Kevin Ho
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Interview:

**Introduction:** Kevin
Hello, this is Kevin Ho, and this is my podcast. The topic I chose is the experience of transitioning from eighth grade to ninth grade during Covid and doing online learning. I chose this topic because I feel like a junior now, the class of 2024 experienced this as it affected them going into high school, and it was very unexpected. I will be interviewing 4 of my classmates as they will be answering a few questions.

**Speaker: (Kevin)**: Hello, my name's Kevin and today I’ll be interviewing

**Speaker: (Ezra):** Ezra

**Speaker (Kevin):** Today we’ll be talking about the experiences of transitioning from eighth grade to ninth grade during COVID and doing online learning. So starting it off, what were your thoughts when you figured out the rest of your eighth grade year would be shut down due to COVID?

**Speaker (Ezra):** Um, at first I was like, yay, I got a little bit of a break. But then it kind of hit me that I’m not gonna really see my friends anymore until like after graduation and I got really sad cuz I wasn't able to like interact with people as much as I wanted to.

**Speaker (Kevin):** Did you enjoy virtual learning?
**Speaker (Ezra):** Uh, not much. Especially in eighth grade year it was kind of a testing type of thing and they didn't really know what they were doing. They just gave a lot of homework and they didn't really teach or anything. But freshman year it was a lot better even though it was a new environment for me.

**Speaker (Kevin):** How did Covid 19 impact your learning when entering high school?
 **Speaker (Ezra):** It was hard to make friends entering high school and it was hard to get to know people, but besides that it didn't incredibly impact it but it was hard to get like really school spirit, the idea of school spirit without being in the school.

**Speaker (Kevin):** How did virtual learning impact your academic experience?

**Speaker (Ezra):** I procrastinated a lot and my freshman year grades were a lot worse than my current grades and my sophomore year grades. So I think virtual learning really took a toll on me and it was hard to really learn what I was doing.

**Speaker (Kevin):** What are some skill sets that you've learned through virtual learning?

**Speaker (Ezra):** I've learned to, to be able to figure out where I'm going, like academically, like I don't know how to explain it. I've learned to <laugh>, pause, take. I've learned to be able to fend on my fend on my own and know what I'm doing even though I don't have like exact directions and I've learned to be able to talk to others through a computer screen.

**Speaker (Kevin):** How well did your peers adjust to virtual learning?

**Speaker (Ezra):** Most of them I think they did fine, but I wasn't really completely sure. I know a lot of people didn't have much of a direction going anywhere and a lot of people didn't know what they're exactly doing, but I think they, they figured it out.

**Speaker (Kevin):** Was there a significant change in the amount of productivity?

**Speaker (Ezra):** Um, coming back into school I was a lot more productive cuz virtual learning. I didn't know what I was really doing, but coming back into school I figured out what I was doing and I was able to get my grades up.

**Speaker (Kevin):** Was it easier to learn virtual or in person?

**Speaker (Ezra)** It's much easier to learn in person, but virtual is also, it could be fun because you're really at home all day and I like to sleep so I get to after, after the school day is done, I can go right to sleep or do whatever I want really.

**Speaker (Kevin):**Now that Covid is over, how would you say your learning has improved?

**Speaker (Ezra):**It's improved a lot because my grades this like year are a lot better and I think it's really improved my ability to talk to others and be in like group work and all that stuff.

Okay, thank you. No problem.

**Speaker (Kevin):** Hello, my name is Kevin and today I'll be interviewing

**Speaker (Finnegan):**Finnegan Barkett

**Speaker (Kevin):**And we will be talking about the experience of transitioning from eighth grade to ninth grade during Covid and doing online learning. So start off with the first question. What were your thoughts when you figured out the rest of your eighth grade year would be shut down due to Covid?

**Speaker (Finnegan):**Uh, when it was first shut down, I was pretty surprised. Um, cuz at first I didn't think it was that big of a deal, but then it grew larger and larger and people started getting sicker and sicker and then like the death started happening. So yeah, it was pretty surprising.

**Speaker (Kevin):**Did you enjoy on the virtual learning?

**Speaker (Finnegan):**Um, in the beginning? Yeah, I did actually because it was like, it felt like I had a lot of freedom because I was in my house and I could kind of just do whatever I want. But then as I kind of went on in virtual learning and like into freshman year, it was like I kind of missed the in-person learning. It was more hands-on and I could learn more from it.

