

The MONTAGE

April 26, 2021



Challenges of DLA

By Madeleine Prescott

For the first time since this school year started, DLA students are the only students learning from home. GoogleMeets have fewer attendants, and teachers must prioritize the majority of students who are learning at school. Twice now, I have had a teacher apologize for forgetting about the DLA students at home. Sometimes school feels like being a fly on the wall, straining to hear the lesson, participating limitedly.

For the most part, however, I have gained a deeper appreciation for the lengths teachers will go to help all of their students learn, even if that means putting in extra time for the sake of just three students tuning in through GoogleMeet. I've had teachers mail worksheets, set up extra GoogleMeets on Fridays, and convert their usual assignments to Schoology assignments, and I am grateful. Though it is challenging learning from home when most are not, it provides an opportunity to learn to better advocate for oneself, ask questions, and take responsibility for one's education.

Before the pandemic, I imagine that if one asked students what their favorite part of school was, most would answer with some variation of “seeing my friends.” DLA students are experiencing a school without (for the most part) the chance to see and hang out with friends. GoogleMeets can be lonely places, with students too reluctant to turn on their camera and microphone to talk with the other students.

It seems we do not go to school with our peers, we go to school with boxes of differently colored circles with letters in their centers. As a result, DLA students are challenged to find a different favorite part of the school day. Without being surrounded by our peers, we are poised to find fulfillment within our classes and their content.

With Covid-19 interrupting more than a year of usual schooling now, I personally am realizing that I took school for granted. Before, one might have been looked at funny for admitting they enjoyed school or were eager to go back after a weekend or break. Now, though, I think nearly all of us are eager to go back to school as it was last year.

People often say “absence makes the heart grow fonder,” and in this case, I think they are right. Not being able to go to school in the usual way has demonstrated for me all that school has to offer. When we are able to go back to school, I hope we will maintain a greater appreciation for school, even if it lasts for just the first week.



The Challenges of Returning to an In-Person Model

By Grace Roeder

In the past month, a growing number of students have returned to fully in-person classes, including students at Tech, which returned to the in-person model on March 10. In the past weeks, teachers and administrators have worked tirelessly to make this transition smooth and welcoming while students have expressed conflicting feelings regarding the transition.

While some students have expressed hesitancy about returning to a fully in-person model, the general consensus among Tech students was that of a positive one.

Dawson Pape, a Sophomore at Tech, expressed his feelings about returning to an in-person model by saying he “missed social interaction and being in a classroom with people.” Likewise, Junior from Tech Andrew Roggemann said he felt “excited” to return.

Freshman Lillian Poetz agreed in excitement, yet stated she was always worried how returning to in-person school would affect her grades. Others, such as Senior Isaak Avenson, expressed some conflicting feelings. Because most Seniors and even some Juniors don’t have a full schedule on their plate, having a few classes online was convenient for most. Instead of going to in-person school for only a couple classes, many students now had extra time to work, which many enjoyed.

On the other hand, many students experienced nervousness regarding in-person classes. The transition to distance learning was a difficult one, and just as students began to find their pace, moving fully back in-person was a shock, especially among those that might describe themselves as “introverted” or less-talkative. Jasmyn Levek, a Freshman, stated that for her, the two hour class periods can be quite long to sit through in-person. Learning the same material for two hours with no movement can be understandably strenuous for students.

Doing classes from home was convenient and easy for some, but the general feedback among students and teachers following the transition back has proven in-person school is here to stay. Poetz stated it has been “really fun to have everyone back” and she would not want to go back to distance learning. Roggemann and Pape agreed that the transition was smooth and very easy to adapt to.

Despite its challenges, an in-person model of school is overall the best option for most students, and it is exciting to be back!





Teens Finding a Balance between Activities and School

By Aubrey Nistler

Whether you knock off the list in club activities or barely find yourself ticking off one, these numerous activities have most likely, in some way, ticked with your performance in school. *High School Musical* character, Troy Bolton, questions this dilemma by intensely singing, “why am I feeling so wrong, my heads in the game, but my hearts in the song.” However, as stated prior, he is not the only one to question this. As a matter of fact, 57% percent of students are likely to struggle with this imbalance, finds the U.S. Census Bureau. So, how can Tech students find the balance between the two?

First, create a schedule, personalize it to yourself, and stick to it. Although the idea of writing out what you are already planning to do seems unnecessary, it helps to organize and prioritize what is most important compared to what is least. Furthermore, the beauty of schedules is that it helps your memory. No longer are you kept anxious trying to remember if the meeting was on Friday or Saturday because just simply glancing at a date in your calendar stops the overflow of uneasiness on whether or not you will already have something planned. All in all, schedules are a worthy investment as they contribute to memory and invite the relaxing feeling of being prepared while pushing away nervous thoughts.

