

How has the year been for you?

SOL -

It was a lot less stressful than I was worried about at the start
I learned a lot of new things this year,
8th grade was a big change from 6th grade (the last time some of us were in-person)

SOR -

Senior year was rough, especially with the college application process on top of Thesis
Adjusting back from Covid was hard, but appreciated being back in person

What was the biggest challenge/adjustment you felt this year?

SOL -

Having clearer expectations for classes at the start would have helped
There was a lot more writing this year than before
Some groups of students didn't adjust back to in-class behavior well, made it hard to focus on learning (rude to teachers)

SOR -

A lot of us tried to take many honors/advanced classes, and sometimes that was too much
Having to adjust back to timed tests (not having "all day" to finish anything)
Deadlines often piled up (especially in November and March/April)

What/who helped you the most this year when you were having difficulty?

SOL -

When teachers used mnemonic devices, helped us with memorization
Teachers would do individual check-ins with us to see how we were doing
Teachers would pause class to let us talk about how we were feeling (after news of school shootings)

SOR -

Reconnecting with friends I couldn't meet with during Covid
Senior Work days (for Thesis, college applications)
Extra off-work days helped

What did your teachers do that made the biggest difference/help?

SOL -

Teachers were more "friendly" after winter break, were less stern
Some teachers let us write anonymous seat requests (if we asked to sit closer to or away from certain students, to help us focus)

SOR -

The extra work days really helped
Teachers would check in with us to see how we were doing
Some teachers gave a specific amount of work to do, and told us to stop after a certain amount of time

Any recommendations for Nova for next year?

SOL -

Practice going to middle school (talk about how to adjust to the stress of multiple classes)

Have all teachers hold firmer expectations (some students seem to try to earn demerits, think it's funny)

SOR -

Adjust the Senior Thesis deadlines/schedule - have Juniors watch or read thesis examples or a defense

Make sure all teachers give similar options to do work/test corrections