**Speaker (Kevin):**Moving on, how did Covid 19 impact your learning when entering high school?

**Speaker (Finnegan):**Um, like I kind of said before, like it, it's kind of harder to learn in the virtual learning area than it is in the in person because it's not hands on. And also it's a lot harder to stay on task, especially when like you have your phone with you at all times in virtual and you don't have to have your camera on all the time. So yeah.

**Speaker (Kevin):**How did virtual learning impact your academic experience?

**Speaker (Finnegan):**Um, for academics, I think, um, it was, it's kind of mismatched a lot of the things that I could do better in because honestly you could cheat because you were in virtual. So I think actually even though it may have changed my grades, it negatively my academic experience because I wasn't learning what I was supposed to.

**Speaker (Kevin):**What are some skill sets that you learned through virtual learning?

**Speaker (Finnegan):**Um, some skill sets I used, uh, I learned how to use a lot of, um, I mean search browsers because I had to do a lot of searching for different topics. Um, and also I think I learned a lot how to use like teams in general, which is like a very important part of school life now. So, yeah.

**Speaker (Kevin):**So how well did you think your peers adjust to virtual learning?

**Speaker (Finnegan):**Um, I think everybody adjusted differently, but I think altogether we all adjusted pretty well. Um, especially because we had the, like for our grade, we had eighth grade to go through it already, so we kind of knew what to expect going into freshman year.

**Speaker (Kevin):**Was there a significant change in the amount of productivity?

**Speaker (Finnegan):**Um, I would say I was, I, I would say I'm less productive when in virtual learning compared to when in person. So yeah.

**Speaker (Kevin):**Was it easier to learn virtual or in person?

**Speaker (Finnegan):**Definitely in person. Um, just because I got to see the teacher face to face, easier to hear no connectivity issues and they could help me with problems easier.

**Speaker (Kevin):**Now that Covid is over, How would you say your learning has improved?

 Um, I would say my learning has improved because of like, now that we're in person and like I was saying before, like how I can see my teachers, I can go to them for help easier and just overall a better experience in person with hands on.

**Speaker (Kevin):**Okay. Thank You

**Speaker (Kevin):**Hello, my name is Kevin and today I'll be interviewing

**Speaker (Shawn):** Shawn

**Speaker (Kevin):**Today we'll be talking about the experiences of transitioning from eighth grade to ninth grade during Covid and doing online learning. So starting out off, what were your thoughts when you figured out the rest of eighth grade year, which be shut down due to covid?

**Speaker (Shawn):** Uh, at first I was kind of excited, um, cuz you know, I got to get off of school and I got to stay home. It's like an extra spring break, but then like, it got kind of like when we started to do work again, I was like, oh, I don't like this at all.

**Speaker (Kevin):**Did you enjoy virtual learning?

**Speaker (Shawn):** Um, initially I thought it was gonna be easier, but then after a while it just got really repetitive and I just didn't enjoy it at all.

**Speaker (Kevin):**How did Covid 19 impact your learning when entering high school?

**Speaker (Shawn):** Uh, I think it impacted it very negatively. Um, I probably got the worst grades I've ever gotten during covid and virtual learning, so very negatively.

**Speaker (Kevin):**How did virtual learning impact your academic experience?

**Speaker (Shawn):** Um, again, I would say it would be like a negative experience. Um, I just didn't feel like I was learning or I didn't feel very engaged and I always felt distracted with things around me and stuff, things like that.
**Speaker (Kevin):**Moving On, what are some skill sets that you learned through virtual learning?

**Speaker (Shawn):** Um, skills. I would say, I don't know. <laugh>, I would say I would, I learned how to like, use the technology like the computer and like got more experience with like word and teens and stuff like that.

**Speaker (Kevin):**How well did your peers adjust to personal learning?

**Speaker (Shawn):** Um, from what I've heard, like I haven't heard many, like, I've heard like mixed reactions, but mostly like negative, negative things about it.

**Speaker (Kevin):**Was there a significant change in the amount of productivity?

**Speaker (Shawn):** I would say there was like a big significant change. Um, my productivity went like very down and I just felt not motivated to do anything.