Second, more is said to be better, but to any high school student, that factor doesn't always apply. Tech may have a wonderful arrangement of extracurricular activities, yet most of these activities occur at the same time. For instance, softball and track are both manageable separate, but when put together it is a fiasco. One will constantly find themselves struggling whether to go to that game or that practice and may lose the passion they once had for the

activity, and this is not even taking into grasp how it will affect their academic performance. Long story short, don't add more than you can take. It is great to be ambitious, but it is even better to be balanced.

Lastly and most importantly, education is a top priority. Your education is a powerful tool that should not be sacrificed for any activity. By losing that tool, you became incapable of building your future and those opportunities to even join activities begin to dwindle. Remember this: school and activities are meant to coincide and even benefit each other, but the moment an activity causes you to lose sight of school is the moment the activity is no longer geared toward your success in school.



Balancing School with a Part-Time Job

By Megan Maiers

For many people, getting a part-time job is part of their high school experience. Although this is a good way to earn money to cover any expenses for students in high school or attempt to cover some of college, this can create extra stress during an already difficult time in school.

One of the hardest parts of having a part-time job is how to both get your hours in at work while still staying on top of your school work. Time management is key to this, but finding motivation to do homework in your limited spare time without staying up until dawn is certainly a tough thing to do. For me, the thing that works best is to set a timer for 30 minutes to start an assignment and not touch any distractions during those important minutes. Then, after those 30 minutes, or after you find a good stopping point in the homework, you get a 5 minute break as a reward. After 4 rounds of this, a 20 minute break replaces the 5 minute break, and then the process begins again.

Although new study habits never hurt, just simple tips to find some motivation can be as simple as setting small, reachable goals for yourself or as immersive as shutting yourself in a room all by yourself without any distractions. Personally, I also like to study in the presence of other people to keep me accountable. The people around me could be also doing homework, but just knowing someone could be watching me keeps me off of my phone or plainly staring off into space.

When it comes to the actual job itself, school can seem unmanageable even if every free second is spent doing something productive. In this case, the best idea is to politely ask your boss for fewer hours or to ask for some time off to recuperate. This can be difficult to ask, but remember that you are still in high school and should not feel like you are responsible for everything within that part-time job.



Time Management

By Haley Governatz

Time is one thing that no matter who you are, you can never have enough of it. It is a necessity that no price tag can contain. It is an intangible object that is defined by a series of numbers, it dictates our lives, figuratively and literally. So we must learn how to make the most of it.

Time management, what is it and how can it be mastered? Well, it all comes down to a person's ability to control their attention, in short, to get done, what needs to get done. It is more of a psychological battle where a person's self-control and willpower are the only weapons that exist. It is a skill that once you master it you can truly take control of your life. Even though this

all seems great on paper, it's extremely difficult to achieve. So here are some tips that I find to be of help.

#1 Distance yourself from all controllable distractions. Find all of the things that you find yourself getting distracted by, and find a way to counteract it. For example, I find that my main distraction while doing schoolwork is my phone. So to take control, I keep my phone on silent and keep it in a separate room from me.

#2 Make a daily to-do list that can be made electronically, on a planner anything you so chose, as long you see it enough, for it to act as a reminder. Also when doing this remember to prioritize your assignments. For example, finish the assignment that's due this week, rather than wasting hours on a project that is due weeks from now. It's also important to factor in extracurricular activities and studying.

#3 Stop procrastinating! While this is much easier said than done, this is one of the most important steps. The main thing people suggest to help fight procrastination is to just do it, but a little bit at a time. For example, if you have a test next week start studying a little bit every day, so you don't have to study for hours the night before.

#4 Stop multitasking when doing schoolwork. Studies show that the brain can only truly focus on one task at hand. With that being said multitasking is just an illusion where you switch from two tasks fast enough to make it seem like you are doing tasks simultaneously. This will also eat up more time than just doing one thing at a time.

#5 Hold yourself accountable As humans we find it easier to deflect on issues and mistakes rather than taking accountability. However, even though this is common, it doesn't mean it's acceptable. The most important thing to do when you find yourself procrastinating or getting distracted is to take accountability and get back on track. Besides, when you start to hold yourself accountable for the decisions you make in life, you are less likely to make the same mistakes in the future.

#6 Determine your priorities and plan accordingly Even though time management can work wonders, it's not magic. There are never enough hours in the day to do everything so it is important to determine the things that take the president that day over something that is less important or can be done in your free time. Like if you're doing homework that's due tomorrow but you have a mandatory practice because you have a game tomorrow, do your homework either after or in the morning before school.

#7 Use your free time wisely While having downtime is important, it's not always feasible. It is crucial that if you do have free time that you use it to your advantage rather than spending it doing something unimportant. For example, you have a little downtime between classes, you can use that time to do homework rather than texting your friends.