

APRIL 31, 2020  
SISD SCHOOL BOARD REPORT

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**Across the district, we have many events and activities occurring in our schools, strengthening our students, and in turn our district. From a teacher's perspective these are opportunities for growth, learning, and may be crucial in the development of a student. To a student, the lens shows a different view, and now, we get to hear it.**

This past month has been a big change for the district. So, in order to adjust with those changes, I rewrote my monthly student check in form to fit the circumstances, and I opened the form to students, staff, teachers, anyone who had input. I asked 5 questions, and got 10 individual responses, now I will present to you each question I asked and a summary of the input I received.

The first question I asked was "How has school changed since quarantine began?" People responded explaining that school is lonelier, quiet, it's more difficult to concentrate. Students express that they aren't enjoying all of their work being on the internet. That for students who don't have wifi the circumstances are difficult or unfair. Teachers express their limited ability to teach. With that being said, people also explained they are making the most of this time. Working hard with staff to make this time count and make it meaningful despite the difficulties we've faced.

The second question asked was "What do you miss about school?" The responses I received were people missing their friends, being at the school, for some students and staff, they miss the noise. One student went into depth, explaining school to be their reset button and that school gave them a place where they had consistent support and could be themselves. A trend being displayed is everyone missing people. Every person said that they miss people, their friends, teachers, students, social interactions. One student expressed that even the introverts miss being around people at this time.

The third question, "Has anything good come out of the quarantine for you?" Some people replied expressing that nothing good or positive has occurred during this time. Others expressed having more time for things like art, spending time in the outdoors, some people are learning how to play an instrument. Students with their free time have pursued things like music, art, writing, all on their own to make the most of this time. Some students even came together virtually during this time for a chess tournament which was said to be a huge success.

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The fourth question I asked was “What can we do as a district to improve this experience for you and make this time as beneficial as possible?” A few suggestions were made, asking that further school work be printed out or a way be found for students to get the wifi they need so they can accomplish their work. There were also two requests that there be weekly VTC meetings between teachers and their classes so there’s time to interact amongst each other like they would in class and that due dates for work be more clear so students can further prioritize their work.

My fifth and final question was “Is there any statement you would like to share or have included in my report to the board? Anything you would like mentioned or said?” Among these statements were a request that food be sent in larger portions as even after eating, some people remain a bit hungry for more food. This is more applicable to the prior question, but the student found this one to be of this level of importance. Of the other comments, there were many thank you’s for everything that has been done during this time. A comment asking us all to “Stay positive...we live in a special, and we’ll get through this, together.” And I think that’s a great way to close. The circumstances have been nothing like anyone anticipated, but we are all working to the best of our ability and giving this our all, and that’s what counts. How we handle this now will determine how we will rebound and rebuild when this is all over. Let’s work smart and strong SISD.