if you're sitting at home and your only goal is to get it done. Like nobody really cares anymore. How you get it done because none of the teachers can regulate that in any way. As soon as you turn off your camera, you're safe to do whatever form of cheating you need. So I would say overall integrity took a pretty big dip that year.

Speaker 5 (Ethan)

Just a little bit.

Speaker 4 (Ben)

We reached the negatives I believe on the integrity scale. That was rough.

Speaker 3 (Dominic

See, I don't really know what Ben is talking about. See, I was a perfect student. I never cheated in any class but math.

Speaker 5 (Ethan)

That’s cap.

Speaker 3 (Dominic)

 And so, I didn't cheat. I just didn't do the work.

Speaker 1 (Ricky)

Now, why did you do that, though? Now, why did you not do the work? Because I looked at it.

Speaker 3 (Dominic)

I didn't understand what was happening. I tried solving it, looked back at my notes and I was like, you know what? I don't understand this. Learn like asking a teacher virtually. I feel like that's too embarrassing, so I'm not going to ask the question. And just didn't do the work.

Speaker 1 (Ricky)

Alright, how about you then?

Speaker 5 (Ethan)

What about me? OK, which question you asking?

Speaker 1 (Ricky)

How do you feel about our integrity of our last?

Speaker 5 (Ethan)

The integrity of the classes, I'd say that's a good question. So I'd say that like when you're at home like you, there's a lot of people that had their cameras off. And when you have your cameras off, you get the teachers can't really like regulate what you're doing. You could be like eating or like doing something completely different, like walking on the House or walking outside or something. And if you're walking outside and you're in class, you can't really take notes. So I say it depends on the site. Equation, But there's a lot of different things. In fact, we're integrity.

Speaker 1 (Ricky)

OK, so how did were you guys able to have more social interactions than you did during virtual?

Speaker 4 (Ben)

No, I had like 0.5 social interaction out of 100. I'm like if you had somebody's contact before virtual learning started, then you were fine. But if you didn't have their contact, then you wouldn't. You weren't going to get it pretty. Much there was like, I mean, nothing happened. Like I said, friends that were already friends were probably fine. But as far as meeting new people goes in your first year of high school that did not happen very much.

Speaker 3 (Dominic)

I would have to say my social interaction went from like a 20 out of 100 straight to a zero because at the start of virtual I might have a phone so I had no way to contact people. So the only people I would see or talk to over virtual learning was my father and his friends.

Speaker 5 (Ethan)

For personal connections, I'd say that like back to what Ben said, if you knew people had their numbers then like you're going to do just fine. But like, if you're isolated and alone, you don't have anybody's numbers or anything like that. I think you could be like very isolated and, like, very lonely, I guess. So personal connections, if you have people's numbers, that's great. It's not like you can just set somebody a DM through the screen. Like on teams or something like that, you know? So personal connections at a pretty low number.

Speaker 1 (Ricky)

So how do you guys think? Would have changed if we didn't have virtual or the pandemic.

Speaker 4 (Ben)

I think we all would have found our close friends a lot faster. But at the same time, I think our class is also very, very connected with each other because we have been through so many crazy hard things like virtual. We didn't have any of our first, you know, first year of high school and we were, but we were all in. The same kind of the same boat. So we all share experiences kind of like Common Enemy brought people closer together.

Speaker 3 (Dominic)

So yeah, so I think I'd have to. Like agree with Ben on. This one I think we all could have like found friends sooner. But I don't think that we will have found like the same friends. Because Kyle, the one that brought me like into this friend room. The only reason why I really started talking to him was because I didn't have anybody else to talk to. And we sat next to each other and I don't think we will have sat next to each other without the virtual learning.

Speaker 5 (Ethan)

I remember you guys remember. Like that one thing. They had to do we're. Like you could come into school. If you wanted to, everybody had to wear mask.

Speaker 1 (Ricky)

Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Speaker 5 (Ethan)

Well, I think that was a good attempt at connecting with people like. Then again, not everybody went there. And of course, you had to wear masks. And again, like, talk to people. And if you have bad hearing like I do, it's kind of hard to understand. People like talking through a mask.

Looking at you, Ricky.

Speaker 1 (Ricky)

Hey, hey, hey.

Speaker 5 (Ethan)

Alright, anyways I think there was some advantages to this. Advantages like I said earlier, like if you knew people, you're great if you don't know people well, you're kind of screwed.

Speaker 1 (Ricky)

Alright, so I have one last question for you guys. How do you think virtual affected your mental?

Speaker 4 (Ben)

Well, I mean, for me it was actually a positive. I mean it was I was sad not to be able to hang out with anybody, but it was kind of a positive thing for me, especially right out of middle school and going into high school. Going into high school, I had a lot of social anxiety, so having an entire year that was just like a break from all kind of stresses of that kind was nice as we're relaxing. But I was definitely glad to go back. When the next year rolled around.

Speaker 1 (Ricky)

Alright I see. How about you Dominic?

Speaker 3 (Dominic)

I will have to say that I got a lot more quiet when it comes to talking to people.

Speaker 1 (Ricky)

OK.

Speaker 5 (Ethan)

I'm the exact opposite. I think virtual learning was a great experience for me personally. Like before that in 8th grade I was just like a quiet person. I was like I had like a big bolt cut in my hair. It was invest. After virtual school. I got my hair cut. I got like more confident. I feel like and I just had like a good mental break from everything that was going. On even though you're so.

Speaker 1 (Ricky0

All right, guys. Thank you guys for the answers to my questions.

 Virtual learning may have been beneficial, but was it really? It was an interesting time during the pandemic and not really much happened. We all sit inside. Most of us went to class and only some of us paid attention. I for one only paid attention sometimes in class and was playing games the other times. I was only able to do so since virtual gave us so much freedom. Virtual learning was like a test to us to see how responsible we could be and show up to class and do the work. Since no one was there to really make us. It also took a hit on our social interactions like in freshman year was the year you were supposed to go out and interact with other students and make new friends. So virtual learning was like an experience I don't think anyone would be forgetting any time soon. And that's my voice on virtual learning. Once again, I'm Ricky and Peace Out.