**Speaker (Kevin):**Was it easier to learn virtual or in person?

I would say it was like much easier to learn in person than virtual. I just, virtual learning is just not for me.

**Speaker (Kevin):**Now that Covid is over, how would you say your learning has improved?

**Speaker (Shawn):** Uh, I would say it improved greatly. Like now in junior year. Like I feel smarter than I could have been if we were virtual learning. Yep.

**Speaker (Kevin):**Okay. Thank you.

**Speaker (Kevin):**Hello, my name is Kevin, and today I'll be interviewing

**Speaker (Markayla):**

Markayla  **Speaker (Kevin):**The topic we're gonna be talking about is the experience of transitioning from eighth grade to ninth grade during Covid and doing online learning. So starting it off, what were your thoughts when you figured out the rest of your eighth grade year would be shut down dur due to Covid?

**Speaker (Markayla):** Um, when I found out I was very sad, um, and shocked of course, but mostly sad only because like, that's a big milestone. Um, for me at least. It's a big milestone. So it was pretty sad that I didn't, you know, finish my last year of middle school off of the band.

**Speaker (Kevin):**Did you enjoy virtual learning?

**Speaker (Markayla):** Um, honestly, I didn't really have a problem, um, doing virtual learning, no.

**Speaker (Kevin):**How did Covid 19 impact your learning when entering high school?

**Speaker (Markayla):** Um, well, obviously since we were virtual, um, I'm a pretty hands-on type of learner and it, it sucked because obviously I wasn't gaining all of the experience and all of the knowledge that I could have if we were like, in person and stuff like that.

**Speaker (Kevin):**How did virtual learning impact your academic experience?

**Speaker (Markayla):**Um, well, once again, I'm a hands-on learner, so I didn't really gain the, the knowledge on, um, like some things, like I took like a drama class like my freshman year, and I didn't really get to do that. I get, I didn't really get to get that experience of like acting and like, you know, having fun and stuff like that because yeah, we're a virtual. So

**Speaker (Kevin):**What are some skill sets that you learned through virtual learning?

**Speaker (Markayla):**Um, I learned how to time management, um, and I learned how to pace myself and I learned a lot about, um, myself mentally when it does come to high school and like just the work. Um, I learned how to kind of take a break when I needed to and just kind of take a mental health day and stuff like that.

**Speaker (Kevin):**How will, how well did your peers adjust to virtual learning?

**Speaker (Markayla):**Um, I don't think my peers adjusted too well to virtual learning just from what they told me. Um, a lot of them struggled because they were looking at the computer screening all day, which is completely a hundred percent like accurate. But yeah, I don't think they adjusted pretty well.

**Speaker (Kevin):** Was there a significant change in the amount of productivity?

**Speaker (Markayla):**Oh, yes. Um, I felt as though sometimes I was very, very, very focused and it would be school on ends. Like, it would just be school, school, school to me, but then there would be times where I would kind of get too drained of school and kind of lack off to where I'm like, I wasn't doing anything. So yeah.

**Speaker (Kevin):**Was it easier to learn virtual or in person?

**Speaker (Markayla):**Um, that is a good question. Um, honestly, I think, um, when it comes to like time management and stuff wise, like, I think it was easier to learn virtual, but like, like gaining the knowledge, like I would say in person is better for me. Yeah.

**Speaker (Kevin):**Now that Covid is over, how would you say your learning has improved?

**Speaker (Markayla):**Um hmm. Now that Covid is over, how would you say your learning has improved? Um, honestly, I think my learning has improved. I don't think my learning has improved only because, um, like that's just how I always learned. Of course, I like now that I'm, you know, obviously a junior, um, I, you know, found out a lot of things about myself.

**Speaker (Kevin):** Now that Covid is over. How would you say your learning has improved?

**Speaker (Markayla):**Um, I would say it's improved in a good way since it's like, since we are back in person, um, I can be more hands on and I can do more things and talk to my ooh and talk to my friends, like more about the schoolwork. So I think it has like improved, so. Okay. Thank you.

**Conclusion: Speaker (Kevin):** I decided to interview my classmates one by one because I believe it allows them to gain a deeper thought to the questions and give out an honest opinion in their thoughts. Thank you for listening.